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Specialization of Domestic Violence Case Management in the Courts: A National Survey



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Chapter 1 Introduction

The modern movement to stop domestic violence in the United States has evolved over the past thirty years from the pioneering efforts of a committed group of survivors of domestic abuse and their advocates who organized to find safe spaces and opportunities for women and their children (Schechter, 1982). In the same time period, the role of government has changed from being an indifferent bystander to active partnership with those who seek to eliminate this destroyer of homes, health, and hopes for the next generation (Epstein, 1999; Tsai, 2000). Since the early 1970s, statutory changes and reforms in law enforcement and prosecution policy and practice have brought about a systemic shift in many communities. In these jurisdictions, domestic violence is a key target of institutional attention and resources (Epstein, 1999; Little, Malefyt, Walker, Tucker, & Buel, 1998). Community-based advocates and service providers now have powerful alliances with their former foes.

The enactment of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)¹ in 1994 heightened public awareness of domestic violence and its detrimental effects on families, business, and society. VAWA also led to the infusion of large sums of money into the nation's justice systems and communities to improve access to justice and services for domestic violence victims and to increase batterer and system accountability. Along with the funding has come affirmative advocacy for coordinated

¹ Violence Women Act of 1994, Pub. L. No. 103-322, 108 Stat. 1902.

community initiatives founded on and implemented through public-private partnerships (Hart, 1995; Ptacek, 1999; Steinman, 1991; Syers & Edleson, 1992).

As a consequence of legal challenges to arrest policies and practices, legislative action, and public pressure, law enforcement became the first justice system component to institute major reforms in its response to domestic violence (Buzawa & Buzawa, 1996; Dobash & Dobash, 1992; Epstein, 1999a; Ptacek, 1999). Prosecution and probation followed law enforcement into the movement (Cahn, 1992; Rebovich, 1996; Sewell, 1989). Courts are the newcomers in most jurisdictions to institutional partnerships formed to improve the system's impact on domestic violence (Buzawa & Buzawa, 1996; Epstein, 1999a).

Several factors are possible contributors to the delay in court system responses to the domestic violence movement. Specialization for other cases demanding court attention and resources is one probable factor. For the past several years, courts have been seeking and implementing innovations to address the impact on courts of drug crime caused by strong legislative and criminal justice system efforts to arrest, prosecute and punish offenders. Specialized courts for adjudicating drug-related offenses and monitoring defendants have proliferated over the past decade and now are a widely used case management tool (Hora, Schma, & Rosenthal, 1999; National Association of Drug Court Professionals, 1997).

A more traditional area of specialization for courts has been in juvenile and family cases. Juvenile courts have existed in various forms for a century. During the past three decades, many jurisdictions have instituted a unified family court or adopted a one-family/one-judge approach to more effectively manage the increasingly complex and overlapping juvenile and family caseloads (Babb, 1998; Dunford-Jackson, Frederick, Hart, & Hofford, 1998; Flango, Flango, & Rubin, 1999).

Another factor impeding court participation in the domestic violence movement has been the court's tradition of responding to issues brought to it as a neutral arbiter of others' disputes. The position of neutrality is fundamental to the character and purpose of courts. The traditional judicial view has been that this position could be compromised by joint endeavors with one part of the community or one side of an issue (Rottman, Efke, & Casey, 1998).

Reluctance to become involved in the direct provision of services or to supervise service provision also has kept judges and courts wary of the partnerships called for to effectively address domestic violence. In recent years, the therapeutic justice movement (Fritzler & Simon, 2000; Simon, 1995; Wexler & Winick,

1996), the development of drug courts, and the promotion of community-focused courts (Rottman & Casey, 1999) have made significant strides to overcome these barriers. In increasing numbers of jurisdictions, judges are involved in the supervision of offenders' compliance with court-ordered services, and an array of services is more commonly available now in the courthouse (Casey, 1998; Loeliger, 2000). A strong indication of this shift in sentiment is the creation of the Task Force on Therapeutic Justice of the Conference of Chief Justices and the adoption by this body of a resolution broadly supporting the integration of the principles and practices of "problem-solving" courts into the administration of justice.²

With a few exceptions, courts began focusing attention on domestic violence cases in the early 1990s (for early recommendations made regarding improving court practices in family violence cases see Herrell & Hofford, 1990). In courthouses across the country judges, court managers and court staff have been taking on the challenges of holding the system accountable for ensuring victim safety, bringing appropriate sanctions to bear on perpetrators for their abusive behavior, and administering justice fairly in complex and interrelated domestic violence cases.

