

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT

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Department of Human Services Board

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Georgia Department of Human Services

Vision, Mission and Core Values

Vision

Stronger Families for a Stronger Georgia.

Mission

Strengthen Georgia by providing Individuals and Families access to services that promote self-sufficiency, independence, and protect Georgia's vulnerable children and adults.

Core Values

- **Provide access to resources that offer support and empower Georgians and their families.**
- **Deliver services professionally and treat all clients with dignity and respect. Manage business operations effectively and efficiently by aligning resources across the agency.**
- **Promote accountability, transparency and quality in all services we deliver and programs we administer.**
- **Develop our employees at all levels of the agency.**

Main Parties

Plaintiffs:

- Coalition for the People's Agenda
- Georgia State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Defendants:

- Georgia Secretary's State Office (the state election official) (SOS)
- Department of Human Services (a state voters' registration agency)

Background

- Plaintiffs sent a letter to GA SOS on January 25, 2011 alleging GA DHS did not offer voter registration to public assistance clients as required by Section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, 42 U.S.C§ 1973 gg-5(“NVRA”)
- Plaintiffs allege GA NVRA violations occurred at 11 DHS Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) offices.

Background cont.

- Plaintiffs claim that voter registration was not offered at 8 of those 11 offices and that voter registration services were “materially inadequate” under the NVRA at the 3 other offices.
- Plaintiffs filed suit against the GA SOS and GA DHS on June 6, 2011.
- Settlement agreement executed on April 17, 2012.

Key Points Of The Settlement Agreement

DHS/DFCS responsibilities:

On or before June 30, 2012, an implementation process shall be in place for voter applications received in-person, by phone, mail or electronically to a DFCS office.

In person:

- when a client presents to a DCFS office in person to obtain “public assistance benefits,” the individual is given a voter registration application.
- Responses to voter registration questions shall be kept in the DHS SUCCESS system.

Key Points of the Settlement Agreement

By phone:

- DHS is required to maintain a toll free telephone number to assist GA COMPASS users to complete voter registration applications.
- During phone interviews with clients who report a change of address, the client will be asked to update his/her voter registration information. The client shall be mailed a voter registration application and Voter Registration Declaration Statement.

Key Points of the Settlement Agreement

Electronically (COMPASS System):

- COMPASS will include the question, “Would you like to register to vote here today?” and permit the client to download the voter registration application.

Monitoring and Oversight

- Monthly, DHS shall analyze the data collected from local DFCS offices.
- Quarterly, DHS and the SOS shall compare the total number of agency voter registrations received by state election officials with the total number of voter registration applications that were submitted by DFCS offices.
- During the first two years of this Agreement, Plaintiffs' counsel may provide DHS with a list of up to two offices per quarter that Plaintiffs believe require further review and possible corrective action, with an explanation of the reason for review.

Monitoring and Oversight

- On a quarterly basis, DHS shall provide to Plaintiffs' counsel a report in which DHS analyzes the data from the monthly reports.
- DHS shall conduct a minimum of four site visits per quarter, including random, unannounced site visits and periodic audits.

Staffing Requirements

- DHS NVRA Coordinator
- DHS Regional NVRA Coordinator
- SOS NVRA Coordinator

Staffing – DHS NVRA Coordinator

- Offer assistance with NVRA registrations
- Maintain list of Regional NVRA coordinators
- Liaison between DHS and SOS
- Provide corrective action plans to DFCS offices
- Coordinate and review NVRA education and training for DHS
- Distribute voter registration and Declaration statements
- Review and prepare NVRA reports to be sent to SOS and Plaintiffs

Staffing-DHS Reg. NVRA Coordinator

- Implement corrective action plans
- Coordinate and monitor implementation and compliance procedures
- Answer questions from the public and staff relating to voter registration
- Ensure voter registration signs are posted in prominent location in local DFCS offices
- Assist with compilation of monthly and quarterly data
- Transmit completed voter registration applications to SOS

Training Requirements

DHS NVRA Coordinator and NVRA Regional Coordinators shall:

- Prepare NVRA training materials, including a PowerPoint presentation explaining DHS/DFCS responsibilities under the NVRA which include:
 - distributing voter registration applications;
 - providing a Voter Registration Declaration Statement;
 - providing the assistance to clients completing the voter registration applications;
 - accepting completed voter registration forms; and
 - transmitting each completed voter registration application to the SOS.

Federal Oversight and Term

- This Agreement shall become effective on the date of execution and shall remain in effect until September 30, 2015.
- Subject to preclearance of this Agreement by Department of Justice (DOJ), within one hundred days after the execution of this Agreement and annually thereafter for the term of this agreement, Department of Human Services (DHS) shall conduct training of all DHS Regional National Voter Registration Association (NVRA) Coordinators and all DFCS Offices.

QUESTIONS?