



## MAINE COMMISSION ON DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL ABUSE

### What is the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse?

The Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse is established by statute and has existed since 1990. The Commission's statutory charge is to "advise and assist the executive, legislative and judicial branches of State Government on issues related to domestic and sexual abuse. The Commission may make recommendations on legislative and policy actions...." 19-A M.R.S. § 4013(3)

### Commission Membership

The Commission is composed of 36 members, including representatives of the domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions; a mental health provider; victims of sexual assault and domestic violence; a district attorney; a police chief; a sheriff; attorneys, a representative from the AG's Office; the State Police; the Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee from DHS, DPS, DOE, DOL, and DOC; a batterers intervention provider; and four members representing underserved populations. In addition, the Chief Justice appoints one person to serve the Commission in an advisory capacity. During the 129<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the composition of the Commission shifted to include four new representatives from tribal communities, including the director of a tribal coalition against domestic violence and sexual assault and representatives of tribal government, police, and tribal courts. Meetings are open to the public and are always attended by non-members.

### How can the Commission help you?

The Commission can provide comprehensive feedback on initiatives related to domestic and sexual violence. The Commission has also been asked to produce several studies by Governors and the Legislature, as well as participate in other studies and reports related to sexual and domestic violence.

### Recent Projects

After convening a series of panels to address gaps in firearms relinquishment, a working group of the Commission is working with MCEDV, DPS, and the Administrative Office of the Courts to create new judicial branch forms and processes, new protocols, and an implementation guide and model policy. The Commission also recently worked with MCEDV and DOC on new rules for virtual participation in CBIPs.

### Current Commission Priorities

LR 1600, *An Act to Clarify and Recodify Maine's Protection from Abuse Statute*, criminal justice reform, integrating equity principles into our statutory charge to advise on issues related to domestic and sexual abuse, and continued work on firearms relinquishment are current priorities for the Commission.

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