

Vermont Council on Domestic Violence Basic Information

The Vision of the Vermont Council on Domestic Violence

We envision a Vermont where:

- peaceful and safe families are the norm,
- all people are valued,
- everyone feels safe in their community, workplace, school and home,
- and all Vermonters have access to justice and equity.

Council Purpose and Mission

The purpose of the Vermont Council on Domestic Violence is to provide leadership for Vermont's statewide effort to eradicate domestic violence.

The Council supports statewide systems and communities to:

- Be pro-active in their response to domestic violence,
- Craft intervention and support that is immediate, ongoing, survivor-centered, and trauma- informed.

The Council:

- Facilitates opportunities for dialogue, advocacy, education, and support among state agencies, advocacy groups, and the public.
- Works to continuously expand the knowledge of council members about the emotional, physical, psychological and economic impacts of domestic violence on individuals and communities especially in marginalized communities.

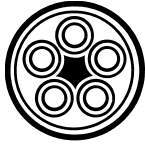
History of the Vermont Governor's Council on Domestic Violence

The Governor's Council on Domestic Violence was created in 1993 by Governor Howard Dean and Chief Justice Frederic W. Allen. The Council was charged with serving the community domestic violence task forces in their efforts to eliminate family violence by facilitating the coordination of services, information and education. The Council provided a forum for the discussion of strategies for improving the statewide coordinated response to domestic violence and addressing systemic obstacles to victim safety and offender accountability.

Vermont Council on Domestic Violence in Vermont Statute

In 2008, the Vermont Legislature re-created the Council. Vermont Statute 15 VSA chapter 21, subchapter 4, 1171-1173 created the Vermont Council on Domestic Violence with broad representation from state and community stakeholders in order to coordinate statewide responses to domestic violence, and give the Council expansive authority and responsibility.

The Council's mission has been carefully crafted to include specific duties.

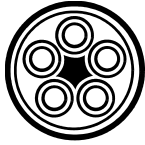


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Duties in Statute

- **Provide leadership** for Vermont's statewide effort to eradicate domestic violence.
- **Facilitate** opportunities for: dialogue, advocacy, education, and support among state agencies, advocacy groups, and the public.
- **Collect, review, and analyze data** and information relating to domestic violence.
- Provide **assistance in developing effective responses** to domestic violence, including model policies and procedures, prevention and education initiatives, and domestic-violence-related programs for the criminal justice and human services sectors;
- Specifically, the council shall **work with the Department of State's Attorneys and the Department of Corrections** to develop recommendations for practice in: evidence-based prosecution, risk assessment with domestic violence offenders, the use of deferred sentences in domestic violence cases, standardized probation conditions for domestic violence offenders, appropriate programming options for domestic violence offenders, and strategies for addressing victims of domestic violence who commit crimes as a result of the coercion of a batterer.
- **Recommend changes in state programs, laws, administrative regulations, policies, and budgets** related to domestic violence.
- **Establish and maintain standards for intervention programs for perpetrators of domestic violence, and develop a process for certifying that programs are complying with the standards.**
- **Review and comment upon legislation** relating to domestic violence introduced in the general assembly at the request of any member of the general assembly or on its own initiative; and
- **Study the issue of employment discrimination against victims of domestic violence and suggest model workplace protections and policies.**
- **Collaborate with the Vermont Fatality Review commission to develop strategies for implementing the commission's recommendations.**
- **Make a biennial report to the general assembly, the governor, the supreme court, and the people of Vermont** explaining all relevant data about domestic violence collected by the council, and evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of Vermont's current domestic violence intervention response strategies.

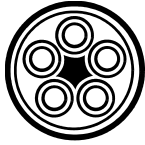
Quarterly Council Meetings are held in March, June, September, and December, and are open to the public.