Domestic violence caseloads also have been growing. Ten year trend data indicate that from 1989 to 1998, domestic violence filings in state courts increased 178 percent (Ostrom & Kauder, 1999).³ One factor contributing to the rise in domestic violence caseloads is the availability since 1994 of civil protection orders in all of the states and the District of Columbia. Another reason for the higher numbers is the increased ability of court data systems to identify domestic violence cases in their domestic relations and criminal caseloads. For example, 40 states were able to report domestic violence data for the years 1996-1998.

■ Concerns Related to Specializing Domestic Violence Case Management

We can estimate that over 300 courts now have some specialized structures, processes, and practices to address the distinct nature of domestic violence cases and the need for special attention to them. These specialized approaches have collec-

² Resolution in Support of Problem Solving Courts, adopted by the Task Force on Therapeutic Justice of the Conference of Chief Justices, in Rapid City, South Dakota on August 3, 2000.

³ The 10 year trend is based on complete data from 10 states and partial data from 18 states.

tively come to be called domestic violence courts. The great variation in what these processes and practices are and what they seek to achieve indicates, however, that domestic violence courts are not a commonly understood court classification, such as we use for family courts, juvenile courts, and drug courts.

We also still lack systematic empirical evidence of the benefits of using this constellation of processes, practices, and services (Buzawa, Hotaling & Klein, 1998). While specialization of domestic violence case management holds great potential to address domestic violence effectively, practitioners and advocates have expressed fears that it may sacrifice victim safety, access to justice, fairness, or batterer accountability for the sake of innovation (Epstein, 1999a). Specialized judges can lose their neutrality, or the appearance of neutrality, by becoming more educated to the effects of domestic violence and collaborating with the advocacy community. They also can experience judicial burnout from the constant flow of difficult and emotionally charged cases. To many judges, assignment to a specialized domestic violence docket is viewed as high-risk, low-benefit, and consequently, undesirable.

Specialized calendars and judges commonly are complemented by specialized prosecution units. The pursuit of efficiency can lead to assembly line justice in which one size is made to fit all. Batterers can escape appropriate sanctions through plea bargains or diversion to ineffective and unproven batterer intervention programs (Hanna, 1998). The survivor can be coerced to participate in the defendant's prosecution through threats of sanctions against her (Hanna, 1996). Prosecutors can ignore or act in opposition to the survivor's concerns about safety or status in her community (Crenshaw, 1991; Epstein, 1999b; Richie, 1996).

Perhaps the most significant potential detriment to victims posed by specialized or integrated domestic violence case management is the information sharing function designed to promote more consistent and complete relief for victims. Domestic violence cases can be entangled with child abuse and neglect issues, often because the batterer also is abusing children in the home. In systems that screen cases and share information, mothers who seek relief from the court run the risk of becoming the target of dependency proceedings and losing custody of their children (Epstein, 1999a; Fischer & Rose, 1995; Levey, Steketee, & Keilitz, 2000; Miccio, 1999; Schechter & Edleson, 1999; Spears, 1999; Steketee, Levey, & Keilitz, 2000). Fear of losing her children can be a major deterrent to a victim accessing the system to obtain relief from the violence perpetrated by the children's father.

