

**8290.1500 APPLICATION ASSISTANT ACCREDITATION.**

Subpart 1. **Role of community-based programs.** The role of the community-based programs in Safe at Home is to select potential application assistants to perform safety planning with an applicant, to generally explain to an applicant the program's services and limitations, and to refer an applicant to the secretary of state for enrollment.

Subp. 2. **When awarded.** Application assistant accreditation shall be awarded by the secretary of state when:

A. the prospective application assistant:

(1) completes an application that includes the prospective application assistant's name, business mailing address, business telephone number, and business email address, if available; the community-based program at which the prospective application assistant is employed or is an approved volunteer and a contact name for the community-based program; a statement that the prospective application assistant provides direct advocacy services to victims, including assisting in the development of personal safety plans, as a substantial part of the prospective application assistant's current job duties; an agreement to adhere to the instructions and terms provided in the application assistant agreement; and an agreement not to discriminate against any applicant or program participant because of race, creed, religion, color, national origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, status with regard to public assistance, age, or mental, physical, or sensory disability;

(2) submits the completed application, with a statement from the community-based program as described in item B, to the secretary of state; and

(3) successfully completes a program orientation or training session sponsored by or on behalf of the secretary of state; and

B. the community-based program confirms that the prospective application assistant is employed by or is an approved volunteer for the community-based program and agrees to designate a contact for the community-based program. The program must have a person authorized to act on behalf of the organization execute the application in order for it to be accepted by the secretary of state.

Subp. 3. **Employment status.** The application assistant performing the duties under this chapter is not deemed to be an employee of the Office of the Secretary of State or of the state of Minnesota or an agent of the secretary of state in any manner whatsoever. The application assistant shall not hold out as, nor claim to be, an officer or employee of the Office of the Secretary of State or of the state of Minnesota simply because the person is an application assistant, and shall not make any claim, demand, or application to or for any right or privilege applicable to an officer or employee of the Office of the Secretary of State or of the state of Minnesota.

Subp. 4. **Term of accreditation.** An application assistant's accreditation is ongoing as long as the application assistant maintains employment or approved volunteer status at the community-based organization named on the application, completes a periodic review approved

by the secretary of state at least once every three years, and, in addition, completes any other training deemed necessary by the secretary of state.

Subp. 5. **Termination.** An application assistant's accreditation may be terminated by the secretary of state for failing to abide by any requirement in this chapter or for failing to act in accordance with requirements of the secretary of state. An application assistant's accreditation must be terminated if the application assistant is no longer an approved volunteer or is no longer employed by the community-based organization with which the person applied.

Subp. 6. **Employment with another community-based organization.** If an application assistant changes employment or volunteer status, leaving employment or a volunteer position at one community-based organization and gaining employment or a volunteer position at another, the application assistant may apply to become accredited again after the new community-based organization confirms the person is an employee or approved volunteer and agrees to designate a contact for the community-based program. The new organization must have a person authorized to act on behalf of the organization execute a new application. The secretary of state will determine what training, if any, is necessary to fully renew the application assistant's accreditation status.

Subp. 7. **Access to application assistants.** The secretary of state shall make available a list of the names and telephone numbers of community-based programs at which accredited application assistants may be found.

Subp. 8. **Records.** If an application assistant has assisted an applicant with application materials, the application assistant shall forward the completed application materials required by this chapter to the secretary of state by first class mail or give the application materials to the applicant to submit to the secretary of state by first class mail. If the applicant so directs, an application assistant may mail any optional notices that are generated as a part of the application process to the appropriate party. Any remaining application materials must be given to the applicant or securely disposed of by the application assistant immediately.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 5B.08*

**History:** *34 SR 819; 39 SR 1378; 50 SR 271*

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