(a) Purpose of the Proposed Rules: This chapter sets forth the rules, including standards and criteria, used in certifying sexual assault programs and shelters for adult victims/survivors of sexual violence as a result of human sex trafficking pursuant to 74 O.S. § 18p-6. Amendments are necessary to clarify core services and to strengthen the maintenance and confidentiality of client records. Additional amendments are necessary to improve safety measures by increasing screening and training for program personnel and volunteers. Amendments are also necessary to correct grammatical errors, statutory citations and formatting.

(b) Classes Affected: All programs for adult victims of human sex trafficking 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 sexual assault victims as a result of human trafficking needing services in the State of Oklahoma as well as the service providers will benefit by a clear understanding of the rules.

(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 victims sexual assault as a result of human sex trafficking.

(e) Probable Costs to the Agency: All expenses related to the creation of 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.

(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 direct services which ensure safety to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human sex trafficking.

(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 but enhance safety to clients of certified programs per se, but may impact safety of clients in certified adult human sex trafficking programs.

(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