



ALAN WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEMORANDUM

TO: South Carolina Victim Service Providers

FROM: Burke O. Fitzpatrick, Director, Crime Victim Services Division

RE: Act 141 Funds for the Use of COVID-19 Protection and Mitigation

DATE: May 14, 2020

This is an amendment to the *Approved Guidelines* for Act 96 (Part IV) regarding Act 141 allowable expenditures under authority pursuant to Sections 14-1-206 and subsequent sections of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, as amended.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented unprecedented challenges to the victims of crime provider community in South Carolina. Chief among these is our ability to serve victims while at the same time preserving the health of service providers and victims themselves due to the necessity of close proximity in many situations. Accordingly, the use of Act 141 funds for the purchase of protective equipment and supplies, as described below, is approved.

- Funds may be used to purchase medical grade face masks, face shields, protective glasses, gowns, gloves, sanitizer supplies (e.g., wipes, gel, sprays, etc.) and similar items which mitigate the possibility of transmission or infection by the Coronavirus. Advocates may use this protective equipment at all times, whether on duty or off duty.
- These supplies are to be used exclusively by certified victim advocates and victim assistance volunteers as they provide services to crime victims or attend Victim Service Provider training functions.
- In addition, masks may also be provided to any crime victim and those that accompany them when the victim advocate comes into physical (social distancing) proximity to the victim. Similarly, sanitizer products such as gels and wipes may be provided to the victim during the course of any physical close contact meetings to sanitize the office, vehicle or other immediate meeting location.

This policy takes effect immediately. Please contact me or Assistant Deputy Director Ethel Ford (803-734-1704 or 803-260-4637) should you need additional clarification or guidance.