



## FULTON COUNTY ENHANCED MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

### **Purpose/Scope of Multidisciplinary Team**

Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Enhanced Multidisciplinary Teams (EMDT) are a multiagency, multi-partnered approach to aid in the assessment, investigation, prosecution, and review of abuse cases involving elder persons. EMDT members work in collaboration to address systemic issues, review cases, and holistically address the needs of elder persons in the community. The Fulton County EMDT was founded in the State of Georgia pursuant to O.C.G.A. §30-5-11. The purpose of this team is to bring together prosecutors, law enforcement, governmental, regulatory, nonprofit, and social service organizations who assist, serve, investigate, or enforce state and federal laws with respect to the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of in cases of elder persons. The following are goals to be achieved by the EMDT:

1. Increase awareness of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation;
2. Increase identification and reporting of elder abuse to authorities by both mandated reporters and the general population;
3. Improve cooperation and coordination between EMDT member agencies;
4. Assist in the prosecution of crimes against elder persons;
5. Improve investigations of crimes against elder person;
6. Dismantle unlicensed personal care homes where elder persons have been illegally housed or trafficked;
7. Engage in collaborative review of responses to improve policies and procedures in the notification of and response to abuse, neglect, and exploitation given local resources;
8. Protect the rights of elder persons under the law;
9. Connect elder persons who have been victimized with supportive resources to aid in recovery and prevent future victimization;
10. Any other goals/priorities raised as this EMDT matures

This EMDT shall operate under the basic procedures created by this EMDT and under the various related state laws, and under any such federal laws as might apply. The EMDT Coordinator shall

create protocol for the EMDT centered around efficient operation of business; such protocol may be amended or altered.

The full EMDT shall meet at least two (2) times per year, but may choose to meet with the whole team or with smaller created sub-groups or working groups at intervals chosen by the EMDT Coordinator. The EMDT may choose to create and operate sub-groups or working groups to create more effective and efficient use of the member groups' volunteer time, resources, and services.

### **Membership**

As selected by the EMDT Coordinator, invitations to join EMDT shall be offered to the following organizations; acceptance of invitation will be determined by executive of organization who then will select a representative(s) that works within the team:

1. The District Attorney or his/her designee;
2. Local/Regional Law Enforcement Agencies as follows:
  - a. Fulton County Sheriff's Office;
  - b. City of Atlanta Police Department;
  - c. Roswell Police Department;
  - d. Fulton County Police Department;
  - e. Sandy Springs Police Department;
  - f. South Fulton Police Department;
  - g. College Park Police Department;
  - h. Rockdale County Sheriff's Office
3. DHS Division of Aging Services
4. Georgia Office of the Attorney General
5. DCH Healthcare Facility Regulation;
6. Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities;
7. Fulton County Probate Court
8. U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
9. U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia
10. Atlanta Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging
11. Wellstar Health System
12. GA Crime Victims Compensation
13. Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation
14. Fulton County Department of Senior Services
15. Fulton Center for Nursing and Healing
16. Polaris Senior Solutions
17. Rockdale County Sheriff's Office
18. Georgia State University: Byrdine F. Lewis College of Nursing and Health Professions
19. Fulton County Clerk of Superior and Magistrate Courts
20. Fulton County Department of Emergency Management

21. GA House of Representatives Committee on Defense & Veterans Affairs
22. GA House of Representatives Committee on Judicial Non-Civil
23. GA House of Representatives Committee on Human Relations & Aging
24. Georgia Ombudsmen

### **Confidentiality**

The EMDT, all EMDT members and any guests to EMDT meetings, agree to comply with all applicable state and federal law as well as this Memorandum of Understanding to maintain the confidentiality of all topics, records, personal identifiers, investigation plans and evidence surrounding allegations of abuse, neglect, or exploitation shared or discussed during EMDT meetings. Each collaborative partner and guests will abide by confidentiality regulations that are within their organization, agency, or supervising authority to the extent that such regulations do not run counter to state law. Each member agency does agree, by authorizing this Memorandum of Understanding, that all information is secured in case review meetings and will remain confidential and will not be used for reasons other than for the goals aforementioned above.

No material will be taken from the meeting with the case identifying information, except as allowed under the law in accordance with the rules of this EMDT.

If it is discovered that an EMDT member has inappropriately disclosed or used information learned from EMDT participation, the EMDT Coordinator and other chosen/elected officials of the EMDT shall vote on a punishment for that offense, ranging from a written reprimand/warning up to, and including, but not limited to, expulsion of that member from the EMDT, and referral for evaluation into whether criminal actions occurred.