Vermont Council on Domestic Violence Basic Information

Current Vermont Council on Domestic Violence Members

Membership Role	Current Member
<i>Survivor</i>	Amy Messina
<i>Same Sex Domestic Violence Service Provider</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Deaf and Disability Service Provider</i>	Keri Darling
<i>Representative of the Department of State's Attorneys</i>	Erica Marthage, Esq.
<i>Prosecutor from STOP Domestic Violence Unit</i>	Deb Celis, Esq.
<i>Representative of the Vermont Faith Community</i>	Rev. Krista Beth Atwood
<i>Representative of Children Exposed to Domestic Violence</i>	Susan Shattuck
<i>Representative of the Family Court</i>	Hon. Barb Zander
<i>District Judge</i>	Hon. Thomas Devine
<i>Assistant Judge</i>	Hon. Joel Page
<i>Court Manager</i>	Kathleen Pearl
<i>Guardian ad litem (GAL)</i>	Betsy Gregory
<i>Representative from VT Legal Aid</i>	Sarah Kagle, Esq.
<i>Representative of the VT Family Bar</i>	Kathryn Kennedy, Esq.
<i>Representative of the Court Administrators Office</i>	David Kennedy, JD
<i>Representative from the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence</i>	Karen Tronsgard-Scott
<i>Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Training Council</i>	Designee: Jenn Firpo
<i>Commissioner of the Department of Corrections or Designee</i>	Designee: Rick Bates
<i>Secretary of the Agency of Human Services or Designee</i>	Designee: Paul Dragon
<i>Attorney General or Designee</i>	Designee: Carolyn Hanson, Esq.
<i>Representative of the VT Commission on Women</i>	Hannah Myers
<i>Commissioner of the Department for Children and Families or Designee</i>	Designee: Ellie Breitmaier
<i>Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety or Designee</i>	Designee: Cpt. Ingrid Jonas
<i>Defender General or Designee</i>	Designee: Marshall Pahl, Esq.
<i>Representative of the VT Sheriff's Association</i>	Sherriff W. Samuel Hill
<i>Representative of the Coalition of Batterer Intervention Programs</i>	Melissa Deas
<i>Representative of the VT Criminal Information Center</i>	Jeffrey Wallin
<i>Representative of the VT Supervised Visitation Coalition</i>	Amanda McFarland



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<i>Membership Role</i>	<i>Current Member</i>
<i>Representative of the VT Police Chief's Association</i>	Chief Tony Facos
<i>Commissioner of the Department of Education or Designee</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Representative of the VT Center for Crime Victim Services</i>	Cara Cookson, JD
<i>Representative of the Addison County Task Force</i>	Christina Grier
<i>Representative of the Bennington County Task Force</i>	Linda Campbell
<i>Representative of the Caledonia- So. Essex Counties Task Force</i>	Elisa Lucozzi
<i>Representative of the Chittenden County Task Force</i>	Anera Foco
<i>Representative of the Franklin and Grand Isle Counties Task Force</i>	Kris Lukens
<i>Representative of the Lamoille County Task Force</i>	Colleen Twomey
<i>Representative of the Orange County Task Force</i>	Linda Ingold
<i>Representative of the Orleans- N. Essex Counties Task Force</i>	Roxie Rivard
<i>Representative of the Rutland County Task Force</i>	Avaloy Lanning
<i>Representative of the Washington County Task Force</i>	Meg Kuhner
<i>Representative of the Windham County Task Force</i>	Donna Macomber
<i>Representative of Windsor County Task Force</i>	Abby Tassel

Council Structure

The Council is staffed by a part-time coordinator. Two Co-Chairs support the Council's success in performing its purpose and responsibilities.

The Council has committees to carry out its duties, including the Consultation/Legislative Committee, Domestic Violence Accountability Committee, Judicial Caucus, and Domestic Violence Task Force Committee. The Council Coordinator works closely with the Vermont Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission, serves on the Mandatory Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Training Committee, and maintains connections with the Coalition of Supervised Visitation Programs, and the Coalition of Domestic Violence Accountability Programs.

An employee of the Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence functions as a Supervised Visitation Services Liaison, supporting the Council's connection with the Vermont Coalition of Supervised Visitation Programs.

Council Contact

Heather Holter, Council Coordinator
 Vermont Council on Domestic Violence
 (802) 917-1793 or vtdvcouncil@gmail.com