

# Rule Impact Statement

## Title 75. Attorney General

### Chapter 25. Standards and Criteria for Batterers Intervention Programs Amended Permanent Rules OKLA. ADMIN. CODE § 75:25

*This Rule Impact Statement has been prepared pursuant to 75 O.S.2021, §303(D)(1).*

#### **I. Brief description of the proposed rule(s).**

The Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General (“OAG”) proposes these amendments to clarify general information related to the duties set forth for the Victims Advocacy and Services Unit (“VASU”) established by 74 O.S.2021, §§ 18p-1–18p-10 of the Oklahoma Statutes. These amendments apply specifically to the standards and criteria for batterers intervention programs. Minor changes provide consistency of language and terms and include new and expanded definitions in accordance with modern nomenclature. Those previously referred to as “batterers” are amended to be “clients” in keeping with modern national practice in the specialty. Amendments also modernize references to approved uses of technology in program delivery and outline the aspects of the program that must be provided exclusively in person. Absences that may be excused, including for military service, attending the birth of the client’s child, family funerals, court appearances, and certain types of inclement weather are defined. These amendments also add Subchapter 11, codifying a code of professional ethics applicable to all certified batterers intervention programs.

#### **II. Description of the persons who most likely will be affected by the proposed rule(s), including classes that will bear the costs of the proposed rule(s), and any information on cost impacts received by the agency from any private or public entities.**

The proposed rule will most likely affect partner agencies, contractors, and patrons who may seek information about VASU and the standards required for batterers intervention program compliance. No cost impact information has been received, and no costs are anticipated.

#### **III. Description of the classes of persons who will benefit from the proposed rule(s).**

Those working to combat domestic abuse, sexual assault, stalking, and the sexual trafficking of adults, those supporting victims of these crimes, as well as the general public will be able access clear and accurate information about VASU. Those working in certified batterers intervention programs and their clients will benefit from clarity in the rules, as well as the codification of professional ethics. In short, the State as a whole will benefit.

- IV. Description of the probable economic impact of the proposed rule(s) upon affected classes of persons or political subdivisions, including a listing of all fee changes and, whenever possible, a separate justification for each fee change.**

The amendments do not include any imposition of fees or fee changes.

- V. Description of the probable costs and benefits to the agency and to any other agency of the implementation and enforcement of the proposed rule(s), and any anticipated effect on state revenues, including a projected net loss or gain in such revenues if it can be projected by the agency.**

OAG asserts there will be no probable costs or risks to the agency or any other agency as a result of implementing these amendments. Moreover, no effect on state revenues is anticipated.

- VI. Determination of whether implementation of the proposed rule(s) will have an economic impact on any political subdivisions or require their cooperation in implementing or enforcing the rule(s).**

OAG determines that there will be no economic impact on any political subdivisions or require their cooperation in implementing or enforcing the rules.

- VII. Determination of whether implementation of the proposed rule(s) may have an adverse economic effect on small business as provided by the Oklahoma Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Act.**

OAG determines that implementation of the rules will not have an adverse economic effect on small business.

- VIII. Explanation of the measures the agency has taken to minimize compliance costs and a determination of whether there are less costly or nonregulatory methods or less intrusive methods for achieving the purpose of the proposed rule(s).**

Based on the amendments as set forth, OAG does not believe there will be any compliance costs. Without compliance costs, a finding concerning nonregulatory methods or less intrusive methods to achieve the purpose of the proposed rules is unnecessary.

- IX. Determination of the effect of the proposed rule(s) on the public health, safety and environment and, if the proposed rule(s) is/are designed to reduce significant risks to the public health, safety and environment, an explanation of the nature of the risk and to what extent the proposed rule will reduce the risk.**

OAG finds that the proposed amendments will benefit public health and safety as the rules intend to ensure that all stakeholders and citizens have access to clear and accurate information about VASU.

**X. Determination of any detrimental effect on the public health, safety and environment if the proposed rule(s) is/are not implemented.**

If these amendments are not implemented, the public health and safety of communities across Oklahoma may be detrimentally impacted by lack of modernization, consistency, and accuracy in the existing rules related to OAG's Victims Advocacy and Services Unit. OAG does not anticipate any detrimental effect on the environment from the implementation of these rules.

**XI. Date the rule impact statement was prepared and if modified, the date modified.**

OAG prepared this rule impact statement on December 19, 2024.