

APPENDIX C - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW COMMISSION MEMBERS

Pursuant to 15 VSA § 1140(b), the Commission is comprised of 17 members, consisting of the following:

- The Attorney General, or his or her designee;

Carolyn Hanson
Assistant Attorney General
Office of Attorney General
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
802-828-5512 phone
802-828-2154 fax
carolyn.hanson@vermont.gov

- The Commissioner of the Department of Health, or his or her designee;

Kimberly Swartz, MHSc
Director, Preventative Reproductive Health
Division of Maternal and Child Health
Vermont Department of Health
108 Cherry St., PO Box 70
Burlington, VT 05402
802-865-1338 phone
kimberly.swartz@vermont.gov

Alternate:
Sally Kerschner, RN, MSN
Vermont Department of Health
108 Cherry St., PO Box 70
Burlington, VT 05402
802-652-4179 phone
sally.kerschner@vermont.gov

- The Commissioner of Department for Children and Families, or his or her designee;

Ellie Breitmaier
Coordinator of the Domestic Violence Unit
Department For Children and Families
103 S. Main St.
Waterbury, VT 05671
802-769-6314 phone
ellie.breitmaier@vermont.gov

- The Commissioner of the Department of Corrections, or his or her designee;

Rick Bates
District Manager
VT Department of Corrections
Brattleboro, VT
rick.bates@vermont.gov

- The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, or his or her designee;

Capt. Daniel Trudeau
Department of Public Safety
45 State Dr.
Waterbury, VT 05671
802-244-8727 phone
daniel.trudeau@vermont.gov

Alternate:
Kathryn (Kate) Brayton
Department of Public Safety
45 State Dr.
Waterbury, VT 05671
802-244-8727 phone
kathryn.brayton@vermont.gov

- The Chief Medical Examiner, or his or her designee;

Dr. Steve Shapiro
Office of Medical Examiner
Department of Health
111 Colchester Ave. Baird 1
Burlington, VT 05401
802-863-7320 phone
Steven.shapiro@vermont.gov

- A State's Attorney with experience prosecuting domestic violence cases, appointed by the Executive Director of the Vermont State's Attorneys' Association;

Tracy Shriver, Esq.
Windham County State's Attorney
185 Main St., 2nd Floor
PO Box 785
Brattleboro, VT 05302
802-257-2860 phone
802-257-2864 fax
tracy.shriver@vermont.gov

- The Defender General, or his or her designee;

Marshall Pahl
Defender General's Office
6 Baldwin Street, 4th Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-3301
802-828-3191 phone
802-786-3803 Alt. phone
matthew.valerio@vermont.gov

- A member of the Vermont Coalition of Batterer Intervention Services;

Melissa Deas
Representative for Coalition of Batterer Services
Batterer Invention Program
PO Box 321
Bristol, VT 05443-0321
melissadeas5@gmail.com

- A member of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence;

Auburn Watersong
Policy Director
The Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
PO Box 405
Montpelier, VT 05601
802-223-1302 phone
802-223-6943 fax
auburn@vtnetwork.org

- A representative of the Vermont Council on Domestic Violence;

Heather Holter
Coordinator
Vermont Council on Domestic Violence
Montpelier, Vermont
heather_holter@tds.net

- A representative of local law enforcement, appointed by the Governor;

Shawn Burke, Chief
S. Burlington Police Department
19 Gregory Dr.
S. Burlington, VT 05403
846-4111 phone
846-4102 fax
sburke@southburlingtonpolice.org

- A victim or survivor of domestic violence, appointed by the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence;

Susan Hardin

- A physician, appointed by the Governor;

Dr. Tania Bertsch
UVM
Emergency Dept.
111 Colchester Ave.
Burlington, VT 05401
tania.bertsch@uvmhealth.org

Alternate:

Dr. Mariah McNamara
UVM
Emergency Dept.
111 Colchester Ave.
Burlington, VT 05401
mariah.mcnamara1@uvmhealth.org

- The Executive Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council, or his or her designee;

Jennifer Firpo
Training and Curriculum Coordinator
Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council
Vermont Police Academy
317 Academy Road
Pittsford, VT 05763-9712
802-483-6228 phone
802-483-2343 fax
jennifer.firpo@vermont.gov


- The Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health, or his or her designee;

Emily Hawes
Director of Mental Health Services
Vermont Department of Mental Health
Agency of Human Services
26 Terrace St.
Montpelier, VT
802-828-3856 phone
emily.hawes@vermont.gov

- One Judge, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court.