■ Potential Benefits of Specializing Domestic Violence Case Management

Despite these concerns, courts continue to institute specialized processes or structures for domestic violence cases because they have significant potential benefits for victims, their families, batterers, the community, and the justice system. The major benefits of domestic violence courts cited by judges, other justice system practitioners and advocates, and researchers include (Fritzler & Simon, 2000; Karan, Keilitz, & Denaro, 1999; Tsai, 2000):

- enhanced coordination of cases and consistent orders in different cases involving the same parties
- more comprehensive relief for survivors at an earlier stage of the judicial process
- advocacy services that encourage survivors to establish abuse free lives
- greater understanding by judges of the dynamics and effects of domestic violence on victims and their children
- more consistent procedures, treatment of litigants, rulings and orders
- increased batterer accountability
- improved batterer compliance with orders
- greater confidence in the community that the justice system is responding effectively to domestic violence
- greater system accountability

The components and resources that typically are associated with achieving these benefits are described briefly below. Not all so-called domestic violence courts have all or even most of these components, and there is great variation in the extent to which courts are implementing these processes, structures, and practices. Moreover, we have not systematically tested whether these benefits for survivors, their families, and the community are being achieved.

Case coordination mechanisms are necessary to identify, link, and track cases that involve the same parties or other members of their families. Domestic violence can be an issue in a variety of cases that span different jurisdictions within the court system, including civil protection orders, misdemeanor and felony prosecutions, divorce, child custody and support, and dependency and juvenile delinquency. Data relating to case histories and disposition could reside in several different court data systems and numerous other data systems maintained by law enforcement, prosecution, child protective services, and other agen-

cies involved in the case. Information sharing among the various agencies, courts, judges, victim advocates, and prosecutors handling these cases can prevent judges from issuing conflicting orders that can put the victim and her children in danger or confuse the parties about their obligations or restrictions on their actions. Some of the mechanisms used to coordinate and track cases are specialized intake units, integrated case information systems, or staff assigned to search court files for related cases and to coordinate the scheduling of court hearings for related cases.⁴

Specialized intake units orient victims to court procedures and assist them in understanding their potential role in the civil and criminal process, promote survivors' access to services and remedies they might otherwise not know about or pursue, and refer them to court-related or community-based assistance programs. Courts that integrate intake for civil, family, and criminal cases can offer one-stop shopping for these services to victims involved in more than one type of case. Intervention early in the case can help level the field for survivors, many of whom are economically disadvantaged and held hostage by their abusers' purse strings (Epstein, 1999; Kantor & Jasinski, 1998; Mahoney, 1994). For survivors with children, the establishment and enforcement of child support orders, preferably through the federal Title IV-D agency, can be crucial to the survivor's ability to successfully leave an abusive partner (Klein & Orloff, 1995). Survivors who have these support mechanisms are more likely to trust the system and to risk the dangers that often ensue from participating in the prosecution process or following through to obtain a final civil protection order (Sullivan, 1992). Specialized intake units also can facilitate the coordination of case management by linking the present cases to any related case currently pending or subsequently filed.

⁴ Despite recent improvements in data reporting, the majority of state courts still lack a consistent method for identifying and flagging cases where domestic violence is present in criminal and civil caseloads. With funds from the State Justice Institute (SJI-96-18E-B-224), the National Center for State Courts developed a Family Violence Data Reporting Prototype for state courts to use in identifying, classifying, counting, and reporting family violence cases. The prototype proposes a minimum set of four categories of family violence cases: felony domestic violence, misdemeanor domestic violence, civil protection orders, and civil claims; subcategories for each of the four main categories; several disposition types; and three sentencing categories (probation, probation with incarceration, and incarceration). Courts also lack data systems that can track the various case types that may be related to an individual domestic violence case. For example, a 1997 examination of the prevalence of domestic violence in disputed child custody and visitation cases in three courts revealed that over 20% of these cases showed substantial evidence of domestic violence that was not systematically taken into account by the court (Keilitz, et al., 1997).

