



ANDY BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Secretary of State
Frankfort
Kentucky

2024 – 159
February 12, 2024

Domestic violence is a multifaceted and pervasive issue that touches every part of the criminal justice system. Kentucky has one of the highest reported rates of domestic violence in the country with 41% of women and 26% of men experiencing intimate partner violence in their lifetimes. Kentucky also has high rates of substance abuse, parental incarceration, poverty, child abuse, and mental health issues, each of which intersect with, contribute to, and can result from experiences with domestic violence. The victims of domestic violence face many barriers in leaving abusive situations and accessing critical services, especially those living in rural areas. The trauma caused by domestic violence impacts victims in their daily lives and relationships, including in their jobs, which hinders their ability to be part of the workforce, and to obtain affordable and secure housing.

The Commonwealth has demonstrated its commitment to effectively reducing domestic violence and helping victims through collaboration and coordination among the three branches of government. and the Commonwealth has expanded protections for victims, increased penalties for offenders, and supported advocacy efforts to better address domestic violence at the state and local levels. However, the collection, consolidation, and interpretation of domestic violence data remains a barrier to development of innovative responses to the challenges created by domestic violence. To better assist victims and pursue informed solutions, the Commonwealth must modernize and improve its data strategies.

Accordingly, the Executive, Judicial and Legislative Branches of government and key stakeholders have entered into a Justice Reinvestment Initiative partnership with The Council of State Governments. This partnership will allow the Commonwealth to break down data silos and increase domestic violence data collection and analysis on a state level. Improved data collection and analysis will aid the Commonwealth and community



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service providers in providing victims with vital services. It will also help Kentucky develop and implement policies that better protect public safety by determining the efficacy of the criminal justice process and by strengthening corrections and reentry efforts for offenders to prevent recidivism. Access to comprehensive data will assist the Commonwealth and its agencies in identifying critical funding opportunities, gaps in services, and training enhancements for first responders, and it will make Kentucky a model for other states in domestic violence data collection.

To achieve these goals, the Executive, Judicial and Legislative Branches of government agree that it is necessary to create the Domestic Violence Working Group to receive recommendations from the three branches of government, the Council of State Governments, and key stakeholders. The Working Group will also facilitate effective development and implementation of policy solutions, improve data collection and analysis, increase access to services, and reduce domestic violence rates.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Andy Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, in consideration of the foregoing, and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Kentucky Constitution and KRS 12.029, and pursuant to the terms of the agreement between the Commonwealth of Kentucky and The Council of State Governments, do hereby order as follows:

1. The Domestic Violence Working Group is created for the purposes described in this Executive Order, and
2. The following individuals or their designees are appointed as members of the Working Group:
 - a. The Secretary of the Justice & Public Safety Cabinet, who shall serve as Co-Chair;
 - b. The Executive Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, who shall serve as Co-Chair;



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- c. A member of the Kentucky Legislature, who shall serve as Co-Chair, who shall be appointed by the Executive Director of the Legislative Research Commission;
- d. A Senator appointed by the Senate President;
- e. A Senator appointed by the Minority Floor Leader;
- f. A Representative appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- g. A Representative appointed by the Minority Floor Leader;
- h. An employee of the Administrative Office of the Courts appointed by the Chief Justice;
- i. A Judge appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;
- j. A County Attorney appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;
- k. The Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Corrections;
- l. The Commissioner of the Kentucky State Police;
- m. The Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center;
- n. The Public Advocate of the Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy;
- o. Angela Yannelli, CEO of ZeroV, with a term ending January 31, 2028;
- p. Melissa Quillen, Executive Director of the Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs, with a term ending January 31, 2028;
- q. Caroline Ruschell, Chief Executive Director of Child Advocacy Centers of Kentucky, with a term ending January 31, 2028;
- r. Jerry Wagner, Executive Director of the Kentucky Sheriff's Association, with a term ending January 31, 2028;
- s. Shawn Butler, Executive Director of the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police, with a term ending January 31, 2028;
- t. A behavioral health representative chosen by the Executive Director of the Legislative Research Commission with a term ending January 31, 2028;
- u. A survivor of domestic violence, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, with a term ending January 31, 2028; and



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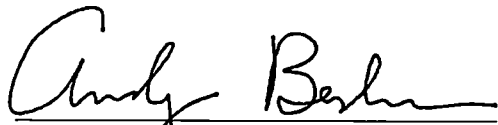
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- v. A representative of the Mary Byron Center at the University of Louisville School of Law, with a term ending January 31, 2028;
3. The Domestic Violence Working Group will meet at the call of the Co-Chairs.

This order shall be effective February 12, 2024.


ANDY BESHEAR, Governor
Commonwealth of Kentucky



MICHAEL G. ADAMS
Secretary of State

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MICHAEL G. ADAMS
SECRETARY OF STATE
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BY Catherine Samy