

CHAPTER 2010-36

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1291

An act relating to domestic violence fatality review teams; amending s. 741.316, F.S.; deleting a requirement that the Governor's Task Force on Domestic Violence provide information and technical assistance to local domestic violence fatality review teams; providing that information and records acquired by a domestic violence fatality review team are not subject to discovery or introduction into evidence in criminal or administrative proceedings in certain circumstances; providing that a person who has attended a meeting of a domestic violence fatality review team may not testify in criminal or administrative proceedings as to certain records or information produced or presented to the team; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 741.316, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

741.316 Domestic violence fatality review teams; definition; membership; duties; ~~report by the Department of Law Enforcement.~~—

(1) As used in this section, the term “domestic violence fatality review team” means an organization that includes, but is not limited to, representatives from the following agencies or organizations:

- (a) Law enforcement agencies.
- (b) The state attorney.
- (c) The medical examiner.
- (d) Certified domestic violence centers.
- (e) Child protection service providers.
- (f) The office of court administration.
- (g) The clerk of the court.
- (h) Victim services programs.
- (i) Child death review teams.
- (j) Members of the business community.
- (k) County probation or corrections agencies.

(l) Any other persons who have knowledge regarding domestic violence fatalities, nonlethal incidents of domestic violence, or suicide, including research, policy, law, and other matters connected with fatal incidents.

(m) Other representatives as determined by the review team.

(2) A domestic violence fatality review team may be established at a local, regional, or state level in order to review fatal and near-fatal incidents of domestic violence, related domestic violence matters, and suicides. The review may include a review of events leading up to the domestic violence incident, available community resources, current laws and policies, actions taken by systems and individuals related to the incident and the parties, and any information or action deemed relevant by the team, including a review of public records and records for which public records exemptions are granted. The purpose of the teams is to learn how to prevent domestic violence by intervening early and improving the response of an individual and the system to domestic violence. The structure and activities of a team shall be determined at the local level. The team may determine the number and type of incidents it wishes to review and shall make policy and other recommendations as to how incidents of domestic violence may be prevented.

~~(3) The Governor’s Task Force on Domestic Violence shall provide information and technical assistance to local domestic violence fatality review teams.~~

~~(3)(4)(a)~~ There may not be any monetary liability on the part of, and a cause of action for damages may not arise against, any member of a domestic violence fatality review team or any person acting as a witness to, incident reporter to, or investigator for a domestic violence fatality review team for any act or proceeding undertaken or performed within the scope of the functions of the team, unless such person acted in bad faith, with malicious purpose, or in a manner exhibiting wanton and willful disregard of human rights, safety, or property.

(b) This subsection does not affect the provisions of s. 768.28.

~~(4)(5)~~ All information and records acquired by a domestic violence fatality review team are not subject to discovery or introduction into evidence in any civil or criminal action or administrative or disciplinary proceeding by any department or employing agency if the information or records arose out of matters that are the subject of evaluation and review by the domestic violence fatality review team. However, information, documents, and records otherwise available from other sources are not immune from discovery or introduction into evidence solely because the information, documents, or records were presented to or reviewed by such a team. A person who has attended a meeting of a domestic violence fatality review team may not testify in any civil, criminal, administrative, or disciplinary proceedings as to any records or information produced or presented to the team during meetings or other activities authorized by this section. This subsection does

not preclude any person who testifies before a team or who is a member of a team from testifying as to matters otherwise within his or her knowledge.

(5)(6) The domestic violence fatality review teams are assigned to the Department of Children and Family Services for administrative purposes.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.

Approved by the Governor May 7, 2010.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 7, 2010.