Specialized calendars for various domestic violence matters, including ex parte protection order petitions, hearings on final protection orders, and proceedings in criminal cases, have several benefits. As a basic matter, a central location for hearing domestic violence cases eases access to the judicial process and reduces confusion about where proceedings take place. Specialized calendars promote the use of uniform procedures by judges and court staff, which is an important element of procedural justice. Specialized calendars also facilitate case management for prosecutors and defense counsel. Counsel can handle higher caseloads and accommodate to the court's scheduling more easily if all the cases are heard in one or more specialized courtrooms. Proceedings are more efficient, so litigants and counsel can spend less time in court.

The designation of specialized judges to hear domestic violence cases exclusively or as their primary assignment is perhaps the most significant characteristic of a domestic violence court. Specialized judges have an opportunity to develop expertise in domestic violence issues, including a well-developed understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence, knowledge of legal remedies for victims, and familiarity with services available through government sources and in the community (Levey, Steketee, & Keilitz, 2000). They also can improve their skills in adjudicating cases where one or both parties do not have counsel. This set of competencies promotes better decision-making and more consistent and fair processes for victims and batterers (Steketee, Levey, & Keilitz, 2000). Victims who have full access to the judicial process are more likely to avail themselves of the protections of the process. Batterers who are accorded all the protections of due process and given adequate information about their options, including services, are more likely to perceive the process to be fair and therefore more likely to comply with court orders (Paternoster, Brame, Bachman, & Sherman, 1997; Tyler, 1989). Specialized judges also are better able to monitor the behavior of abusers and their compliance with court orders, including the terms of protection orders and orders to batterer intervention programs. Greater judicial oversight of perpetrator behavior and imposition of significant sanctions for violations of court orders should be the hallmark of a domestic violence court (Steketee, Levey, & Keilitz, 2000).

Consistent and regular mechanisms for monitoring and enforcing batterer compliance with court orders are fundamental to effective justice system intervention in domestic violence cases (Healey, Smith, & O'Sullivan, 1998). These

mechanisms ideally should include judicial review calendars held on specified days. Calendars set in this manner facilitate the ability of batterer intervention providers to file or present reports on a routine basis and for prosecutors to be present to file charges for violations of orders. Regularly scheduled calendars combined with specialized assignment of judges promote the highest level of consistency in monitoring and enforcement and thus are most conducive to effective judicial oversight of batterer behavior.⁵

■ Survey of Specialized Court Processes for Domestic Violence Cases

This report is designed to provide basic information about the scope and variety of specialized processes in place in courts across the country and to relate current practice to the views of court practitioners and domestic violence professionals about the structural components and resources needed to effectively manage and adjudicate domestic violence cases. The report is descriptive only and thus does not attempt to evaluate the quality or effectiveness of the operation, organization, or services reported by courts as their current practice.

The information in the report derives from three sources: (1) responses of 103 courts to a written questionnaire;⁶ (2) telephone interviews with representatives of 82 of these courts; and a modified Delphi study with a panel of 27 professionals, including judges and court managers in courts using specialized processes for managing and adjudicating domestic violence cases as well as other noted domestic violence experts and practitioners. The appendix presents the names and addresses of the 103 courts that provided information for the report and identifies key features of these courts.

The 103 courts represented in the survey were identified by state court administrators and trial court managers, directors of state coalitions against domestic violence, reports from knowledgeable individuals in the domestic violence

⁵ Another key element needed for effective domestic violence case management is coordination of the court's operations with the initiatives and resources of other agencies and the community. The scope of domestic violence cases extends beyond the courtroom as the court interacts with other components of the justice system, social service systems, and community service providers that offer an array of programs and services addressing the complex problems encountered by domestic violence victims, perpetrators, and their families.

⁶ The written survey was sent to 160 courts. After eliminating duplicate responses, the response rate was 64 percent (103/160). The questionnaire is reproduced in the appendices.

field, and reviews of the literature. Although these courts are not necessarily representative of all courts with specialized domestic violence case management processes or structures, they cover the range of type of courts in which civil and criminal domestic violence cases are adjudicated (72 general jurisdiction courts, 28 limited jurisdiction courts, and 3 family courts). The findings from the survey are not intended to be generalized to all state courts; rather, they provide a snap shot of what structures, processes and services many courts had in place in 1999.

