

Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board

Mission

The mission of the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Related Fatality Review Board is to reduce the number of domestic violence related deaths in Oklahoma. The Board will perform multi-disciplinary case reviews of statistical data and information derived from disciplines with jurisdiction and/or direct involvement with the case to develop recommendations to improve policies, procedures and practices within the systems involved and between agencies that protect and serve victims of domestic abuse.

Purpose

The Domestic Violence Related Fatality Review Board shall have the power and duty to:

1. Coordinate and integrate state and local efforts to address domestic violence related fatalities and create a body of information to prevent domestic violence related deaths;
2. Collect, analyze and interpret state and local data on domestic violence related deaths;
3. Develop a state and local database on domestic violence related deaths;
4. Improve the ability to provide protective services to victims of domestic violence who may be living in a dangerous environment;
5. Improve policies, procedures and practices within the agencies that serve victims of domestic violence; and,
6. Enter into agreements with other state, local or private entities as necessary to carry out the duties of the Domestic Violence Related Fatality Review Board.

Domestic Violence Definitions

22 O.S. ' 60.1, 1999 Supp.

As used in the Protection from Domestic Abuse Act and in the Domestic Abuse Reporting Act, Sections 40.5 through 40.7 of this title and Section 150.12B of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes:

1. ***Domestic Abuse*** means any act of physical harm, or the threat of imminent physical harm which is committed by an adult, emancipated minor, or minor age thirteen (13) years of age or older against another adult, emancipated minor or minor child who are family or household members or who are or were in a dating relationship;
2. ***Stalking*** means the willful, malicious, and repeated following of a person by an adult, emancipated minor, or minor thirteen (13) years of age or older, with the intent of placing the person in reasonable fear of death or great bodily injury;
3. ***Harassment*** means a knowing and willful course or pattern of conduct by an adult, emancipated minor, or minor thirteen (13) years of age or older, directed at a specific person which seriously

Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board

alarms or annoys the person, and which serves no legitimate purpose. The course of conduct must be such as would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress, and must actually cause substantial distress to the person. *Harassment* shall include, but not be limited to, harassing or obscene telephone calls in violation of Section 1172 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes and fear of death or bodily injury;

4. ***Family or household members*** means spouses, ex-spouses, present spouses of ex-spouses, parents, foster parents, children, persons otherwise related by blood or marriage, persons living in the same household or who formerly lived in the same household, persons who are the biological parents of the same child, regardless of their marital status, or whether they have lived together at any time. This shall include elderly and handicapped;
5. ***Dating relationship*** means a courtship or engagement relationship. For purposes of this act, a casual acquaintance or ordinary fraternization between persons in a business or social context shall not constitute a dating relationship.

Working Definitions

Domestic violence fatalities refer to those homicides caused by domestic violence or abuse.

Preventable death is one which, with retrospective analysis, it is determined that a reasonable intervention, (e.g., medical, educational, social, legal, psychological) might have prevented the death.

Reasonable is defined by taking into consideration the condition, circumstances or resources available.

Domestic violence-related fatality review means the deliberative process for identification of deaths, both homicide and suicide, caused by domestic violence or abuse, for examination of the systemic interventions into consideration of altered systemic response to avert future domestic violence-related deaths, or for development of recommendations for coordinated community prevention and intervention initiatives to eradicate domestic violence.

(Reference: Reviewing Domestic Violence Fatalities: Summarizing National Developments. Neil Websdale, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ. Violence Against Women Office, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 1999.)