

# **Procedures for Responding to Discrimination Complaints from Clients, Customers, Program Participants, or Consumers of the Oklahoma District Attorneys Council (DAC) and the DAC's Subrecipients**

## **I. PURPOSE**

The Oklahoma District Attorneys Council (“DAC”) serves as the State Administering Agency (“SAA”) for many federal grant programs. As such, the DAC must ensure that the civil rights of persons, who receive services from the DAC, as well as from any recipient of federal grant funding received through the DAC (“subrecipient”), are protected.

The purpose of this policy is to establish written procedures for DAC employees to follow when they receive a complaint alleging discrimination or retaliation in the delivery of services from clients, customers, program participants, or consumers of the DAC or of a DAC subrecipient implementing grant funding from the U.S. Department of Justice (“DOJ”).

## **II. POLICY**

In using and administering federal grant funds, neither the DAC nor any subrecipient may discriminate against any person on the basis of the person’s race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability or age, or retaliate against any person for having engaged in protected activity. In addition to these, subrecipients of grants under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 1994, as amended, are prohibited from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

By virtue of receiving federal grant funding, the DAC, including its employees, contractors and subrecipients must comply with the following federal civil rights laws and regulations:

- **Title VI of the Civil Rights Act (Title VI) of 1964**, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, and the DOJ implementing regulation, 28 C.F.R. pt. 42, subpts. C & D (prohibiting discrimination in federally assisted programs based on race, color, and national origin in the delivery of services or benefits);
- **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) of 1973**, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 794, and the DOJ implementing regulation, 28 C.F.R. pt. 42, subpt. G (prohibiting discrimination in federally assisted programs based on disability both in employment and in the delivery of services or benefits);
- **Title IX of the Education Amendments (Title IX) of 1972**, as amended, 20 U.S.C. § 1681, and the DOJ implementing regulations, 28 C.F.R. pt. 42, subpt. D & pt. 54 (prohibiting discrimination in federally assisted education programs based on sex both in employment and in the delivery of services or benefits);

- **Age Discrimination Act (Age Act) of 1975**, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 6102, and the DOJ implementing regulation, 28 C.F.R. pt. 42, subpt. I (prohibiting discrimination in federally assisted programs based on age in the delivery of services or benefits); and
- **Executive Order 13,559**, amending Executive Order 13,279, and the DOJ implementing regulation, Partnerships with Faith-Based and Other Neighborhood Organizations, 81 Fed. Reg. 19,418-21 (Apr. 4, 2016) (to be codified at 28 C.F.R. pt. 38) (Part 38) (prohibiting discrimination in federally assisted social service programs based on religion in the delivery of services or benefits);
- **Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990**, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 12132, and the implementing regulation at 28 C.F.R. § 35.171(a)(1)(i), (3)(i) (prohibiting discrimination based on disability both in employment and in the delivery of services or benefits).
- **Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act (Safe Streets Act) of 1968**, as amended, 34 U.S.C. §§ 10228(c) and 10221(a), and the DOJ implementing regulations, 28 C.F.R. pt. 42, subpts. D (prohibiting discrimination in programs funded under the statute, both in employment and in the delivery of services or benefits, based on race, color, national origin, sex, and religion) & E (requiring certain DOJ-funded programs subject to the administrative provisions of the statute to prepare, maintain, and submit an Equal Employment Opportunity Plan (EEO));
- **Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) of 1974**, as amended, 34 U.S.C. § 11182(b), and the DOJ implementing regulations, 28 C.F.R. §§ 31.202, .403 & pt.42, subpt. D (prohibiting discrimination in programs funded under the statute, both in employment and in the delivery of services or benefits, based on race, color, national origin, sex, and religion);
- **Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) of 1984, as amended**, 34 U.S.C. § 20110(e) and the regulation implementing the Victim of Crime Act Victim Assistance Program, 81 Fed. Reg. 44,515, 44,532 (July 8, 2016) (to be codified at 28 C.F.R. § 94.114) (prohibiting discrimination in programs funded under the statute, both in employment and in the delivery of services or benefits, based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, and disability); and
- **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 1994**, as amended, 34 U.S.C. § 12291(b)(13) (prohibiting discrimination in programs either funded under the statute or administered by the Office on Violence Against Women, both in employment and in the delivery of services or benefits, based on actual or perceived race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity) (referring to the Safe Streets Act for enforcement)

### III. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this policy, the terms included in this section are defined as follows, unless otherwise indicated in the policy.

