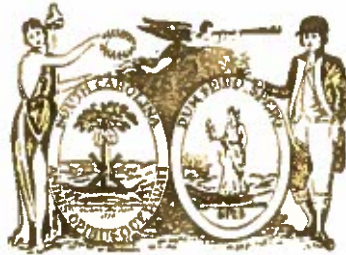


State of South Carolina  
Executive Department

FILED

JAN 07 2016

Mark Hammond<sup>8</sup>  
SECRETARY OF STATE



Office of the Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.

2016-04

**WHEREAS**, the Domestic Violence Task Force (hereinafter, "Task Force"), re-established by Executive Order 2016-02, has proposed 50 recommendations to comprehensively address the cultural issues surrounding domestic violence in the State of South Carolina, including but not limited to social, economic, and geographic issues as well as professional standards and best practices within government and non-government organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Task Force found that 48 percent of victim service providers indicated they did not have or did not know if they had a policy for domestic violence screening, and whereupon it is known that domestic violence cannot be addressed if it is not identified; and

**WHEREAS**, while individuals seeking or receiving direct services from state agencies are required to complete forms and answer questions about various health and lifestyle conditions, approximately half of responding victim service providers reported to the Task Force the lack of a screening tool or risk assessment for domestic violence; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to the traditional health assessments, public servants trained to assist individuals are in the unique position to screen for risk factors and warning signs of domestic violence with little cost to the State and with great potential benefit for referring self-identified survivors and batterers to resources and treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Task Force has recommended that the culture surrounding domestic violence in South Carolina can be improved, in part, by requiring state agencies that provide direct client services to include a domestic violence risk assessment during the overall health screening process, and accordingly, my Administration will take such action to ensure that state agencies are proactive in

assessing members of the public for risk factors and warning signs associated with domestic violence.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to the powers conferred upon me by the Constitution and Statutes of the State of South Carolina, I hereby order certain state agencies under my authority to adopt a screening and risk assessment policy for domestic violence, including questions or questionnaires that assess abusive and violent behavior, physical injury, fear of a family member or sexual partner, and other risk factors and warning signs associated with home safety, as well as procedures for referrals for services and treatment, using model policies compiled by the United States Department of Health and Human Services Center for Disease Control as hereto attached. I further direct the Department of Social Services to assist state agencies in fulfillment of this Order.

The domestic violence screening and risk assessment policies shall be implemented no later than July 1, 2016 in the following state agencies:

- (1) Department of Administration Continuum of Care
- (2) Department of Administration Guardian ad Litem
- (3) Department of Administration Office of Children's Affairs
- (4) Department of Administration State Office of Victim Assistance
- (5) Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services
- (6) Department of Corrections
- (7) Department of Employment and Workforce
- (8) Department of Health and Human Services
- (9) Department of Juvenile Justice
- (10) Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services
- (11) Department of Social Services

It is further suggested that other state agencies that provide direct services not within the Governor's authority implement a domestic violence screening and risk assessment policy as well.



GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE  
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA, THIS 7th DAY OF  
JANUARY, 2016.

  
NIKKI R. HALEY  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
MARK HAMMOND  
SECRETARY OF STATE