

# Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

## **By-Laws**

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### **Article I**

#### **PURPOSE**

It shall be the purpose of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (Council) to proactively further the purposes and goals set forth in 69 Del. Laws ch. 159. The Council shall adhere to the provisions of the statute as it relates to powers, duties, council composition, meetings, procedure, committees, reporting requirements and other related matters.

### **Article II**

#### **POWERS AND DUTIES**

The Council shall exercise the powers and perform the duties and responsibilities set forth in the statute establishing the Council.

### **Article III**

#### **MEETINGS**

- (a) All meetings shall be at the call of the Chairperson or at the request of three members of the Council with no less than ten (10) days notice required for any meeting, except under extraordinary circumstances. Seven Council members shall constitute a quorum.
- (b) All motions, except as may hereafter be specifically noted, shall be carried by a simple majority of those members present and entitled to vote. The presiding officer shall vote only in the case of a tie.
- (c) In the absence of a quorum at a regular duly noticed meeting of the Council, the agenda of that meeting shall be delegated to the Executive Committee for disposition.
- d) Council members unable to attend a meeting may send a representative to the meeting in his or her stead. Members of the Council may appoint a proxy member only in circumstances under which they:
  - (1) Will be absent from the State, or
  - (2) Become disabled,for a time period of three (3) months or longer.

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### **Article IV**

#### **COMMITTEES**

(a) Committees shall be appointed as the Council deems advisable. Committees which have been appointed are as follows:

1. Criminal Justice
2. Medical
3. Legislative Drafting and Review
4. Public Awareness and Education
5. Immigration
6. Elderly and Domestic Violence
7. Children and Domestic Violence
8. Treatment

(b) An Executive Committee shall be formed, whose members shall be the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson and three Council members who shall be elected by the Council as a whole. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be at the call of the Chair or any other member of the committee. Three members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

### **Article V**

#### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGIC PLAN**

(a) The Council shall establish a Domestic Violence Strategic Plan which shall set forth the goals of the Council for coordinating the response to domestic violence and sexual assault in order to meet the overriding purpose of reducing the incidence of domestic violence in the State of Delaware.

(b) Upon adoption of goals by the Council, committee members and the agency or constituency which they represent shall analyze the issues pertinent to that agency's or constituency's response to domestic violence and to victims of domestic violence in light of the established goals and the statutory purposes of the Council and shall formulate a focused plan that provides a detailed response for attaining the established goals of the Council, as they relate to that agency or constituency.

(c) Periodically, the Council staff shall review and assess the established goals included in the Domestic Violence Strategic Plan to determine whether those goals have been attained and whether the goals should be continued, revised or eliminated.

(d) A summary report shall be prepared annually concerning the progress which has been made in achieving the goals established by the Council.

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### **Article VI**

#### **PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

Except where in conflict with these by-laws or applicable state or federal law, Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority for the Council.

### **Article VII**

#### **AMENDMENTS**

These by-laws may be amended in whole or in part, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee or upon written request of a least five (5) Council members, with ten (10) days written notice of the proposed change, at any regular or special meeting of the Council by a vote of a majority of the membership.