

**2011 PROTOCOL between
VERMONT COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
and VERMONT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW
COMMISSION**

Background

Pursuant to H.278, the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission was established in May of 2002 within the Office of the Attorney General, in consultation with the Council on Domestic Violence, now the Vermont Council of Domestic Violence, for the following purposes:

1. To examine the trends and patterns of domestic violence-related fatalities in Vermont.
2. To identify barriers to safety, the strengths and weaknesses in communities and systemic responses to domestic violence.
3. To educate the public, service providers and policymakers about domestic violence fatalities and strategies for intervention and prevention.
4. To recommend policies, practices and services that will encourage collaboration and reduce fatalities due to domestic violence.

See, Sec. 1. 15 V.S.A. chapter 21, subchapter 2.

The Statute as enacted does not define the term “in consultation with the Council on Domestic Violence”.

The Council had been created in 1993 by Executive Order and was codified in 2008 and re-named the Vermont Council on Domestic Violence at 15 V.S.A. §§ 1171 – 1173. The Vermont Council provides leadership for Vermont’s statewide effort to eradicate domestic violence. In the Vermont Council’s statute one of its responsibilities is to “collaborate with the Vermont Fatality Review Commission to develop strategies for implementing the Commission’s recommendations.” 15 V.S.A. § 1172(b).

Agreement

In an effort to promote statewide coordination of advocacy and public awareness, the Council and the Commission will work in consultation with each other. In addition, the Council and Commission will collaborate on developing strategies for the

implementation of the Commission's recommendations. To meet these ends, the Council and the Commission adopt the following agreement.

1. The Council Coordinator will serve as the Council Representative to the Commission (the Council Representative).
2. The Council Representative will serve with the Chair of the Commission as the Executive Committee of the Commission.
3. The Council Representative will be authorized by the Council to represent the Council's position on any aspect of the Commission's work.
4. The Council Representative will report to and obtain guidance from the Council related to the ongoing work of the Commission. This discussion may, but will not be required to, include providing drafts of Commission reports to the Council, information regarding the collection of statistical data and general information regarding the review of individual cases.
5. The Council Representative is subject to the signed Commission Member confidentiality agreement and cannot report confidential information to the Council.
6. The Council Representative will draw on the collective expertise of the Council to help the Commission draft its recommendations and conclusions.
7. Prior to endorsing a Commission recommendation that refers specifically to an individual member of the Council or an agency represented by a Council member, the Council Representative will review it with the relevant Council member(s). That review may include: the likely impact of the recommendation, the feasibility of its implementation and any potential consequences that may not have been foreseen by the Commission.
8. The Council will work with the Commission to develop strategies to implement Commission recommendations from the annual reports. The Council Representative will oversee relevant implementation plans and will report to the Commission on progress towards and/or barriers to implementing Commission recommendations.
9. The Council and the Commission agree to resolve any differences respectfully and promptly by way of the Council Consultation Committee and the Office of the Attorney General.