



MASSACHUSETTS

Workforce Investment Act

WIA Communication No. 01-29

☒ **Policy** ☐ **Information**

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Investment Board Chairs
Workforce Investment Board Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
DET Regional Directors
DET Area Directors

cc: WIA State Partners

From: Angelo Buonopane, Director
Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Date: July 13, 2001

Subject: Address Confidentiality for Victims of Domestic Abuse, Rape, Sexual Assault and Stalking

BACKGROUND

On January 11, 2001, the Legislature enacted Chapter 409, an Act that created an Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) for victims of domestic abuse, rape, sexual assault and stalking. The goal of ACP is to help these victims maintain a confidential address after they have relocated from an address known to their perpetrator. The Office of the Secretary of State will operate a confidential mail forwarding system for victims that have been accepted into the program.

In order to apply, a victim must work with a certified Application Assistant. These Assistants will be specialists in the areas of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking who are either community based service providers or state agency employees. Application Assistants must be certified by the Secretary of the Commonwealth through the successful completion of a training program. Through extensive training and outreach, certified Application Assistants will be available throughout all geographic locations of the Commonwealth. For information on how to become an Application Assistant, contact ACP at (617) 727-3261.

Address Confidentiality for Victims of Domestic Abuse, Rape, Sexual Assault and Stalking

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An equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
TDD/TTY 1-800-439-2370 - Voice 1-800-439-0183

Once accepted into the program, an identification card will be issued to the participant showing the post office box number that will serve as a substitute mailing address. This post office box number must be accepted by government agencies when establishing records for these individuals. Only first class mail sent to the post office box will be retrieved by an ACP staff person from the Secretary of State's office and forwarded to the participant.

POLICY

For purposes of registration for services at a Career Center, staff will accept the post office box as given by the participant: **P.O. Box 9120, Chelsea, MA 02150.**

It should be noted that the customer does not have to self identify as a domestic violence victim. Their use of this post office box will be verified by their ACP card. Therefore, Career Center staff should be alert to recognizing the significance of this special post office box in Chelsea so that proper procedures are being followed.

The customer may be reluctant to provide a phone number for their residence. Career Center staff should suggest that the customer provide a number where a message may be left. If no phone number is provided, staff should **not** persist in trying to obtain one.

ACTION

Managers and supervisors **must** distribute and review this material with Career Center staff. Because of the importance and the high profile nature of this initiative, managers must ensure that **every** staff person is well versed in the specialized procedures to properly serve these victims of domestic violence. A MOSES Information Bulletin Number 01-10 has been issued that describes the proper procedures for recording information on ACP participants in the MOSES system. Managers and supervisors must ensure that the information contained in this MOSES bulletin is distributed to all staff.

References: For further information on the Address Confidentiality Program, contact:

ACP
P.O. Box 9120
Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150-9120
(617) 727-3261
1-866-SAFE-ADD

Inquiries: Any questions related to this correspondence should be directed to Eileen Zewski at (617) 626-5686.

Filing: Please file this in your notebook of previously issued WIA Communication Series Issuances as #01-29.

Attachments: Chapter 409 of the Acts of 2000
950 CMR

Chapter 409 of the Acts of 2000

AN ACT PROVIDING ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE, RAPE, SEXUAL ASSAULT AND STALKING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after chapter 9 the following chapter:-

CHAPTER 9A. ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM.

Section 1. For the purposes of this chapter the following words shall, unless the context requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

"Abuse", as provided in [section 1 of chapter 209A](#).

"Address", a residential street, school or work address of an individual, as specified on the application to be a program participant under this chapter.

"Program participant", a person certified by the state secretary to participate in the program.

"Application assistant", an employee of a state or local agency, or of a nonprofit program that provides counseling, referral, shelter or other specialized service to victims of domestic abuse, rape, sexual assault, or stalking and who has been designated by the respective agency, and trained, accepted and registered by the state secretary to assist individuals in the completion of program participation applications.

