

Prasad, Billy

John Tobia's Report

IV.5

**From:** Karen Oehme <koehme@fsu.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2020 7:46 PM  
**To:** Workman, Ritch  
**Subject:** hotels

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Requiring survivors to take the extra step of revealing their victimization to their employer is an undue burden, in my opinion. Requiring them to go to the doctor's office can involve potential exposure to Covid-19, takes health provider time away from other patients, and should not be required to obtain safe accommodation. Karen Oehme

"Again, thank you for getting back to me today. My boss is trying to fix this and the meeting is early Monday morning. He was so thankful for your email and just wanted me to clarify one thing. Basically, he is looking to verify his belief that requiring a victim of domestic violence to get a letter from their employer or a doctor to check into a local hotel is an unnecessary and potentially dangerous barrier to victims fleeing a violent domestic situation.

Please say safe and healthy and thank you for your work protecting victims."

Respectfully and with great thanks,

David Workman

Karen Oehme, J.D., Director (she/hers/her)  
Institute for Family Violence Studies  
College of Social Work  
FSU Distinguished University Scholar  
Florida State University  
296 Champions Way  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-2570  
850-644-6303 (ext. 1)  
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## Prasad, Billy

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**From:** Jennifer Dritt <jdritt@fcasv.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 3:09 PM  
**To:** Commissioner, D3  
**Subject:** Re: Victim access to hotels

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon, Mr. Workman,

Yes, I absolutely do believe requiring a doctor's note puts victims at additional risk. Local governments should do everything possible to make emergency shelter for victims as accessible as possible.

If you or Commissioner Tobia need anything in support of victims/survivors, please feel free to call me on my cell phone - (850) 545-5469.

Jennifer

Jennifer L. Dritt, LCSW  
Executive Director  
Florida Council Against Sexual Violence

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**From:** Commissioner, D3  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 2:24 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Dritt  
**Subject:** RE: Victim access to hotels

Ms. Dritt,

Thank you so much for taking the time to respond to my question. I'd like to ask a clarifying question if you don't mind. On Monday morning the Brevard County Commission is meeting and my boss, Commissioner Tobia, wants to amend the current hotel policy to ensure that the Commission's actions don't further endanger domestic violence victims. Commissioner Tobia specifically wants to know if you feel requiring DV victims to get a note from a doctor in order to check into a hotel could put these victims in additional risk?

Thank you,  
David Workman  
Outreach Director  
Brevard County Commission, District 3

**From:** Jennifer Dritt <jdritt@fcasv.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 12:26 PM  
**To:** Workman, Ritch <Ritch.Workman@brevardfl.gov>  
**Cc:** Theresa Prichard <tpritchard@fcasv.org>  
**Subject:** Victim access to hotels

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Workman,

Yes, we believe that victims of domestic violence who, under the current statewide "safer at home" order are at home with their abusers, are in greater danger if they do not have access to emergency shelter at hotels.

Have you been in touch with Cindy Mitchell at the Salvation Army of Brevard County, which operates the domestic violence program in your area?

Please let me know how else we can be of assistance.

Stay well,

Jennifer

Jennifer L. Dritt, LCSW

Executive Director

Florida Council Against Sexual Violence

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To: Brevard County Commission

From: Carol Wick, MS, LMFT

Date: April 11, 2020

Re: Hotel Restrictions

At a time when public health officials strongly urge "social distancing" to contain the coronavirus; for most, the home is considered the safest place. But, for victims of domestic violence (DV) victims, the reality is anything but. The home is where the danger lies.

Research has proven and we know from past [hurricanes](#), that when natural disaster strikes, abusers get more stressed, things get out of control and in an attempt to feel more in control, they take their fear and anger out on their partner.

Never before in modern times have we faced a public health crisis of this magnitude that is expected to force people to stay in their homes until at least [April 30th](#) and possibly well into the summer. An alarming proposition that's sure to bring about a spike in DV given the undue stress of the virus itself, lost jobs and income, mixed with increased alcohol and drug use.

According to the [research](#), up to "75% of DV homicides happen at the point of separation or after [the victim] has already left [her abuser]." Additionally, in [2018](#), its last fully reported year, Florida experienced the most total DV homicides since 2009. Fleeing is the most dangerous time for a survivor and their immediate family.

Due to domestic violence shelter restrictions on space during the pandemic, most agencies are full and they are forced to turn away those seeking a bed. Survivors must be able to find safe shelter on their own and this means turning to area hotels.

While one can appreciate the need to restrict the use of hotels to ensure public safety, it is imperative that those fleeing their abuser not be required to identify themselves as survivors of domestic violence. There are three reasons for this:

- It creates an easily obtainable record of their location.
- It discourages survivors from fleeing.
- It further endangers their life at a time when the risk of homicide is greatest.

If any certification is needed, attention to safety and confidentiality must be a priority. Because of this, it is absolutely critical during this public health emergency that all individuals, regardless of the reason to be away from home, be allowed to generically self certify that they meet one of the 17 conditions provided by the state and that this information is kept confidential. The bottom line is that any attempt to require them to identify themselves as survivors of domestic violence dramatically increases the danger and likelihood of a subsequent homicide.

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Scott A. Rivkees, MD**  
State Surgeon General

## COVID-19 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH MANDATORY SELF-ISOLATION VEHICLE TRAVEL

Each arriving traveler or responsible family member must provide the following information:

*One written declaration per family is required.*

*The term "family" is defined as "members of a family residing in the same household who are related by blood, marriage, domestic relationship, or adoption."*

Driver Name: (First / Middle / Last)			
Birth Date (Month / Day / Year):			
Cellular Telephone Number:		E-Mail Address:	
Residential Address:			
Residential Address (Line 2):			
(City / State / Zip):			

License Plate:		Driver License:	
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Purpose of the trip (Select One):	Business	Personal
Is your travel related to providing emergency or health services?	YES	NO

Description of Trip:
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Length of Stay:			
Addresses of Florida stay:			
Addresses of Florida stay (Line 2):			
(City / State / Zip):			

List of all family members traveling with you (name and date of birth)			
Name: (First / Middle / Last)			
Birth Date (Month / Day / Year):			
Name: (First / Middle / Last)			
Birth Date (Month / Day / Year):			
Name: (First / Middle / Last)			
Birth Date (Month / Day / Year):			
Name: (First / Middle / Last)			

I UNDERSTAND THAT ANY INDIVIDUAL IN MY FAMILY WHO VIOLATES THE SELF-ISOLATION OR SELF-QUARANTINE BY FAILING TO REMAIN WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE ADDRESS I PROVIDED FOR MY STAY IN FLORIDA FOR THE MANDATORY LENGTH OF TIME, CAN BE SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION UNDER SECTIONS 252.50 OR 381.00315(6), FLORIDA STATUTES, WHICH IF CONVICTED IS PUNISHABLE UP TO 60 DAYS IMPRISONMENT, A FINE NOT MORE THAN \$500.00, OR BOTH.

I HAVE MADE A TRUTHFUL DECLARATION.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Pursuant to Executive Order 20-86 and the Florida Department of Health declaration of a Public Health Emergency, the State Health Officer and Surgeon General can order any individual to be examined, tested, vaccinated, treated, isolated or quarantined for COVID-19. Any isolation or quarantine order issued pursuant to section 318.00315, Florida Statutes, shall be enforceable by injunction filed in a Florida Circuit Court. Failure to follow any isolation or quarantine order by the Florida Department of Health is a second-degree misdemeanor.

Failure to fill out this form is a second-degree misdemeanor pursuant to section 252.50, Florida Statutes.