The Honorable Cortland Corsones
Rutland Superior Court
Family Division
9 Merchants Row
Rutland, VT 05701
cortland.corsones@vermont.gov

APPENDIX D: COMMISSION CASE REFERRAL FORM

	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REFERRAL FORM Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission Office of the Attorney General - Criminal Division 109 State Street - Montpelier, VT 05609		OFFICIAL USE ONLY	
			Received	By
INSTRUCTIONS				
<p>Please answer the questions below as completely as possible to assist the Commission in determining whether we are able to review this death. Please note that you can refer this case to the Commission but, by statute, we cannot review a case until the court proceedings are over and the investigation is closed. In the meantime, we can include the case for statistical purposes. But depending upon the legal status of your referred case there may be a significant delay before the Commission could consider it for review.</p> <p>Additionally, if you need assistance completing this form or would like to communicate the information in a different manner please call the Office of Attorney General, Criminal Division, at (802) 828-5512. This form is also available on the Office of Attorney General's web page at http://www.ago.vermont.gov.</p>				
PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION				
Name of Victim (including aliases)			Name of Parent/Guardian (if under 18)	
Date of Birth (or approximate age)			Date of Death	Town/City where death occurred
Address of Victim (if known)	Street	City		State
Describe how death occurred including any history of domestic violence or abuse (please note that the abuse does not have to be documented through official sources such as the police or courts):				
Person you believe is responsible for this death (including aliases)				
Date of Birth or approximate age of person you believe is responsible			Relationship of the victim to the person you believe is responsible	
Other people having information about this death: (use another sheet if necessary)				
Name	Address		Phone	
Name	Address		Phone	
Was this death investigated and if so by whom:				
A short explanation why you want the death reviewed (use additional pages if necessary.)				
The Commission welcomes any other information you may wish to provide which would help us understand the history and circumstances of the fatality. Anonymous referrals can be made as long as there is sufficient information to be able to identify the fatality; however, if possible, contact information for the person making the referral would be appreciated.				
SUBMITTED BY				
Name				
Address		Town/City		State
Contact Phone 1			Contact Phone 2	
Send completed forms to: Office of Attorney General, 109 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05609 ATT: Criminal Division/Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission				



STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW COMMISSION

The Domestic Violence Fatality (Death) Review Commission is established in the Office of Attorney General in consultation with the Council on Domestic Violence under 15 V.S.A. § 1140.

The purposes of the Commission are (A) to examine the trends and patterns of domestic violence-related deaths in Vermont; (B) to identify barriers to safety, and strengths and weaknesses in communities and systemic responses to domestic violence; (C) to educate the public, service providers and policymakers about domestic violence deaths and strategies for intervention and prevention; and (D) to recommend policies, practices and services that will encourage collaboration and reduce fatalities due to domestic violence.

All proceedings and records of the Commission are confidential and are not subject to subpoena, discovery or introduction into evidence in a civil or criminal action. Records include oral and written communications.

The Commission shall report its findings and recommendations in a public report. The Report shall contain general statistical data regarding deaths as well as findings and recommendations related to case reviews but will not contain case specific information. The report shall examine general trends and patterns with the goal of reducing domestic violence related deaths.

Questions or comments concerning the Commission can be directed to:

Office of the Attorney General
Criminal Division
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
Telephone 802-828-5512

On the Web - <http://www.ago.vermont.gov>

APPENDIX E

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.