

**Question:**

Does the evidence-based research have to be reviewed and approved by the Office on Violence Against Women or can the research be from another source?

**Answer:**

The statute does not limit research.

The statute does not limit sources of “evidenced-based assessments” to those that have been “reviewed and approved by the Office on Violence Against Women of the United States Department of Justice Office”.

The statute requires

- 1) That FDLE confirm that “altered or remaining questions” constitute an “evidence-based lethality assessment”
- 2) That FDLE must **“monitor”** “evidence-based standards relating to the lethality assessment and the lethality assessment instrument and form.”
  - a. If during that “monitoring” FDLE determines that there has been a change in the evidence-based standards **THEN** FDLE must submit a report to the president of the senate and the speaker of the house that includes any proposed changes to the statewide lethality assessment to remain in compliance with evidence-based standards. It is in this report that FDLE must include the availability of additional evidence-based assessments that have been reviewed and approved by the Office on Violence Against Women of the United States Department of Justice Office

**Question:**

What is the definition of “Evidence-Based” according to F.S. 741.29

**Answer:**

F.S. 741.29 does not define “Evidence-Based” additionally, Chapter 741 does not define “Evidence-Based”. We must apply the common definition.

“Evidence-Based” is specifically defined in other Florida statutes as outlined below:

- 1003.4201 (K-12 reading instruction) (6) For purposes of this section, the term “evidence-based” means demonstrating a statistically significant effect on improving student outcomes or other relevant outcomes as provided in 20 U.S.C. s. 8101(21)(A)(i).
- 916.185(Forensic Hospital Diversion Pilot Program) (c) “Evidence-based practices” means interventions and strategies that, based on the best available empirical research, demonstrate effective and efficient outcomes in the care and treatment of offenders who are diagnosed as having mental illnesses or co-occurring mental illnesses and substance use disorders.
- 316.193(j) 3. For purposes of this paragraph, the term “evidence-based program” means a program that satisfies the requirements of at least two of the following:
  - a. The program is included in the federal registry of evidence-based programs and practices.
  - b. The program has been reported in a peer-reviewed journal as having positive effects on the primary targeted outcome.
  - c. The program has been documented as effective by informed experts and other sources.

As the legislature has specifically defined the term in other sections of Florida statutes, but did not in this section, we must apply the common definition to “Evidence-Based” one example is included below:

Cambridge Dictionary: Evidence Based means- supported by a large amount of scientific research.

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