



# State of South Carolina

## Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY  
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE  
POLICY AND PROGRAMS

July 26, 2013

TO: Swati Patel

FM: Debbie Curtis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "DC" or similar initials, written over the name "Debbie Curtis".

RE: FOIA Request

Attached is a FOIA Request from Ms. Leona Crouch. We received it on July 26, 2013. As you know, our office has a confidentiality statute that governs all information we receive and request pursuant to an inquiry. I've attached a copy for your review.

requirements are commensurate with the certification requirements for public victim assistance service providers.

(2) Victim service providers, serving in public or private nonprofit programs, employed on the effective date of this chapter are exempt from basic certification requirements but shall meet annual continuing education requirements to maintain certification. Victim service providers, serving in public or private nonprofit programs, employed after the effective date of this chapter are required to complete the basic certification requirements within one year from the date of employment and to meet annual continuing education requirements to maintain certification throughout their employment.

(3) The mandatory minimum certification requirements, as promulgated by the Crime Victims' Ombudsman, may not exceed fifteen hours, and the mandatory minimum requirements for continuing advocacy education, as promulgated by the Crime Victims' Ombudsman, may not exceed twelve hours.

(4) Nothing in this section shall prevent an entity from requiring or an individual from seeking additional certification credits beyond the basic required hours.

HISTORY: 1994 Act No. 433, Section 1; 2008 Act No. 271, Section 4, eff January 1, 2009.

**SECTION 16-3-1630.** Ombudsman; responsibilities; authority; annual report.

Upon receipt of a written complaint that contains specific allegations and is signed by a victim of criminal activity within the state's jurisdiction, the ombudsman shall forward copies of the complaint to the person, program, and agency against whom it makes allegations, and conduct an inquiry into the allegations stated in the complaint.

In carrying out the inquiry, the ombudsman is authorized to request and receive information and documents from the complainant, elements of the criminal and juvenile justice systems, and victim assistance programs that are pertinent to the inquiry. Following each inquiry, the ombudsman shall issue a report verbally or in writing to the complainant and the persons or agencies that are the object of the complaint and recommendations that in the ombudsman's opinion will assist all parties. The persons or agencies that are the subject of the complaint shall respond, within a reasonable time, to the ombudsman regarding actions taken, if any, as a result of the ombudsman's report and recommendations.

The ombudsman shall prepare a public annual report, not identifying individual agencies or individuals, summarizing his activity. The annual report must be submitted directly to the Governor, General Assembly, elements of the criminal and juvenile justice systems, and victim assistance programs.

HISTORY: 1994 Act No. 433, Section 1.

**SECTION 16-3-1640.** Confidentiality of information and files.

Information and files requested and received by the ombudsman are confidential and retain their confidential status at all times. Juvenile records obtained under this section may be released only in accordance with provisions of the Children's Code.

HISTORY: 1994 Act No. 433, Section 1.

**SECTION 16-3-1650.** Cooperation with the criminal and juvenile justice systems and victim assistance programs.

All elements of the criminal and juvenile justice systems and victim assistance programs shall cooperate with the ombudsman in carrying out the duties described in Sections 16-3-1620 and 16-3-1630.

HISTORY: 1994 Act No. 433, Section 1.