- A. Complainant. “Complainant” means a person who initiates a complaint alleging discrimination or retaliation.
- B. “Retaliation” refers to adverse actions towards an individual engaged in a protected activity, such as opposing a discriminatory practice or participating in a discrimination complaint process.
- C. Subrecipient. “Subrecipient” means an agency that receives federal grant funding through the DAC as the State of Oklahoma SSA.

### IV. COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

#### A. Filing a Complaint

A person who thinks he or she has been discriminated against by an employee or contractor of the department or a subrecipient on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation or gender identity, or thinks he or she has been retaliated against for having engaged in protected activity, is encouraged to file a complaint alleging such with the office of the Executive Coordinator of the DAC.

#### B. When to Report

A person who thinks he or she has been subject to discriminatory or retaliatory conduct should file a complaint alleging such as soon as possible after the first date an alleged act of discrimination or retaliation occurred and no later than one hundred eighty (180) calendar days after the last date an alleged act of discrimination or retaliation has occurred. A person complaining of discrimination under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act or the Violence Against Women Act must file a complaint within one year from the last act of alleged discrimination or retaliation.

#### C. How to Report

Complaints alleging discrimination or retaliation must be submitted to the office of the Executive Coordinator in writing, using the *DAC Discrimination Complaint* form, which is attached as Appendix A; exceptions to this requirement, however, may be made on a case-by-case basis by the Executive Coordinator. In making a complaint, a complainant must disclose the identity of the person or persons alleged to have engaged in discriminatory or retaliatory conduct, and the location, date and description of each act of alleged discrimination or retaliation.

The form may be found on the DAC website:  
<http://ok.gov/dac/> and mailed, faxed or emailed to:

Kathryn Boyle Brewer  
Assistant Executive Coordinator  
Oklahoma District Attorneys Council  
421 N.W. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 290  
Oklahoma City, OK 73103

Phone: 405-264-5000

Fax: 405-264-5099

Email: [Kathryn.Brewer@dac.state.ok.us](mailto:Kathryn.Brewer@dac.state.ok.us)

#### **D. Response**

1. An employee or contractor of the DAC other than the Executive Coordinator who receives a complaint (in person, over the telephone, or via an e-mail, a letter, or the *DAC Employment Discrimination Complaint Form*) that an employee, contractor or a subrecipient of the DAC has allegedly engaged in discriminatory or retaliatory conduct shall, as soon as practicable, notify the Executive Coordinator, who shall ascertain the details of the complaint for evaluation and assignment.
2. Upon receipt of a complaint, the Executive Coordinator shall determine whether the complaint should be investigated, and, if so, by whom.
3. The Executive Coordinator shall promptly provide the complainant with a written notice acknowledging receipt of the complaint.
4. The Executive Coordinator shall inform a complainant that it may be impossible to keep the complainant's identity confidential.
5. Investigations of complaints are to be completed within a reasonable time.
6. In the event a written report of an investigation is warranted, all information relevant to the complaint that is obtained by an investigator shall be included in the report.
7. All investigations shall comply with relevant state and federal laws.

#### **V. EXTERNAL AGENCIES**

The DAC encourages individuals to file complaints of the kind discussed in this policy with the office of the Executive Coordinator; however, this policy is not intended to impair or limit the rights of anyone to seek a remedy available under state or federal law. The procedures discussed in this policy need not be utilized first or in any sequence, nor does such procedure need to be exhausted before another is issued.

If a complaint is against the DAC or a subrecipient implementing funding from the DOJ and alleges discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, physical or mental disability, age, sexual orientation or gender identity, or alleges retaliation against a person for having engaged in protected activity, an individual may also submit a complaint to the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Civil Rights, 810 Seventh Street NW, Washington, DC 20531, Phone.: 202-307-0690, [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/about/offices/ocr.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/about/offices/ocr.htm). Complaints must be filed within 180 days or one year from the date of the alleged discrimination, depending on the federal civil rights law that is involved.

