



OFFICE OF  
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 11 FY 19/20  
DATE October 23, 2019

**AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE  
ELDER JUSTICE COORDINATING PARTNERSHIP**

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Justice estimates that one in nine people over the age of 60 will be abused or exploited every year, for an estimated 33,000 victims of elder abuse in Maine alone;

**WHEREAS**, most elder abuse is perpetrated by someone in a position that involves an expectation of trust, and most financial exploitation is perpetrated by family members;

**WHEREAS**, older adults who are abused or mistreated are three times more likely to die within the next decade after the abuse than are adults in the same age group who are not subject to abuse;

**WHEREAS**, a recent study of financial exploitation in Maine found that between \$10.5 million and \$64 million in savings and assets are lost by Maine seniors every year to financial exploitation;

**WHEREAS**, to be effective in combating this growing health, justice, financial and social crisis Maine must set strategic priorities across the public and private sector;

**WHEREAS**, research has shown that multi-disciplinary approaches are the most effective way to combat the pervasive problem of elder abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, Maine has a proven track record of success with multi-disciplinary efforts including the Maine Council for Elder Abuse Prevention, the Attorney General's Elder Fraud Task Force that issued a report in 2015, and numerous local Elder Abuse Task Forces;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, pursuant to *Me. Const. Art V, Pt 1, secs. 1 and 12*, do hereby Order as follows:

**I. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE**

The Elder Justice Coordinating Partnership ("Partnership") is established to improve Maine's prevention of and response to elder abuse. The Partnership shall:

- A. Identify challenges to the prevention of, detection of, and response to elder abuse;

- B. Develop strategic priorities across the public and private sectors to prevent and respond to elder abuse; and
- C. Make recommendations regarding direct services, education, public policy, and data collection and evaluation, including legislative changes, if any.

In response to this charge, the Partnership shall submit an “Elder Justice Roadmap” to the Governor no later than December 8, 2021.

## **II. MEMBERSHIP**

Members of the Partnership shall include the following key agency and office leaders or their designee: Commissioner, Department of Health and Human Services (or designee); Associate Director, Adult Protective Services, Office of Aging and Disability Services; Associate Director, Aging and Long Term Service and Supports, Office of Aging and Disability Services; Director, Early Intervention and Prevention Services; Director, Division of Licensing and Certification; Director, Center for Disease Control; Commissioner, Department of Public Safety (or designee); Colonel, Maine State Police; Administrator, Office of Securities; and Director, Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services.

The Governor may also appoint the following additional members: the Executive Director of a statewide organization providing legal services to the elderly; the Executive Director of a statewide coalition of sexual violence service providers; the Executive Director of statewide coalition of domestic violence service providers; the Executive Director of an organization providing housing and other services to elder abuse victims; the Executive Director of an organization providing advocacy services for residents in nursing homes, assisted housing, assisted living, and recipient(s) of home care services and patients in hospitals that experience barriers in accessing long-term services and supports when ready for discharge; and a representative of the area agencies on aging.

The Governor may also appoint the following additional members: Maine’s Attorney General or designee(s); a representative of the Maine Sheriff’s Association; a representative of the Maine Police Chief’s Association; a representative of the Maine Prosecutor’s Association; the U.S. Attorney or designee; and others at the Governor’s sole discretion.

## **III. CHAIRS**

The Partnership shall be led by a co-chair from the private sector and a co-chair from the public sector. Each shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

## **IV. MEETINGS**

The Partnership shall meet at the call of the chairs.

**V. CONFIDENTIALITY**

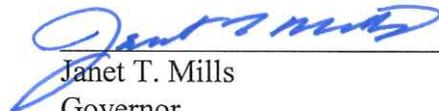
Pursuant to *1 M.R.S. §402(2)(F), (3)(C-1), (3)(J)* and *§403(6)*, and consistent with any other pertinent provision of Maine law, the Partnership's records and proceedings containing personally identifiable and other sensitive information are exempt from public disclosure.

**VI. COMPENSATION**

Members of the Partnership will serve without compensation.

**VI. EFFECTIVE DATE**

The effective date of this Order is October 23, 2019.

  
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Janet T. Mills  
Governor