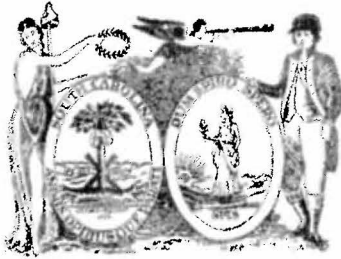


State of South Carolina  
Executive Department



**FILED**

JAN 29 2015

*Mark Hammond*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

Office of the Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.

2015-04

**WHEREAS**, there exists a culture of domestic violence in the State of South Carolina, supported by South Carolina's dismal rating of second highest in the United States for the rate of women murdered by men, having previously ranked among the top ten states for the past twelve years; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence is a crime that most often occurs within the privacy of one's home but is in actuality a crime against the public, destabilizing families, which are the foundational building blocks of our society, and creating cycles of violence that cause harm to the health, safety, and welfare of present and future generations of South Carolinians; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence not only violates the foundational morals and values of people of our state but also burdens taxpayers with incalculable costs to the criminal justice system and social and other governmental services; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of South Carolina will neither continue to ignore nor tolerate domestic violence and is resolved to take action where possible to reduce the rate of domestic violence incidents and deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, although the General Assembly has laudably undertaken efforts to improve laws regarding domestic violence, legislation, alone, cannot overcome the culture of domestic violence in South Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, South Carolina is home to countless nonprofit organizations and other government initiatives that exist to prevent and treat the causes and effects of domestic violence, but there is no comprehensive, statewide movement to harmonize these efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, opportunities exist in bringing together state and community leaders to comprehensively address the cultural issues surrounding domestic violence in order to strengthen our criminal justice system, improve the quantity and quality of services provided to victims and offenders, and expand education, awareness, and outreach about domestic violence to South Carolina communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to the powers conferred upon me by the Constitution and Statutes of the State of South Carolina, I hereby establish the Domestic Violence Task Force of South Carolina, which shall be constituted and shall execute its duties and responsibilities as follows:

1. **Mission:** To comprehensively address the cultural issues surrounding domestic violence in the State of South Carolina, including but not limited to social, economic, and geographic issues as well as professional standards and best practices within government and non-government organizations.
  
2. **Membership:** The Task Force shall be chaired by the Governor and shall consist of representatives from the following entities, including but not limited to:
  - a. Supreme Court of South Carolina;
  - b. Circuit Courts of South Carolina;
  - c. Family Courts of South Carolina;
  - d. Magistrate Courts of South Carolina;
  - e. Senate of the State of South Carolina;
  - f. House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina;
  - g. South Carolina Office of the Attorney General;
  - h. South Carolina Department of Education;
  - i. K-12 Public School Education in South Carolina;
  - j. South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services;
  - k. South Carolina Department of Corrections;
  - l. South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce;
  - m. South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice;
  - n. South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation;
  - o. South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services;
  - p. South Carolina Department of Public Safety;
  - q. South Carolina Department of Social Services;
  - r. South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division;
  - s. South Carolina Department of Mental Health;
  - t. South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control;
  - u. South Carolina Commission on Higher Education;
  - v. South Carolina Commission on Prosecution Coordination;
  - w. South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy
  - x. South Carolina State Board of Cosmetology;
  - y. South Carolina State Board of Medical Examiners;
  - z. South Carolina State Board of Nursing;
  - aa. South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault;
  - bb. South Carolina Crime Victims' Council;
  - cc. South Carolina Victim Assistance Network;
  - dd. Professionals from Batterer Intervention Programs South Carolina Hospital Association;
  - ee. South Carolina Jail Administrators Association;
  - ff. South Carolina Police Chiefs Association;
  - gg. South Carolina Sheriffs' Association;
  - hh. South Carolina Legal Services;
  - ii. South Carolina Association of Counties;
  - jj. Municipal Association of South Carolina;

- kk. South Carolina Hospital Association;
- ll. South Carolina State Housing Finance & Development Authority;
- mm. Members of Faith-Based Communities;
- nn. Members of the Public, including Survivors of Domestic Violence.

**3. Duties and Responsibilities:**

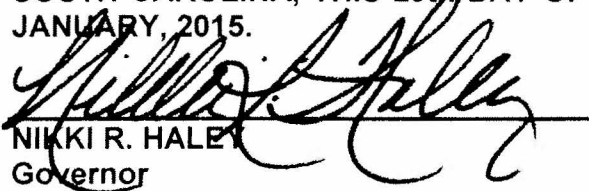
- a. The Task Force shall be divided into divisions to study and make recommendations to improve areas affecting domestic violence, including but not limited to:
  - i. The criminal justice system;
  - ii. Services for victims and offenders; and
  - iii. Community awareness, education and outreach.
- b. The Task Force shall conduct its work in phases, which shall include but not be limited to:
  - i. Surveying and collecting data and information from counties and regions of the state;
  - ii. Identifying specific problems and creating proposed solutions;
  - iii. Implementing or beginning to implement, where possible, approved proposals; and
  - iv. Assessing short- and long-term goals for combatting and preventing domestic violence in the future.
- c. The divisions of the Task Force shall discuss and develop specific objectives within each phase prior to commencing work.

- 4. Reports:** The divisions shall submit reports of their work to the Governor at the end of each phase. The Task Force shall issue a final report no later than December 31, 2015, after which the Task Force shall be dissolved.

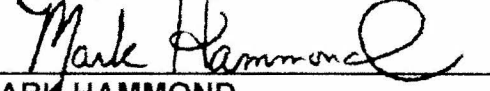
This Order shall take effect immediately.



GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE  
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA, THIS 29th DAY OF  
JANUARY, 2015.

  
NIKKI R. HALEY  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
MARK HAMMOND  
SECRETARY OF STATE