

February 21, 2019

Director, Office on Violence Against Women
145 N Street, NE Suite 10 W. 121
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Improving Criminal Justice Responses Program Certification of Eligibility

Dear Director:

As Chief Executive Officer of Lancaster County, I submit this letter to certify to the following:

1. The laws or official policies of Lancaster County encourage or mandate arrests of domestic violence offenders based on probable cause that an offense has been committed;
2. The laws or official policies of Lancaster County encourage or mandate arrests of domestic violence offenders who violate the terms of a valid and outstanding protection order;
3. The laws, policies, or practices and the training programs of Lancaster County discourage dual arrests of offender and victim;
4. The laws, policies, or practices of Lancaster County prohibit issuance of mutual restraining orders of protection except in cases where both parties file a claim and the court makes detailed findings of fact indicating that both parties acted primarily as aggressors and that neither party acted primarily in self-defense;
5. The laws, policies, and practices of Lancaster County do not require, in connection with the prosecution of any misdemeanor or felony domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking offense, or in connection with the filing, issuance, registration, modification, enforcement, dismissal, or service of a protection order, or a petition for a protection order, to protect a victim of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, that the victim bear the costs associated with the filing of criminal charges against the offender, or the costs associated with the filing, issuance, registration, modification, enforcement, dismissal or service of a warrant, protection order, petition for a protection order, or witness subpoena, whether issued inside or outside the state, tribal, or local jurisdiction; and
6. The laws, policies or practices of Lancaster County ensure that:
 - a. No law enforcement officer, prosecuting officer or other government official shall ask or require an adult, youth, or child victim of a sex offense as defined under federal, tribal, state, territorial, or local law to submit to a polygraph examination or other truth telling device as a condition for proceeding with the investigation of, trial of, or sentencing for such an offense; and
 - b. The refusal of a victim to submit to an examination described in subparagraph (A) shall not prevent the investigation of, trial of, or sentencing for the offense.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Brinkman, Chair
Lancaster County Board of Commissioners



Acknowledgement of Notice of Statutory Requirement to Comply with the Confidentiality and Privacy Provisions of the Violence Against Women Act, as Amended

Under section 40002(b)(2) of the Violence Against Women Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 13925(b)(2)), grantees and subgrantees with funding from the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) are required to meet the following terms with regard to nondisclosure of confidential or private information and to document their compliance. By signature on this form, applicants for grants from OVW are acknowledging that that they have notice that, if awarded funds, they will be required to comply with this provision, and will mandate that subgrantees, if any, comply with this provision, and will create and maintain documentation of compliance, such as policies and procedures for release of victim information, and will mandate that subgrantees, if any, will do so as well.

(A) In general

In order to ensure the safety of adult, youth, and child victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and their families, grantees and subgrantees under this subchapter shall protect the confidentiality and privacy of persons receiving services.

(B) Nondisclosure

Subject to subparagraphs (C) and (D), grantees and subgrantees shall not—

- (i) disclose, reveal, or release any personally identifying information or individual information collected in connection with services requested, utilized, or denied through grantees' and subgrantees' programs, regardless of whether the information has been encoded, encrypted, hashed, or otherwise protected; or
- (ii) disclose, reveal, or release individual client information without the informed, written, reasonably time-limited consent of the person (or in the case of an unemancipated minor, the minor and the parent or guardian or in the case of legal incapacity, a court-appointed guardian) about whom information is sought, whether for this program or any other Federal, State, tribal, or territorial grant program, except that consent for release may not be given by the abuser of the minor, incapacitated person, or the abuser of the other parent of the minor.

If a minor or a person with a legally appointed guardian is permitted by law to receive services without the parent's or guardian's consent, the minor or person with a guardian may release information without additional consent.

(C) Release

If release of information described in subparagraph (B) is compelled by statutory or court mandate—

- (i) grantees and subgrantees shall make reasonable attempts to provide notice to victims affected by the disclosure of information; and
- (ii) grantees and subgrantees shall take steps necessary to protect the privacy and safety of the persons affected by the release of the information.

(D) Information sharing

(i) Grantees and subgrantees may share—

- (I) nonpersonally identifying data in the aggregate regarding services to their clients and nonpersonally identifying demographic information in order to comply with Federal, State, tribal, or territorial reporting, evaluation, or data collection requirements;
- (II) court-generated information and law enforcement-generated information contained in secure, governmental registries for protection order enforcement purposes; and
- (III) law enforcement-generated and prosecution-generated information necessary for law enforcement and prosecution purposes.

(ii) In no circumstances may—

- (I) an adult, youth, or child victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking be required to provide a consent to release his or her personally identifying information as a condition of eligibility for the services provided by the grantee or subgrantee;
- (II) any personally identifying information be shared in order to comply with Federal, tribal, or State reporting, evaluation, or data collection requirements, whether for this program or any other Federal, tribal, or State grant program.

(E) Statutorily mandated reports of abuse or neglect

Nothing in this section prohibits a grantee or subgrantee from reporting suspected abuse or neglect, as those terms are defined and specifically mandated by the State or tribe involved.

(F) Oversight

Nothing in this paragraph shall prevent the Attorney General from disclosing grant activities authorized in this Act to the chairman and ranking members of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate exercising Congressional oversight authority. All disclosures shall protect confidentiality and omit personally identifying information, including location information about individuals.

(G) Confidentiality assessment and assurances

Grantees and subgrantees must document their compliance with the confidentiality and privacy provisions required under this section.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby acknowledge that the applicant has received notice that if awarded funding they will comply with the above statutory requirements. This acknowledgement shall be treated as a material representation of fact upon which the Department of Justice will rely if it determines to award the covered transaction, grant, or cooperative agreement.

Typed Name of Authorized Representative

Title

Telephone Number _____

Signature of Authorized Representative

Date Signed

Agency Name

February 21, 2019

Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N St., NE
Washington, DC 20530

Lancaster County certifies that any funds awarded through the “Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Grant Program” will be used to supplement existing funds for program activities and will not replace (supplant) nonfederal funds that have been appropriated for the purpose of providing services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence and child victimization.

Lancaster County understands that supplanting violations can result in a range of penalties, including suspension of future funds under this program, suspension or debarment from federal grants, recoupment of monies provided under this grant, and civil and/or criminal penalties.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Brinkman
Lancaster County Board Chair