"Secretary", the state secretary.

"Rape", as provided in sections 22, 22A and 23 of [chapter 265](#) and sections 2, 4 and 17 of [chapter 272](#).

"Sexual assault", as provided in sections 13B, 13C, 13H, 24 and 24B of chapter 265 and sections 4A, 17, 29A, 29B and 35A of chapter 272.

"Stalking", as provided in [section 43 of chapter 265](#).

Section 2. There is hereby established an address confidentiality program to be administered by the secretary under the following application and certification procedures:

(1) Upon recommendation of an application assistant, an adult person, a parent or guardian acting on behalf of a minor, or a guardian acting on behalf of an incapacitated person may apply to the secretary to have an address designated by the secretary serve as the person's address or the address of the minor or incapacitated person.

(2) The secretary shall approve an application only if it is filed with the office of the secretary in the manner established by regulation, and on a form prescribed by the secretary. A completed application shall contain:

(i) the application preparation date, the applicant's signature and the signature and registration number of the application assistant who assisted the applicant in applying to be a program participant;

(ii) a designation of the secretary as agent for purposes of service of process and for receipt of first-class mail;

(iii) the mailing address where the applicant may be contacted by the secretary, or his designee, and the telephone number or numbers where the applicant may be called by the secretary or his designee; and,

(iv) one or more addresses that the applicant requests not be disclosed for the reason that disclosure will jeopardize the applicant's safety or increase the risk of violence to the applicant or members of the applicant's household.

- (3) Upon receipt of a properly completed application, the secretary shall certify the applicant as a program participant. An applicant shall be certified for four years following the date of filing unless the certification is withdrawn or invalidated before that date.
- (4) The secretary shall forward all first class mail to the appropriate program participants.
- (5) A person who knowingly provides false or incorrect information in an application or who knowingly falsely attests that disclosure of the applicant's address threatens the safety of the applicant or the applicant's children or the minor or incapacitated person on whose behalf the application is made, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500.00 or by imprisonment for not more than six months in a house of correction and by cancellation of program certification.

Section 3. Certification for the program may be canceled if one or more of the following conditions applies:

- (1) If the program participant obtains a name change, the participant loses certification as a program participant. A participant who has obtained a legal name change may apply to the secretary for recertification in the program if documentation of the legal name change is provided.
- (2) If there is a change in the residential street address from the one listed on the application, unless the program participant provides the secretary with notice of the change in such manner as the secretary shall provide by regulation.
- (3) Pursuant to paragraph (5) of section 2, the secretary shall cancel certification of a program participant who knowingly provides false information.

Section 4. Upon demonstration by a program participant of his certification in the program, state and local agencies shall accept the address designated by the secretary as a program participant's substitute address when creating a new public record unless the secretary has determined that:

- (1) The agency has a bona fide statutory or administrative requirement for the use of the participant's actual residential address, such that it is unable to fulfill its statutory duties and obligations without such residential address; and
- (2) The participant's actual residential address will be used only for those statutory and administrative purposes.

Section 5. The secretary shall not make a program participant's address, other than the address designated by the secretary, available for inspection or copying, except under the following circumstances:

- (1) If requested of the secretary by the chief commanding officer of a law enforcement agency or his designee in the manner provided for by regulation.
- (2) Upon request to the secretary by a commissioner of a state agency, or his specific designee, in the manner provided for by regulation and upon a showing of a bona fide statutory or administrative requirement for the use of the participant's actual residential address, such that it is unable to fulfill its statutory duties and obligations without such residential address.
- (3) To a person identified in a court order, upon the secretary's receipt of that court order which specifically orders the disclosure of a particular program participant's address and the reasons stated therefor.
- (4) If certification has been canceled due to provision of false or incorrect information in an application or knowingly falsely attesting that disclosure of the applicant's address threatens the safety of the applicant or the applicants children or the minor or incapacitated person on whose behalf the application is made, as provided for in paragraph (5) of section 2.

