RULE IMPACT STATEMENT

TITLE 75. ATTORNEY GENERAL
CHAPTER 25. STANDARDS AND CRITERIA FOR BATTERERS INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

Subchapter 3. Batterers Intervention [AMENDED]
Subchapter 5. Personnel and Volunteers [AMENDED]

(a) Purpose of the Proposed Rules: The Attorney General is required to adopt and promulgate rules and standards for certification of batterers intervention programs (BIPs) in this state. These rules set forth the requirements which are necessary to provide services pursuant to 74 O.S. § 18p-1 et seq. Amendments are necessary to strengthen requirements for maintenance and storage of client records to ensure confidentiality. Additional amendments are necessary to improve safety measures for program clients by increasing screening and training for program personnel and volunteers.

(b) Classes Affected: All batterers intervention programs that are currently certified or will make application to become certified by the Attorney General will be affected. These rules set forth the required components of such programs and the standards and criteria which will be used for certification of the programs.

(c) Persons Benefitted: All clients of certified batterers intervention programs in the State of Oklahoma as well as the service providers will benefit by a clearer understanding of the rules. Victims will also benefit from the programs’ focus on victim safety and batterer accountability.

(d) Probable Economic Impact:
1. On Affected Classes: These rules will have no economic impact on affected classes other than resources necessary for programs to meet certification standards and criteria.
2. On Political Subdivisions: These rules will not have an economic impact on political subdivisions.
3. Description of fees and explanation/justification for each of the changes: Certified agencies may be required to pay additional fees for increased criminal background check requirements for personnel and volunteers. However, minimal additional cost to the agencies are outweighed by the increased safety measures for program clients and victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

(e) Probable Costs to the Agency: All expenses related to operating the Victims Services Unit come from appropriations to the Office of the Attorney General or federal grants. Nine (9) FTEs are currently dedicated to the Unit.

(f) Impact on Political Subdivisions: No cooperation from political subdivisions will be necessary to implement the program.

(g) Adverse Effect on Small Business: These rules will have no adverse impact on small business.
(h) **Compliance Costs and Other Less Intrusive Methods:** These methods are the least intrusive methods currently available since the transfer of the oversight responsibilities for batterers intervention programs to the Office of the Attorney General on July 1, 2005.

(i) **Effect on Public Health, Safety, and Environment:** These rules do not necessarily have an effect on public health, safety, and environment. Positive effects are expected due to the fact that programs certified by the Attorney General provide group intervention services that focus on victim safety and perpetrator accountability to court-ordered and voluntary clients attending a batterers intervention program.

(j) **Effect of Non-Implementation on Public Health, Safety, and Environment:** Non-implementation of these rules will not necessarily affect public health, safety, and the environment per se, but may impact safety of clients in certified batterers intervention programs and victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

(k) **Date of Rule Impact Statement:** February 15, 2019  
**Date modified:** n/a

(l) **Prepared By:** Melissa Blanton, Victim Services Unit Chief  
**Phone Number:** 405-522-0042