



Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Kelli Owens
Executive Director

Elizabeth Cronin
Director

Sheila J. Poole
Commissioner

June 23, 2020

Good evening,

As we begin the work of implementing the COVID-19 Domestic Violence Task Force recommendations, we are pleased to share with you that Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed Executive Order (EO) [No. 202.43](#) on June 18, 2020. This action is a direct response to the [Task Force's recommendation](#) to expand options for victims of domestic violence in accessing the funding and services necessary for safety and survival, and the charge to NYS government to quickly implement solutions that better meet survivor's needs.

The Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) will partner with the Office of Victim Services (OVS) and the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) to monitor that local programs are able to carry out the conditions of this EO, which extend the following through July 18, 2020:

- Any certified residential program for victims of domestic violence is considered a criminal justice agency for purposes of the Executive Order;
- Relocation expenses shall include reasonable, temporary lodging expenses, such as motel or hotel, for victims of a crime or crimes related to domestic violence, subject to the fiscal limitation in subdivision 2 of section 631 of the Executive Law;
- OVS shall determine claims submitted by victims of crimes related to domestic violence, subject to the following:
 - If there is a physical injury, the claimant may submit medical records of the injury and a statement from any certified residential program for victims of domestic violence that the injuries were the result of a crime.
 - If there is no physical injury, the certified residential program for victims of domestic violence, after consultation with police or district attorney's office, may determine that such actions include one or more of the enumerated charges under subdivisions 11 or 12 of section 631 of the Executive Law and specify such crime or crimes in the application or information submitted to OVS.

Please feel free to reach out to your OPDV liaison or OCFS regional office contact if you have any questions about the EO or how it pertains to your program and those you serve.

Sincerely,

Kelli Owens
Executive Director

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Director

Sheila J. Poole
Commissioner