



HANDBOOK

Ohio County Commissioners

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CHAPTER 52

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS

Latest Revision
1994

52.01 INTRODUCTION

Am. Senate Bill 46, effective January 1, 1980 provided for an increase in the fee for a marriage license to be used to fund shelters for victims of domestic violence. Funds are distributed to public or private shelters by the county commissioners based on procedures and criteria set in Chapter 3113 of the Revised Code.

52.02 DEFINITIONS

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - attempting to cause or causing bodily injury to a family or household member, or placing a family or household member by threat of force in fear of imminent physical harm.

FAMILY OR HOUSEHOLD MEMBER - a spouse, a former spouse, person living with another person, whether or not as spouses, parent, or other adult person related by consanguinity or affinity, who is residing or has resided with the person committing the domestic violence and dependents of such persons.

SHELTER FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR SHELTER - a facility providing temporary residential service or facilities to family or household members who are victims of domestic violence.

52.03 MARRIAGE LICENSE FEE

Under Section 3113.34 of the Revised Code, the probate court is, on issuance of a marriage license, to collect and deposit in the county treasury a fee of \$17 to be retained

in a special fund to be expended by the county commissioners only to provide financial assistance to shelters for victims of domestic violence. The specifics are contained in Sections 3113.33 - .39 of the Revised Code.

52.04 APPLICATION/APPROVAL PROCEDURE

1. APPLICATION DEADLINE

A shelter may apply for funds to the county commissioners of the county in which it is located or of an adjoining county whose population it is serving or will serve. Applications must be filed by October 1 of the year preceding the calendar year in which funds are desired (ORC 3113.35).

2. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

An application must include all of the following:

- a. Evidence that the shelter is incorporated in this state as a nonprofit corporation.
- b. A list of the trustees of the corporation, and a list of the trustees of the shelter, if different.
- c. The proposed budget of the shelter for the following calendar year.
- d. A summary of the services proposed to be offered in the following calendar year.
- e. An estimate of the number of persons to be served during the following calendar year.

3. QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPROVAL

Upon receipt of a valid application, county commissioners must determine whether the shelter meets all of the following qualifications (ORC 3113.36):

- a. Be incorporated in this state as a nonprofit corporation.
- b. Have trustees who represent the racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity of the community to be served, including at least one person who is or has been a victim of domestic violence.
- c. Receive at least 25 percent of its funds from sources other than funds distributed pursuant to Section 3113.37 of the Revised Code. These other sources may be public or private, and may include funds distributed pursuant to Section 3113.37 of the Revised Code, and contributions of goods or

services, including materials, commodities, transportation, office space, or other types of facilities or personal services.

- d. Provide residential service or facilities for children when accompanied by a parent, guardian, or custodian who is a victim of domestic violence and who is receiving temporary residential service at the shelter.
- e. Require persons employed by or volunteering services to the shelter to maintain the confidentiality of any information that would identify individuals served by the shelter.
- f. A shelter for victims of domestic violence does not qualify for funds if it discriminates in its admissions or provision of services on the basis of race, religion, color, age, marital status, national origin, or ancestry. A shelter does not qualify for funds in the second half of any year if its application projects the provision of residential service and such service has not been provided in the first half of the that year; such a shelter does not qualify for funds in the following year.

4. APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL BY COMMISSIONERS

Upon receipt of a valid application, the county commissioners must, on or before November 15 of the year in which the application is filed, notify the shelter in writing whether it is eligible for funds. If the shelter is eligible, the notice must include the estimated amount available to the shelter for the program year (ORC 3113.35(B)).

5. ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FROM OHIO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NETWORK

Assistance with information on domestic violence programs statewide and on standards for shelters may be obtained by calling the Ohio Domestic Violence Network toll free at 1-800-934-9840.

52.05 TIMETABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

Funds collected under Section 3113.34 of the Revised Code, are to be distributed to qualifying shelters every six months on January 15 and July 15. For example, funds collected from July 1 through December 31, 1992 should be distributed on January 15, 1993. Funds collected from January 1 through June 30, 1993 should be distributed on July 15, 1993 (ORC 3113.34(C)).

52.06 PRIORITY FOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

If the county commissioners receive requests for funds which exceed the amount available, the funds are to be allocated on the basis of the following priorities (ORC 3113.38).

1. To shelters in existence on the effective date of the law (1/1/80).
2. To shelters offering or proposing to offer the broadest range of services and refunds to the community served, including medical, psychological, financial, educational, vocational, child care, and legal services.
3. Other qualified shelters.

52.07 UNUSED FUNDS TO ATTORNEY GENERAL

If, in any year, the county commissioners do not allocate all of the funds available or if no valid applications from qualified shelters are received, the remaining amount is to be deposited with the Attorney General by December 31 of that year (ORC 3113.37). The Attorney General must, then distribute such moneys to shelters which apply and qualify.

52.08 ANNUAL REPORT

A shelter for victims of domestic violence which receives funds pursuant to Section 3113.25 of the Revised Code must file an annual report with the county commissioners of the county in which it is located and of the county from which it received funds, if different, by March 31 of the year following the year in which funds are received. Such annual report must include (ORC 3113.39):

1. Number of persons served.
2. Relationship of victim to abuser.
3. Number of referrals made for medical, psychological, financial, educational, vocational, child care or legal services.

The report is not to identify any person served by the shelter or enable anyone to determine the identity of any such person. Shelters are also required to file this report with the Attorney General, who is to compile those reports.