### **Conflict of Interest**

The EMDT does not act out of partiality, familiarity, bias, concealment, jealousy, or bad faith. Any member with a history or connection to any party to a case must refrain from participating in any discussion about that case and shall be restricted from receiving or accessing any information about that case.

1. All members must agree to recuse themselves from any group meeting or discussion if the accused, victim, or other named individual important to the case is any of the following:
  - a. Family member by marriage or blood to the 2nd degree;
  - b. Business partner or associate;
  - c. Regular or frequent business client;
  - d. Residential neighbor;
  - e. Known well to that member by close interactions in social organizations, church, or religious organizations, or other social group; or
  - f. Friendly acquaintance.

2. Upon receipt of the cases to be discussed at the next EMDT meeting, the member representative must inform the EMDT Coordinator of any known conflict as soon as a conflict is detected. That member must refrain from participation in, at least, any discussion involving the case for which there is a conflict and may have to miss that EMDT meeting altogether. The member organization may send an alternate member, if the conflict is of a personal and not organizational nature.
  - a. If the member or member organization is uncertain if there is an actual conflict, it is strongly recommended that they disclose any known details of the potential conflict to the EMDT Coordinator who will determine as to whether that member or member organization can participate in that particular case discussion.
3. If any member or member organization fails to disclose a conflict of interest, the EMDT Coordinator and other chosen/elected officials of the EMDT shall vote on a punishment for that offense, ranging from written reprimand/warning to, including, but not limited to, expulsion of that member from the EMDT, expulsion of that member organization from the EMDT, and referral for evaluation into whether criminal actions occurred.

### **Authorized Signatures**

By the names affixed hereto, the undersigned agree to abide by all the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding for this Adult Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Enhanced Multidisciplinary Team. This agreement shall either expire or be renewed five (5) years from the date signed.

The EMDT Coordinator may invite additional members to the EMDT if doing so fits within the mission of the EMDT. New members will be required to acknowledge their agreement to the requirements of this Memorandum of Understanding the same as charter members.

Should agency heads change during this time, or new members to the EMDT be added, an addendum page with the appropriate signature only will be added, and this document will stand as the original. The signing of this Memorandum of Understanding signifies the respective agencies commitment to the continued support and involvement of each agency listed in providing comprehensive services to disabled and elderly victims of crime in Fulton County through active involvement in the Fulton County Enhanced Multidisciplinary Team.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each party, by its respective officers authorized so to do, has executed this Memorandum of Understanding.

Fulton County District Attorney \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

DHS Division of Aging Services \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Fulton County Sheriff's Office \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

City of Atlanta Police Department \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Roswell Police Department \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sandy Springs Police Department \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

South Fulton Police Department \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

College Park Police Department \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Georgia Office of the Attorney General \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

DCH Healthcare Facility Regulation \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Fulton County Probate Court \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Atlanta Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Wellstar Health System

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

GA Crime Victims Compensation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Fulton County Department of Senior Services

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Fulton Center for Nursing and Healing

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Polaris Senior Solutions

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Rockdale County Sheriff's Office

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Georgia State University: Byrdine F. Lewis College of Nursing and Health Professions

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Fulton County Clerk of Superior and Magistrate Courts

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Fulton County Department of Emergency Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

GA House of Representatives Committee on Defense & Veterans Affairs

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Ombudsmen

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

GA House of Representatives Committee on Judicial Non-Civil

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

GA House of Representatives Committee on Human Relations & Aging

**Fulton County Office of the District Attorney**

\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fani Willis, District Attorney

**Fulton County Department of Senior Services**

\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rob Pitts, Chairman

**Fulton County Department of Emergency Management**

\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rob Pitts, Chairman

**City of Atlanta Police Department**

\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Darin Schierbaum, Chief of Police

**Fulton County Probate Court**

\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kenya M. Johnson, Chief Judge

**GA Department of Human Services Division of Aging Services – Adult Protective Services**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Candice L. Boyce, Commissioner of the Department of Human Services.

**LiveSafe Resources**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Raysa Figaro, Director of Programs

**Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Inc.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rita Sheffey, Executive Director  
**Roswell Police Department**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
James W. Conroy, Chief of Police

**NNK 4 CommUNITY, Inc**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Nicole N. Benton, LPC, CCMHC, CMHIMP, CPCs, Director

**United States Attorney's Office, North District of Georgia**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Theodore S. Hertzberg, United States Attorney