

CAMDEN COUNTY FAMILY VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

CHARTER BY-LAWS, As Amended September 3, 1999

ARTICLE I Name

The name of this organization shall be the Camden County Family Violence Task Force.

ARTICLE II Purpose and Policies

Section 1. Purpose and Mission Statement

- A. The PURPOSE of the Camden County Family Violence Task Force is:
1. to effectuate coordination between agencies, departments and the courts with victims and perpetrators of family violence,
 2. to promote safety and justice for victims while holding perpetrators accountable;
 3. to improve the response to family violence so as to reduce incidents thereof.
- B. The primary MISSION of the Camden County Family Violence Task Force is to act to support victims of family violence by providing assistance to the community through existing agencies. It is the ambition of the Task Force to assist in designing services which are responsive to victims of family violence; assist the health care system in developing and utilizing tools for effective identification of victims of family violence, evaluate relevant statistics on family violence for case disposition; provide family violence education for the community; develop a community response system for family violence; and to assist in developing standardized protocols for law enforcement for their response to family violence.

ARTICLE III Membership

Any person who is interested in and supports the purpose and mission of this organization is eligible for membership. The Task Force should include representatives from any organization which plays a role in the community's response to family violence. The following list includes suggested representatives for the task force:

- Shelters and programs for battered victims
- District Attorney
- A former battered victim
- Judges
- Probation Officer, Department of Corrections
- Rape Crisis Centers
- Court Administrator and/or Court Clerk
- Council on Aging
- County Mental Health Department
- Georgia Legal Services
- Batterers Intervention Program
- Victims' Assistance Programs
- Department of Family and Children's Services
- Board of Education
- Local hospitals/emergency medical centers
- Local Attorneys
- Clergy Leaders
- Other Community Leaders
- Police Chiefs and/or other representatives of local Police departments
- Sheriffs and/or other representatives of county Sheriff officers

ARTICLE IV Officers

Section 1.

The task force shall be directed by and Executive Board of elected officials. Committees will be established to assist the Executive Board.

The task force shall annually elect from its membership the following officers: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary-Treasurer. Each officer shall held office for a one-year term. Officers may serve consecutive terms. These elected officers shall constitute the Executive Board.

Section 2

CHAIRPERSON. The Chairperson shall call the meetings, notify the members as required, preside at all meetings, name committees, appoint chairpersons of committees and perform such other duties and acts as usually pertain to the office.

VICE-CHAIRPERSON. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall exercise all the functions of the Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Chairperson.

SECRETARY-TREASURER: The Secretary-Treasurer shall be the custodian of all papers, documents and other property of the task force, including money, shall keep a true record of all proceedings of all meetings of the task force; shall keep and accurate record of all monies appropriated to and expended for the use of the task force; and

shall assist in the preparation of all notices, correspondence policy statements and opinions of the task force as directed.

Section 3.

Vacancies on the task force and on the Executive Board shall be filled by appointment by the remaining members for the unexpired term.

Section 4.

The task force shall have the power to remove from office, by majority vote, any officer of the Executive Board for misfeasance, or nonfeasance in prescribed duties.

Section 5.

The task force shall hold meetings every second month at a time and place determined by members. The Chairperson, or two members of the Executive Board may call special meetings. A quorum for transacting business shall be the voting members present, but not less than six members of the task force.

ARTICLE V Committees

Section 1.

Standing Committees: Standing Committees shall be appointed by the Chairperson as needed on an ad hoc basis. The Chairperson shall designate a Chairperson where not otherwise provided.

1. Executive Committee: The Executive Committee consists of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary -Treasurer and may also include the chairpersons of all other committees. The Executive Committee shall have general supervisory charge of the affairs of the task force in the interim between meetings subject to general policy guidelines which may be established by the full task force.
2. Services Committee: The Services Committee should examine the services available to victims and perpetrators of family violence in the judicial circuit. It should work in conjunction with appropriate agencies to improve or add resources where needed.
3. Protocol Committee: The Protocol Committee should draft, adopt and implement protocols for agencies responding to family violence based on the Georgia Commission of Family Violence's model protocols. The committee should consider establishing a monitoring subcommittee to provide ongoing

evaluation of the protocol's implementation and to ensure that the interests of battered women are protected.

4. Training Committee: The Training Committee should provide and/or promote training on family violence to task force members and to other appropriate agencies.
5. Legislation Committee: The Legislation Committee should examine laws on family violence and their application on the local level. The committee should identify legislative issues for the Georgia Commission on Family Violence and local legislators,
6. Public Relations Committee: The Public Relations Committee should strive to increase public awareness on family violence and the activities of the task force. It should also keep task force members informed of correspondence from the Commission.
7. Finance Committee: The Finance Committee should be responsible for fundraising for task force and other family violence events in the circuit. The committee should also advise the task force on expenditures of any available monies.

Section 2.

Special Committees: Special Committees may be established by the Chairperson with the approval of the task force as deemed necessary. The Chairperson shall appoint and designate the chairperson and the chairperson's responsibilities and term of each committee.

Section 3.

Committees are charged with planning, research and problem solving. Before taking action, committees must obtain approval of the task force unless otherwise indicated.

ARTICLE VI Amending the By-Laws

The By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of present members of the task force at any regularly scheduled meeting provided that notice of the proposed amendment is mailed or given to each member at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the voting meeting.