This snap shot indicates that court specialization for domestic violence caseloads is in its initial stages of development. There are many variations in structure and practice, and few patterns emerged in our analysis. Furthermore, although the concept of specializing court structures and operations for domestic violence courts is gaining momentum, the court community has yet to develop and test models based on a shared vision about the goals of domestic violence courts. For example, the most common reasons courts cite for implementing specialized processes for domestic violence cases are improved assistance to victims, enhanced victim safety, and increased batterer accountability. In the majority of courts, however, these goals are not supported by the key services and practices needed for survivor safety and batterer accountability. Nevertheless, knowledge of the variation and prevalence of different structures and practices can inform judgments about future program implementation and provides a foundation for future comparative evaluation.



Chapter 2

Goals, Processes, and Components

In January 1999, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) sought to obtain a picture of the development of specialized court processes and services for domestic violence cases across the United States. Through a written survey distributed to 160 courts identified as having some type of specialized process, structure, or service,⁷ the NCSC obtained a snapshot view of 103 of these courts. The snapshot shows a widely varying terrain of jurisdiction, organization, and resources applied to domestic violence cases. The 103 courts represented in the snapshot are located in 22 states:

- Arizona (2 courts)
- California (12 courts)
- Colorado (1 court)
- Connecticut (1 court)
- Delaware (1 court)
- Florida (9 courts)
- Iowa (5 courts)
- Illinois (9 courts)
- Kansas (3 courts)
- Michigan (2 courts)
- Minnesota (1 court)
- North Carolina (10 courts)
- New Mexico (12 courts)
- Nevada (6 courts)
- New York (1 court)
- Oklahoma (1 court)
- Pennsylvania (3 courts)
- Rhode Island (1 court)
- Texas (1 court)
- Utah (1 court)
- Washington (20 courts)
- Wisconsin (1 court)

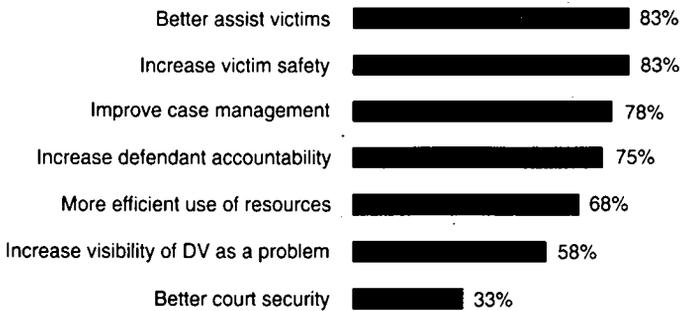
⁷ These 160 courts were identified in an earlier survey of state directors of coalitions against violence, state court administrators, and court managers on a NCSC listserv (Court2Court). The survey was developed with the assistance of a project advisory committee and tested with several courts before a revised version was distributed.

■ Goals of Courts Implementing Specialized Processes

One of the many unsettled issues related to specialization of court processes and structures or domestic violence cases is the goals courts should be seeking to achieve through their reforms. As Figure 1 illustrates, courts do not have a commonly held set of goals for their domestic violence initiatives. Large majorities of courts (75 percent or higher) instituted specialized processes and procedures for domestic violence to better assist victims, to enhance victim safety, to increase defendant accountability, and to improve case management. Smaller majorities sought to bring more attention to the issue of domestic violence and to use resources more efficiently, while only a third of the courts intended to improve court security.