Section 6. The program participant's application and supporting materials shall not be a public record and shall be exempt from the mandatory disclosure requirements of clause Twenty-sixth of section 7 of chapter 4 and section 10 of chapter 66.

Section 7. The secretary shall promulgate regulations to carry out the provisions of this chapter and in doing so may consult with the secretary of health and human services and Jane Doe Inc., Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence.

Approved January 11, 2001.

Return to:

[List of Laws passed in 2000 Session](#)

[General Court home page](#), or

[Commonwealth of Massachusetts home page](#).

Non-Active

(950 CMR 121.00 THROUGH 129.00: RESERVED)

(PAGES 429 THROUGH 450 ARE RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE.)

950 CMR 130.00: ADMINISTRATION OF ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM

Section

130.01: Scope and Purpose

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130.01: Scope and Purpose

950 CMR 130.00 shall provide for the administration of the Address Confidentiality Program.

130.02: Definitions

Authorization Card. Card issued by the Secretary of the Commonwealth to program participant upon certification, which includes program participant's name, authorization code, substitute mailing address, certification expiration date, and signature.

Authorization Code. A number assigned to a program participant upon acceptance into the Program.

Application. Standard application form provided by the Secretary of the Commonwealth which must be completed by an applicant with an Application Assistant as defined by M.G. L. c. 9A, § 1.

Application Assistant. An employee of a state or local agency, or of a nonprofit program that provides counseling, referral, shelter or other specialized service to victims of domestic abuse, rape, sexual assault, or stalking and who has been designated the respective agency, and trained, accepted and registered by the Secretary of the Commonwealth to assist individuals in the completion of program participation applications.

Certification. The process by which an applicant is determined eligible to participate in the Program.

Program. The Address Confidentiality Program established by M.G.L. c. 9A.

Program Participant. A person certified by the Secretary of the Commonwealth to participate in the Address Confidentiality Program.

Program Manager. Employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth designated by the Secretary to administer the Address Confidentiality Program pursuant to M.G.L. c. 9A, § 2.

130.03: Application Assistant Certification

- (1) All application assistants must be certified by the Secretary of the Commonwealth's office to participate in this program.
- (2) Application Assistant Certification will only be awarded when the prospective application assistant:
 - (a) Is a service provider or works with an agency and can demonstrate to the Secretary relevant qualifications to work with victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking;
 - (b) Successfully completes program orientation and training sessions sponsored by the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth;
 - (c) Completes an application for an application assistant which includes the applicant's name, address, service provider or agency, supervisor's name, relevant qualifications;
 - (d) Agrees to adhere to the policies, procedures and directions provided by Address Confidentiality Program Manager for rendering assistance to program applicants;
 - (e) Agrees to adhere to the instructions and terms provided in the Application Assistant Agreement.
- (3) Application Assistant Certification shall be valid for two years, unless terminated sooner as provided herein.
- (4) The Application Assistant agrees not to discriminate against any client, or potential program participant, because of race, creed, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, or mental, physical or sensory disability.
- (5) The Application Assistant performing under this contract is not deemed to be an employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth nor an agent of the Secretary of the Commonwealth in any manner whatsoever. The Application Assistant will not hold herself/himself out as, nor claim to be an officer or employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth or of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts simply because she/he is a program application assistant and will not make any claim, demand, or application to or for any right or privilege applicable to

an officer or employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth or of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

- (6) An application assistant's certification may be terminated by the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth for failing to abide by any requirement in 950 CMR 130.03 or for failing to act in accordance with requirements of the address confidentiality program.