Individuals may also submit a complaint to the Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General, Office of Civil Rights Enforcement (OCRE), 313 N.E. 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105, Phone: 405-521-3441, [www.oag.state.ok.us/oagweb.nsf/ocre](http://www.oag.state.ok.us/oagweb.nsf/ocre). Complaints related to public accommodation discrimination must be filed with OCRE within 180 days from the last alleged discriminatory act. Complaints related to housing discrimination must be filed within one (1) year from the last alleged discriminatory act.

## **VI. TRAINING**

The DAC shall provide annual training on the procedures set forth in this policy to DAC and subrecipient employees. This training shall include instruction about the responsibility of employees to refer discrimination complaints to the office of the Executive Coordinator at the DAC. Information regarding training documents may be found on the DAC website:

[https://www.ok.gov/dac/Grants/Subgrantee\\_Toolbox/index.html](https://www.ok.gov/dac/Grants/Subgrantee_Toolbox/index.html)

## **VII. CONTRACTS**

The DAC will not enter into contracts nor continue existing contracts with any organization that knowingly discriminates against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, physical or mental disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, or that retaliates against any person for having engaged in protected activity.

## **VIII. DISTRIBUTION**

A copy of this policy shall be made available to all DAC and subrecipient employees and contractors. A copy of the policy also will be included with orientation materials that are provided to new employees of the DAC, and will be posted on the DAC's main website:

<https://www.ok.gov/dac/>

**Oklahoma District Attorneys Council  
Discrimination Complaint Information Form**

**1. Complaint Information:**

Name	
Address	
City	
State	
Zip	
Home Phone Number	
Work Phone Number	
Email	

**Name and Contact of Person(s) Discriminated Against (if different than above)**

Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Phone	
Email	
Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Phone	
Email	

**2. Respondent Information:**

Provide Name and address of agency involved:

Name	
Address	
City	
State	
Zip	
Telephone Number	

3. What is the most convenient time and place to contact you about this complaint?  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. To your best recollection on what date(s) did the discrimination take place?

Date of first occurrence: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of most recent occurrence: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Have you ever attempted to resolve this complaint?  Yes  No

6. Explain as briefly and clearly as possible what happened and how you were discriminated against. Provide as many specific details as possible. Also attach any written material pertaining to your case. (Attach additional sheets if needed.)

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7. Basis of Complaint: Which of the following best describes why you believe you were discriminated against: (Check)

Race: Specify \_\_\_\_\_

Color: Specify \_\_\_\_\_

Religion: Specify \_\_\_\_\_

National Origin: Specify \_\_\_\_\_

- Sex: Specify  Male  Female
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender Identity
- Age: Specify Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_
- Disability: Specify \_\_\_\_\_
- Political Affiliation: Specify \_\_\_\_\_
- Citizenship: Specify \_\_\_\_\_
- Reprisal/Retaliation: Specify \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: Specify \_\_\_\_\_

**8.** What other information do you think is relevant to this situation?

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**9.** If this complaint is resolved to your satisfaction, what remedies do you seek?

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**10.** Please list below any persons (witnesses, fellow employees, supervisors, or others) that may be contacted for additional information to support or clarify your complaint:

Name	Address	Email/Telephone #



11. Do you have an attorney?  Yes  No

If yes, please provide name, address and phone:

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Attorney Name	Address	Email/Telephone #
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12. Have you filed a case or complaint with any of the following?

- Civil Rights Division, U.S. Dept. of Justice
- U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- Federal or State Court
- Oklahoma Human / Rights Commission

13. For each item checked in #12 above, please provide the following information:

Agency:  
Data Filed:  
Case or Docket Number:  
Date of Trial or Hearing:  
Location of agency or court:  
Name of Investigator:  
Status of Case:  
Comments:

14. Sign (Complaint NOT VALID unless Signed)

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Name	Date
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Please submit the form by fax, mail, or email to:

Kathryn Boyle Brewer  
Assistant Executive Coordinator  
Oklahoma District Attorneys Council  
421 N.W. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 290  
Oklahoma City, OK 73103

Phone: 405-264-5000  
Fax: 405-264-5099  
Email: [Kathryn.Brewer@dac.state.ok.us](mailto:Kathryn.Brewer@dac.state.ok.us)