Figure 1

Purposes for establishing specialized procedures for domestic violence cases



These findings raise some concerns for those who believe that the fundamental purposes of justice system responses to domestic violence are improving victim safety and increasing batterer accountability. Although this vision is predominant among the 103 courts, nearly 20 percent of these courts did not identify increased victim safety as a goal of their specialized procedures or structures, and for one-quarter of the courts increased batterer accountability was not an identified goal. As the practice of court specialization for domestic violence cases grows, it will be important that victim safety and batterer accountability become shared goals of the court community

■ Specialized Processes and Structural Components

The 103 courts reported using or having a variety of specialized processes and structural components for managing domestic violence cases, including case screening, specialized calendars, intake units, specialized judicial assignment, and court ordered and monitored batterer intervention programs. These processes have been identified in the literature and by court practitioners and domestic violence professionals as necessary or desirable elements of an effective court system response to domestic violence (Epstein, 1999a; Karan, Keilitz & Denaro, 1999; Tsai, 2000). Most courts have some of these processes and components but few courts have all of them. Moreover, the combinations and configurations of these processes and structures vary substantially across the courts, and no clear patterns are evident. Section IV of the report provides more information about the various configurations of these and other features of the 103 courts.

Sixty-eight of the courts reported that they screen domestic violence cases for other related cases to coordinate case processing. Automated systems are used in 59 of the courts to identify related cases, and 59 courts use an automated system to facilitate case tracking (these two groups are largely overlapping but not identical). Other features of courts that the survey identified in the 103 courts are enumerated in Figures 2-4.

Figure 2

Specialized calendar for domestic violence cases

<u>Types of Cases</u>	<u>Number of Courts</u>
More than one type of case	65
All protection orders	61
All domestic violence misdemeanors	31
All domestic violence felonies	9

Figure 3

Intake units

<u>Types of Cases</u>	<u>Number of Courts</u>
At least one type of case	65
Protection orders	48
Domestic violence misdemeanors	35
Domestic violence felonies	22
Child custody	12
Child support	9
Divorce	9

Figure 4

Judicial assignment for domestic violence cases

<u>Types of Judicial Assignment</u>	<u>Number of Courts</u>
Exclusive assignment	30
Not exclusive but includes domestic violence calendar	50

Although many of these 103 courts have instituted some change in organization, procedures, or judicial assignment to managing domestic violence cases, relatively few appear to have implemented a more comprehensive system for their domestic violence caseloads. For example, only 27 of the courts reported having intake, case screening, a specialized calendar, and a judicial review calendar to monitor compliance with court ordered batterer intervention programs. Only seven of these courts also assign judges exclusively to hear domestic violence cases and have an automated system to identify related cases.

These reports from the 103 courts suggest that the concept of a domestic violence court is not yet well developed or defined among the court community. Although many practitioners working in and with courts have adopted the term “domestic violence court,” only a small number of courts have taken the more holistic approach to domestic violence case management that signifies an intention to function as a domestic violence court. The findings from the follow-up telephone interviews, presented in Part IV of this report, reinforce the conclusion that the implementation of specialized processes for domestic violence cases is proceeding without common understandings of what components and resources are needed for a coherent and effective case management system.



Chapter 3 Practitioners' Views

Through a modified Delphi study,⁸ the NCSC tapped the opinions of 27 professionals who have experience managing or adjudicating domestic violence cases in the criminal and civil justice systems or advocating for victims in these systems. The study participants include 9 judges, 13 managers of courts (7 associated with a domestic violence court or specialized unit, 6 from more traditional courts using some type of specialized process for domestic violence cases), 2 domestic violence advocates, and 3 criminal justice professionals (1 law enforcement officer, 1 prosecutor, and 1 probation expert). These professionals provide extensive experiential information about the purposes and benefits of specialization in court organization and practice related to domestic violence cases. They