130.04: Program Participant Application and Certification Process

- (1) A program applicant shall complete, date, sign, and provide all the information required under M.G.L. c. 9A, § 2, and as requested on the standard application form and the authorization card form provided by the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The application shall include an attestation by the applicant that disclosure of the applicant's address threatens the safety of the applicant or the applicant's children or the minor or incapacitated person on whose behalf the application is made. An applicant shall specify a Massachusetts state residential address, work or school addresses in Massachusetts for which confidentiality is requested. The standard application form shall include, but not be limited to, the application preparation date, and the signature and certification number of the application assistant who assisted the applicant in applying to become a program participant, as provided in M.G.L. c. 9A, § 2.
- (2) Prior to certification of the application, the Secretary of the Commonwealth may request additional documentation from the program applicant, including, but not limited to, any relevant judicial proceeding, criminal complaint, or proceeding brought under M.G.L. c. 209A.
- (3) A properly completed application shall be effective on the day that it is certified by the Program Manager.
- (4) An individual who is certified as a program participant shall be issued a program participant's authorization card which includes her or his name, authorization code, substitute mailing address, certification expiration date, and applicant's signature.
- (5) The term of a program participant's certification shall be four years following the effective date of her or his application unless the certification is withdrawn or invalidated before that date pursuant to M.G.L. c. 9A, § 3 or 950 CMR 130.06.
- (6) If there is a change in the program participant's residential address from the one listed in the application, the program participant shall notify the Program Manager in writing of such change within 30 days of the change in residence.

130.05: Cancellation of Program Certification

- (1) Program certification shall be canceled if any of the following occur:

- (a) The program participant fails to notify the Program Manager in writing of a change in the program participant's residential address within 30 days.
 - (b) The program participant discloses his or her residential address to the batterer, stalker, or perpetrator of sexual assault.
 - (c) Any one of the cancellation conditions provided for by M.G.L. c. 9A.
- (2) Upon cancellation of program certification, the program participant will return the authorization card to the Secretary of the Commonwealth.
 - (3) If certification for the program is canceled because one of the conditions set out in M.G.L. c. 9A, § 3 or in 950 CMR 130.06 applies, the program manager will notify the program participant by mail addressed to the participant's last known residential address that program participant certification has been canceled.
 - (4) Except where certification has been canceled pursuant to M.G.L. c. 9A, § 2(5), the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall not make a former participant's address available for inspection or copying except as provided for by M.G.L. c. 9A, § 5.

130.06: Appeal of Denial or Cancellation of Program Certification

- (1) The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall designate a committee of five members to review appeals of denial or cancellation of program certification. The Program Committee may include one representative from the Massachusetts Office for Victims Assistance, one representative from Jane Doe, Inc., and three other members chosen by the Secretary of the Commonwealth.
- (2) Within 15 days of the date of the denial or cancellation, the program applicant may request, in writing, that the committee reconsider the Program Manager's decision to deny or cancel program certification. The Committee shall reconsider any application for which a request for reconsideration is received. After reconsideration of the application, the Committee shall affirm the denial or certify the application.
- (3) The committee shall notify the applicant by certified mail, return receipt requested, of the decision upon reconsideration within 30 days of receiving the request for reconsideration.

130.07: Exercise of Program Participant's Privileges

- (1) A program participant shall request, at the time of creation of a new record, that an agency use the substitute address designated by the Secretary of the Commonwealth as her or his residential or mailing address.
- (2) A program participant shall show her or his authorization card to the agency official creating a new record and request address confidentiality through use of the substitute address in lieu of her or his actual location. The substitute address shall appear on the program participant's authorization card.

- (3) Authorized personnel may make a file photocopy of the authorization card and shall immediately return the authorization card to the program participant.
- (4) An agency shall accept the substitute address unless the agency has received a written record exemption determination from the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.
- (5) An agency shall not question the program participant about the details or circumstances of her or his inclusion in the program. Rather, the agency shall accept the determination made by the Secretary of the Commonwealth that she or he is a qualified program participant.

