

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEGAL NETWORK OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

BY-LAWS

WHEREAS, the Domestic Violence Legal Network of Montgomery County (“DVLN”) has established By-Laws which serve to further its Mission; and under the terms of said By-Laws is permitted to review and amend the By-Laws as necessary;

NOW, THEREFORE, DVLN adopts the following as its Amended By-Laws:

I. MISSION

The Domestic Violence Legal Network of Montgomery County (“DVLN”) has been established to act in assisting in making vital services available to domestic violence victims through the sharing of resources and expertise among law enforcement, government and community agencies. To that end, DVLN works to accomplish the following goals:

- a) To enhance strong communications between victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and county and local services, in an effort to secure safety and relief;
- b) To work with domestic violence and sexual assault victims in order to remove stumbling blocks in the path to help and relief;
- c) To keep the community informed by providing a clear and consistent profile of services available to domestic violence and sexual assault victims;
- d) To take appropriate action in coalition, on behalf of domestic violence and sexual assault victims, through legislative and policy reforms.

II. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in DVLN is open to any entity which has contact with domestic violence/sexual assault victims or provides services related to domestic violence or sexual assault. Representatives from the following *core entities* shall be invited to become members of DVLN:

- a) Laurel House
- b) The Women’s Center of Montgomery County
- c) Montgomery Bar Association
- d) Prothonotary’s Office

- e) District Attorney's Office
- f) Board of Judges
- g) Court Administration
- h) Magisterial District Judges
- i) MDJ Administration
- j) Legal Aid
- k) Montgomery County Correctional Facility
- l) Local Law Enforcement
- m) Sheriff's Office
- n) Adult Probation Office
- o) Domestic Relations Office
- p) Children & Youth Services
- q) Pennsylvania State Police
- r) Victim Services Center of Montgomery County
- s) Batterer's Treatment Providers

On at least a biennial basis (every two years) the core entities that do not have membership shall be invited to have a representative join DVLN.

Any participant in DVLN at the time of the adoption of these by-laws is deemed to have membership. New members may be admitted upon application to the current membership and approval of the majority of members.

III. DVLN LEADERSHIP

The following officers shall be elected from among the DVLN membership to serve for a two year term beginning in January of even-numbered years:

- a) Chair
- b) Vice Chair
- c) Secretary
- d) Treasurer

Elections for said officers will be held at the last meeting preceding the January meeting. Election as an officer will be determined by a majority vote of the attendees at the meeting at which the election has been scheduled.

The officers and membership may establish separate committees as deemed appropriate.

IV. MEETINGS AND QUORUM

- a) Regular meetings of DVLN will be held periodically throughout the year. A minimum of four meetings should occur during any calendar year.

- b) Meetings of individual committees may be called at times other than the regular DVLN meeting.
- c) Notice of regular and special meetings shall be distributed via e-mail to the membership.
- d) Members who are unable to attend meetings may designate a substitute to attend and vote on their behalf. Notice of said substitution shall be submitted to the Secretary in writing prior to the meeting.
- e) A quorum for the purpose of conducting regular business or calling for a vote shall be one half of the membership, plus one, of DVLN members in attendance.

V. VOTING

All DVLN members or their designees shall be entitled to vote.

VI. MEETING DOCUMENTATION

All of DVLN's regular, special, or committee meetings shall be documented either in the form of meeting minutes or meeting summaries and shall be presented at the next DVLN meeting for approval by a majority of the members in attendance.

VII. COMMITTEES

DVLN shall establish standing and ad hoc committees as needed for the purposes of expediting and facilitating the business of DVLN.

VIII. REVIEWS AND AMENDMENTS OF BY-LAWS

- a) These By-Laws shall be reviewed biennially (every two years).
- b) There must be advance written notice of the intent to amend these By-Laws sent to each DVLN member at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which the motion to amend will be presented.
- c) These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of DVLN members attending the meeting at which the motion to amend is raised.