



Bill No. 20-09  
Concerning: Domestic Violence Coordinating  
Council  
Introduced: June 16, 2020  
Revised: \_\_\_\_\_ Draft No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Enacted: July 21, 2020  
Effective: September 19, 2020  
Expires: September 14, 2020  
Frederick County Code, Chapter 1-2, Article XIV  
Section(s) 400-406

## COUNTY COUNCIL FOR FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Council Member Jessica Fitzwater

**AN ACT** to: establish a Domestic Violence Coordinating Council in Frederick County.

Executive: Jan H. Gardner Date Received: July 30, 2020

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 7/30/2020

Vetoed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By amending:

Frederick County Code, Chapter, 1-2, Article XIV Section(s) 400-406

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Boldface**

Underlining

[Single boldface brackets]

\* \* \*

*Heading or defined term.*

*Added to existing law.*

*Deleted from existing law.*

*Existing law unaffected by bill.*

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The County Council of Frederick County, Maryland, finds it necessary and appropriate to add Article XIV: Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, Sections 1-2-400 through 1-2-406 to the Frederick County Code in recognition that domestic violence affects the entire community and in order to increase collaboration and communication to maximize resources to reduce and prevent domestic violence in Frederick County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Frederick County Code be, and it is hereby, amended as shown on the attached Exhibit 1.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
M.C. Keegan-Ayer, President SD  
County Council of Frederick County,  
Maryland

CHAPTER 1-2: ADMINISTRATION

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ARTICLE XIV. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL.

§1-2-400. Creation, Duties.

(A) There shall be a Frederick County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (Coordinating Council).

(B) The Coordinating Council will meet at least 4 times each year.

(C) The Coordinating Council shall:

(1) Advise the County Executive, County Council, and Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission and its members on policies, programs, and legislation necessary to prevent domestic violence and assist victims and their families with safety, stability, and services.

(2) Promote and facilitate an effective community-wide victim-centered response to domestic violence, including a well-coordinated, multi-disciplinary approach to all programs serving victims of domestic violence and their families;

(3) Coordinate with the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence and all other County, State, Federal, and non-governmental agencies, committees, boards, commissions, and organizations that operate, monitor, provide education or technical assistance or coordinate domestic violence programs or services in the County to maximize the effectiveness of these programs and services;

(4) Develop recommendations to improve the coordination and effectiveness of County, State, federal, and non-governmental multi-disciplinary, victim centered efforts regarding domestic violence, including prevention, intervention, treatment, law enforcement, prosecution, correctional, and advocacy efforts;

(5) Cooperate with the any relevant departments, agencies, committees, boards, commissions, and organizations to periodically review the quality and sufficiency of programs and facilities available to domestic violence victims, offenders, and their children throughout the County.

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Underlining indicates entirely new matter added to existing law.  
[Single boldface brackets] indicates matter deleted from existing law.  
\*\*\* - indicates existing law unaffected by bill

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3           (6) Obtain, evaluate, and assist in implementing the recommendations of the  
4 County's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team established under the Annotated Code of  
5 Maryland, Title 4, Subtitle 7 of the Family Law Article;  
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7           (7) Obtain and evaluate statistical data, reports, and other information related  
8 to domestic violence, including information regarding innovative efforts by other governmental  
9 and non-governmental entities, as necessary to implement the requirements of this section; and  
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11           (8) Subject to subsection §1-2-404, advocate or policies or legislation at the  
12 County, State, and Federal levels that would improve efforts to address domestic violence issues,  
13 including prevention, intervention, treatment, law enforcement, prosecution, correctional, and  
14 advocacy efforts.  
15

16 **§1-2-401. Composition.**  
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18           (A) The Coordinating Council shall include the following:  
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20                   (1) A member of the County Council;  
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22                   (2) The Administrative Judge for Frederick County District Court or designee  
23 of the Administrative Judge;  
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25                   (3) The Administrative Judge for the Frederick County Circuit Court or  
26 designee of the Administrative Judge;  
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28                   (4) The State's Attorney for Frederick County or designee of the State's  
29 Attorney;  
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31                   (5) The Regional Director of the Division of Parole and Probation, Maryland  
32 Department of Public Safety and Corrections or designee of the Regional Director;  
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34                   (6) The Frederick County Sheriff or designee of the Frederick County Sheriff;  
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36                   (7) The Chief of the City of Frederick Police Department or designee of the  
37 Chief;  
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39                   (8) The Forensic Nursing Services Coordinator at Frederick Health Hospital  
40 or designee of the Coordinator;  
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1           (9) The President of a comprehensive domestic violence program serving  
2 County residents, or designee of the President;

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5           (10) The Director of the Frederick County office of the Maryland Department  
6 of Human Services or designee of the Director;

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9           (11) The Director of Behavioral Health Services, Frederick County Health  
10 Department, or designee of the Director;

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12           (12) The Superintendent of Frederick County Public Schools or designee of the  
13 Superintendent;

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15           (13) The Director of the Frederick County Child Advocacy Center or designee of  
16 the Director.

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18           (B) Subject to confirmation by the County Council, with input from the Coordinating  
19 Council members listed in Section 1-2-401(A), the County Executive must appoint the following  
20 individuals to serve 3-year terms on the Coordinating Council:

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22           (1) One (1) attorney with experience representing victims of domestic  
23 violence to serve a 3-year term;

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25           (2) One (1) attorney with experience representing criminal defendants of  
26 domestic violence charges to serve a 3-year term;

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28           (3) One (1) member of the public with a demonstrated interest in domestic  
29 violence issues, with preference for a survivor of domestic violence, to serve a 3-year term; and

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31           (4) One (1) student member with a demonstrated interest in addressing  
32 domestic and dating violence to serve a 1-year term on the Coordinating Council. The student  
33 member's term may be renewed for 1 additional year. The student member must be a high  
34 school or college student who resides in the County when initially appointed.

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36           (C) All members of the Coordinating Council are voting members.

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38           (D) If the State's Attorney agrees, their office will provide the primary staff for the  
39 Coordinating Council;

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41           (1) At the request of the State's Attorney, the State courts and agencies listed

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1 in this section and the County agencies listed in this section may provide additional staff  
2 assistance to the Coordinating Council.

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5 **§1-2-402. Chair, Vice-Chair.**

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7 The Coordinating Council must elect a chair and vice-chair from among its members to  
8 serve 2-year terms.

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10 **§1-2-403. Rules.**

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12 The Coordinating Council shall adopt rules to govern its procedures and activities.

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14 **§1-2-404. Advocacy.**

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16 The Coordinating Council as an entity may not engage in any advocacy efforts at the  
17 local, State, or federal levels unless these efforts are approved by a majority of the members.  
18 This subsection does not bar individual members or represented agencies and organizations from  
19 engaging in advocacy independent of the Coordinating Council.

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21 **§1-2-405. Compensation.**

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23 Members of the Coordinating Council shall receive no compensation for their services.

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25 **§1-2-406. Reporting.**

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27 The Coordinating Council may make reports and recommendations to the County  
28 Executive and County Council from time to time as the Coordinating Council finds appropriate  
29 but must report annually.

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