

North Dakota

CHAPTER 14-07.1 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

14-07.1-20. Domestic violence fatality review commission.

1. The attorney general's office may establish a domestic violence fatality review commission to review domestic violence deaths that have occurred in the state. The domestic violence fatality review commission may review incidents in which the investigation of fatal incidents of domestic violence has been completed or adjudicated by law enforcement for the purpose of:
 - a. Recommending policies and protocols to prevent the incidence of domestic violence and resulting fatalities; and
 - b. Providing consultation and coordination for agencies involved in the prevention and investigation of domestic violence.
2. The attorney general shall appoint the membership of the domestic violence fatality review commission, as appropriate, and may include representatives from:
 - a. Law enforcement agencies within the state;
 - b. County or city attorneys and public defenders, and the judiciary;
 - c. The medical examiner;
 - d. The department of corrections and rehabilitation;
 - e. Physicians and mental health professionals;
 - f. Employees of the state department of health and county social services;
 - g. Local civic agencies and organizations involved with crime victims and domestic violence protection, reporting, counseling, and assistance;
 - h. Other organizations, departments, and agencies determined to be appropriate; and
 - i. Other individuals serving on an ad hoc basis in association with a particular review.
3. The commission may investigate and review the facts and circumstances of all deaths that occur in the state as a result of domestic violence.
 - a. The review may include necessary and appropriate information, including current laws and policies, actions taken by agencies and persons related to or involved with the incident, criminal justice data collection and analysis, and other information the commission determines to be relevant to the review.
 - b. The confidential and other appropriate records of a department or agency of the state or municipality relating to the domestic violence incident may be examined by the commission. The domestic violence fatality review commission and each member of the commission shall preserve the confidentiality of any records examined.
4. The domestic violence fatality review commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the attorney general before December thirty-first of each year.
5. Meetings of the domestic violence fatality review commission are closed to the public

and are not subject to section 44-04-19.

6. The determinations, conclusions, and recommendations of the domestic violence fatality review commission are not admissible in a civil or criminal proceeding.

7. Except for a public report issued by the attorney general's office, any information, records, or data collected by the commission are an exempt record. The commission may not use the information, records, or data for purposes other than those designated by this section.

8. Whenever funding is available from grants, a member of the domestic violence fatality review commission who is not a permanent full-time state employee is entitled to compensation at a rate of seventy-five dollars per day and mileage and expense reimbursement as provided for in sections 44-08-04 and 54-06-09. A state employee who is a member of the commission must receive that employee's regular salary and is entitled to mileage and expense reimbursement as provided for in sections 44-08-04 and 54-06-09, to be paid by the employing agency.