

Subject Prohibiting domestic abuse advocates from disclosing certain information

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Overview

Minnesota law protects certain people from being called as a witness to reveal information shared by another person without that other person's consent. Those protections include communications between attorneys and their clients, doctors and their patients, and members of the clergy and individuals seeking advice. This bill amends the provisions that apply to domestic abuse advocates to prohibit an advocate from disclosing information the advocate received from or about a victim without the victim's permission. Under current law, a court can compel disclosure in some situations.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Competency of witnesses.
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	Prohibits a domestic abuse advocate from disclosing any opinion or information about a victim that the advocate acquired in the advocate's professional capacity unless the victim consents to the disclosure. Clarifies that the privilege does not change a prosecutor's obligation to disclose certain information to the defense if that information is in the possession or control of the prosecutor or those involved in a criminal investigation.
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