130.08: Program Participation Renewal

- (1) A program participant may renew her or his program participation by filing a properly completed renewal form with the address confidentiality program manager. The renewal form shall be sent to the participant at least 30 days before the expiration of the current authorization. Upon receipt of the new authorization card, the participant shall destroy her or his expired card and return it to the Secretary of the Commonwealth.
- (2) The program manager shall certify a program participant, who has filed a properly completed certification renewal form, to participate in the program for an additional four year term unless the certification is withdrawn or invalidated before that date.
- (3) Upon renewal, the program manager shall issue to the program participant a new authorization card which includes the program participants name, authorization code, substitute mailing address, certification expiration date, and signature.

130.09: Agency Exemption Request

- (1) An agency requesting an exemption under 950 CMR 130.09, must provide in writing to the Secretary of the Commonwealth:
 - (a) identification of the statute or administrative rule which demonstrates the agency's *bona fide* requirement and authority for the use of the actual address of an individual;
 - (b) identification and description of the specific record or record series for which the exemption is requested;
 - (c) identification of the individuals who will have access to the record;
 - (d) an explanation of why the agency cannot meet its statutory or administrative obligations by a change in its internal procedures.
- (2) The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall file and review an agency's request for an exemption.

- (3) During the review, evaluation and appeal of an agency's exemption request, the agency shall accept the use of a program participant's substitute address.
- (4) The Secretary of the Commonwealth's determination to grant or withhold a requested exemption shall be based on, but not limited to, an evaluation of the information provided under 950 CMR 13.09(1) in conformance with the statutory standard of a *bona fide* statutory or administrative requirement for the use of a program participant's actual address.
- (5) If the Secretary of the Commonwealth determines that an agency has a *bona fide* statutory or administrative requirement for the use of a program participant's actual address information and that the actual address information will be used only for those statutory and administrative purposes, the Secretary may issue a written exemption for the agency. When granting an exemption, the Secretary may include:
- (a) an agency's obligation to maintain the confidentiality of a program participant's address information;
 - (b) limitations on use and access to that address information;
 - (c) term during which the exemption is authorized for the agency;
 - (d) designation of the record format in which the address information may be maintained;
 - (e) designation of an address information disposition date after which the agency may no longer maintain a record of the address information; and,
 - (f) any other provisions and qualifications determined appropriate by the Secretary of the Commonwealth.
- (6) When a program participant requests use of the substitute address in a record, and the agency has received an exemption for that record, the agency shall immediately provide a copy of the written exemption to the requesting program participant. The agency shall notify the address confidentiality program manager of the acceptance and denial of the program participant's request.
- (7) The Secretary of the Commonwealth's denial of an agency exemption request shall be made in writing and include a statement of the specific reasons therefor.
130.09: continued
- (8) An agency may appeal the denial of its request by resubmitting its written request within 60 days of the issuance of a denial. The request shall be accompanied by additional data, information and an explanation of corrective action taken to alleviate concerns and considerations included in the Secretary of the Commonwealth's denial determination.

130.10: Service of Process

- (1) The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall be an agent of the program participant upon whom any summons, writ, notice, demand, or process may be served.
- (2) Service on the Secretary of the Commonwealth of any such summons, writ, demand, notice, or process shall be made by mailing to the substitute address or by delivering to the address of Secretary of the Commonwealth at his/her office at One Ashburton Place, Public Records Division, Boston, Massachusetts 02108 two copies of the summons, writ, notice, demand, or process.
- (3) If a summons, writ, notice, demand, or process is served on the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the secretary of the Commonwealth shall immediately forward a copy to the program participant at the participant's current mailing address shown on the records of the program.
- (4) The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall maintain in the program participant's file, a record of all summonses, writs, notices, demands, and processes served upon the Secretary of the Commonwealth for that participant under which shall include the date of such service and the Secretary of the Commonwealth's action.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

950 CMR 130.00: M.G.L. c. 9A.

NON-TEXT PAGE