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Gov. Nikki Haley, S.C. Domestic Violence Task Force Announce Statewide Reform To Address Domestic Violence In South Carolina

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Governor Nikki Haley, members of the South Carolina Domestic Violence Task Force, and solicitors from around the state held a Statehouse press conference today to announce significant actions taken by the governor and the Task Force to address issues related to domestic violence in South Carolina.

Less than a year after the Task Force presented her with 50 recommendations, Governor Haley announced that 10 of those recommendations have been addressed through a combination of Executive Orders, the governor's Executive Budget, and agreements with [state boards and nongovernment associations](#).

Video of the governor's full press conference can be found here ([hyperlink](#)).

Actions taken by Governor Haley and the S.C. Task Force:

- Governor Haley announced that her Executive Budget for 2016-2017 will fund new prosecutors, new judges, and new public defenders to end the practice of law enforcement officers prosecuting domestic violence crimes in the courtroom, [which will also reduce caseloads, decrease backlogs, and ensure that there is a dedicated prosecutor in every county in South Carolina](#).
- Executive Order 2016-02 ([hyperlink](#)) – [extends the Task Force to ensure](#) that all 50 Task Force recommendations will be completed and that meaningful results are rendered for the people of South Carolina.
- Executive Order 2016-03 ([hyperlink](#)) – orders that all Cabinet agencies adopt an HR policy [for domestic violence that includes procedures for confidentiality, safety and security, performance and leave, and educating employees regarding available resources](#).
- Executive Order 2016-04 ([hyperlink](#)) – orders certain Cabinet agencies [that offer direct client services](#) to adopt a risk assessment screening policy for domestic violence.
- The Task Force has [received](#) commitments from nine professional boards to include domestic violence training in their continuing education: Doctors, Nurses, Dentists, OTs, PTs, Pharmacists, Social Workers, Cosmetologists, and Counselors and Therapists.
- The Task Force has created a one-page regional brochure to be printed from LLR's website for those professional boards to distribute and make available in offices in all parts of the state.
- The Task Force has created a standardized reporting form for local governments to use when sending their annual report to the Treasurer's Office of how criminal fines and fees are spent [on victim services](#).

Additional information about the S.C. Domestic Violence Task Force can be found on [Governor Haley's website](#).