⁸ The Delphi study consisted of two rounds of survey questionnaires distributed to 75 individuals, including judges and court managers in courts using specialized processes for managing and adjudicating domestic violence cases and other noted domestic violence experts and practitioners. These individuals were selected for the Delphi study from the respondents to the mail questionnaire who reported more extensive structures or specialized processes for domestic violence cases and from identified experts in the field. The first questionnaire sought input on a wide range of issues related to managing and adjudicating domestic violence cases through opened-ended questions. Twenty-four individuals completed and returned this questionnaire. The questionnaire responses were synthesized and analyzed for content. This analysis provided the content for a follow-up questionnaire consisting of check-off responses requiring the respondents to agree or disagree with the items on the questionnaire and to rank the items according to their priority of importance or necessity. The follow-up survey was distributed to all of the original 75 individuals in hopes that some of those who did not complete the first questionnaire would respond to the check-off style questionnaire, which required much less time to complete than the first one. The response rate for the second questionnaire increased slightly over the first, from 24 to 27. An analysis of opinions reported in the second questionnaire provides a context for the information reported by the 103 courts that participated in the mail and telephone surveys for this study.

also offer their opinion on the functions, resources, and services necessary for specialization to achieve its goals.

The Delphi study indicates considerable consensus on a number of issues related to court management of domestic violence cases. The areas of accord demonstrate an understanding among those who have experience with domestic violence cases that victim safety, batterer accountability, and system integrity are essential to an effective system response to domestic violence. The areas where the study participants' views diverge reflect an uncertainty about the appropriate role of courts in providing services to domestic violence victims, limitations imposed by court jurisdiction and organization, and the growing pains associated with adapting established systems to address new and different issues.

The key areas of consensus that follow (at least 70% of the study participants either "agree very strongly or agree" to the items related to the issues) indicate that the specialization of processing and services for domestic violence cases is essential to effectively managing them.

- Effective management of domestic violence cases requires coordination of cases involving the parties to the domestic violence case, integration of information in court data systems, and availability of information from all related cases to judges adjudicating the domestic violence case.
- Effective management of domestic violence cases requires specialization - including intake for domestic violence cases, court staff, judges, prosecutors, and probation.
- Victims' access to justice is a primary goal of effective domestic violence case processing (expedited proceedings, user friendly directions and forms, assistance to victims by court staff or other personnel, accompaniment of victims by advocates in court proceedings).
- Court processes should ensure victim safety, both through court orders and service referrals and in the courthouse (i.e., separate waiting areas for victims and defendants/respondents).
- Court and judicial resources should be brought to bear on monitoring batterers' compliance with court orders and enforcing those orders to the fullest extent (i.e., batterer accountability is paramount).

- Courts must address the interests of children involved in domestic violence cases, either as witnesses to or victims of the violence, or through custody and visitation disputes between the victim and the offender (guardians ad litem and custody evaluators must have training in domestic violence issues).
- Domestic violence training for judges should be mandatory and ongoing.
- Judges should be sensitive to the needs of domestic violence victims and understand the dynamics of domestic violence.



Chapter 4

Practitioners' Views vs. Court Practice

The views of justice system practitioners and domestic violence advocates regarding specialization of court organization and processes for domestic violence cases provide the analytical context for examining court practice in this case management area. The analysis that follows compares the Delphi study results to key features reported in the mail survey of 103 courts and the telephone survey of 82 of these courts.⁹ This analysis reveals great diversity among the courts in organization and practice related to specialization. It also demonstrates substantial divergence between court practice and the views of experienced practitioners. The court features and practices addressed are:

- Extent of jurisdiction
- Specialized calendars
- Intake management and services for domestic violence cases
- Case screening and coordination
- Judicial assignment and training
- Batterer compliance monitoring
- Services provision and referral

⁹ Not all of the courts interviewed by telephone answered all the questions; therefore the number of courts included in the analysis of some items is less than 82.

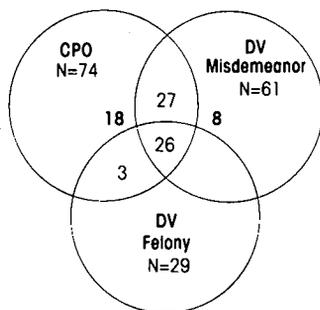
■ Extent of Jurisdiction

Because jurisdiction proved to be difficult to identify accurately in the written questionnaire, the telephone survey sought to clarify responses to the mail survey. Of the 82 courts contacted in the telephone survey, 74 have jurisdiction for protection orders, 61 have jurisdiction for domestic violence misdemeanors, and 29 adjudicate domestic violence felony cases. (See Figure 5.)

