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Date: March 22, 2020
To: Ohio's Domestic Violence Programs
From: Ohio Domestic Violence Network
Subject: **Stay at Home Order signed 3/22/20**

The Stay at Home Order announced by Gov. Mike DeWine specifically exempts victims of domestic violence and "human services operations," which include domestic violence programs. The order's first item states: "Individuals whose residences are unsafe or become unsafe, such as victims of domestic violence are permitted and urged to leave their homes and stay in a safe alternate location."

We understand that orders governing our work continue to change rapidly and want to give you the most up-to-date and relevant information possible to help your programs remain ready to serve survivors in this time of need. Reports of domestic violence and severe child abuse are up all around the country. Our work to help adult and child domestic violence victims get and stay safe is even more critical now than it has ever been. We are also mindful that staff and clients need the most up-to-date information to stay well. Please continue to check [here](#) for the most current health information.

ODVN can help strategize which non-shelter-specific functions your staff can be performing remotely and how best that can be done to preserve access, confidentiality, and safety. Please reach out to our staff at any time for assistance.

Here are the key provisions of the Stay at Home Order (Order) issued today (March 22, 2020) for domestic violence programs:

1. The Order covers all for-profit, non-profit, and educational entities. (pg 4, #11)
2. Non-essential business must cease except for Minimum Basic Operations (p1, #2) which includes processing payroll and the minimum necessary to facilitate employees working remotely from home (p 7, #13)
3. Essential Businesses are encouraged to remain open. (pg 1, #2)
4. **Essential businesses and Operations include: "providing food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals, individuals who need assistance as a result of this emergency, and people with disabilities"** (pg 5, #12(d))



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- a. Essential government functions are excluded from the Order, including judges, court personnel, law enforcement and corrections personnel, child protection and child welfare personnel, etc. (pg 4, #10)
 - b. **Human Services Operations remain open** and people can get services from them during this time, including shelters, public benefits, rehabilitation services, and **“businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged individuals, individuals with physical, intellectual, and/or developmental disabilities, or otherwise needy individuals”** (pg 3-4, #8)
 - c. Professional services like legal services are also essential businesses (pg 7, #12(u))
5. Permitted essential travel includes travel necessary for essential business and minimum basic operations as well as travel to care for vulnerable persons (p7-8. #14(a-b) -clients that travel for custody exchanges pursuant to a court order are permitted to continue. (p8, #14e)
6. **Essential businesses SHALL comply with “Social Distancing Requirements”** (pg 1, #2):
- a. Businesses **MUST** take proactive measures to ensure compliance –
 - i. Designate six-foot distances
 - ii. Provide hand sanitizer and sanitizing products for employees and clients
 - iii. Post online whether your facility is open and how to reach the facility or remote services (pg 8, #15(a)(i-iv)
7. Businesses must also:
- a. Allow as many employees as possible to work from home (pg 9, #18(a))
 - b. Actively encourage sick employees to stay home without a doctor’s note for a certain length of time after symptoms subside (pg 9, #18(b))
 - c. Keep up-to-date sick leave policies that are flexible and non-punitive (pg 9, #18(c))
 - d. Send home sick workers immediately (pg 9, #18(d))
 - e. Put up posters and reinforce health safety messages and provide supplies to do so (pg 9, #18(e))
 - f. Perform frequent, enhanced cleaning of commonly touched surfaces (pg 9, #18(f))

The Order becomes effective at 11:59PM tomorrow (March 23, 2020) and remains in effect until at least 11:59PM on APRIL 6, 2020. (pg 9, #22).