There is considerable overlap in jurisdiction for protection orders and both felonies and misdemeanors. All of the courts with jurisdiction for domestic violence felonies also handle civil protection orders, while 27 of the courts that adjudicate domestic violence misdemeanors also hear civil protection orders. All of the courts that hear domestic violence felonies and misdemeanors also issue protection orders (26).

Figure 5

Extent of jurisdiction in 82 courts



■ Specialized Calendars

Of the 82 courts contacted in the telephone survey, 67 reported having a specialized calendar for at least one type of case within its jurisdiction (see Figure 6). Figure 7 shows another view of the variation in the use of specialized calendars for domestic violence cases. Twenty-seven of 67 courts with specialized calendars have them for both protection orders and domestic violence misdemeanors, which is the most prevalent pattern of overlap among the three types of cases. Nine of these 27 courts also have specialized calendars for domestic violence felonies. All

ten of the courts that specialize their calendars for domestic violence felonies also handled protection orders on a specialized calendar.

Figure 6

Percent of courts with dedicated calendars

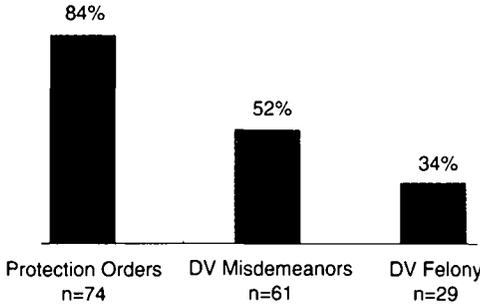
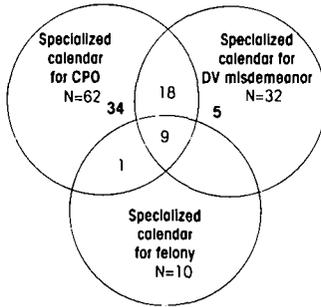


Figure 7

Specialized calendars in 67 courts



■ Intake Management and Services for Domestic Violence Cases

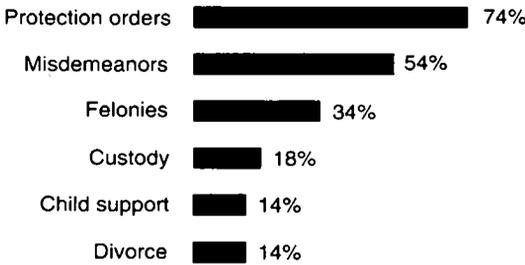
The practitioners in the Delphi study agree that an intake unit or process is an important tool for managing domestic violence cases effectively. There is strong support for comprehensive victim advocacy and services (100 percent) and intake procedures for emergency hearings and orders (94 percent). Consensus is strong, but somewhat lower (82 percent), that domestic violence units should assist with service of process for protection orders and child support cases and that units should have intake counselors.

Among the 103 courts participating in the mail survey, 65 have an intake

unit or process for domestic violence cases, and among these courts practice varies greatly. Data presented in Figure 8 indicate that courts most often provide intake for protection orders, followed by misdemeanors, felonies, custody, child support, and divorce.

Figure 8

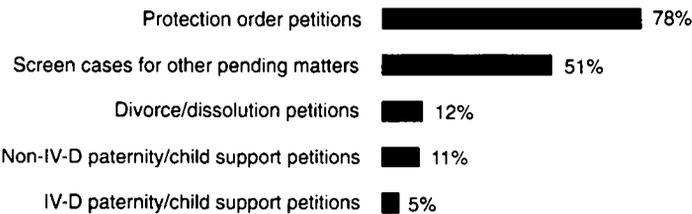
Cases handled by intake (n=65)



The types of case processing services provided by intake units also varies (see Figure 9). The most prevalent type of service is assistance with protection order petitions, followed by screening for other pending cases. Very few courts assist litigants with other legal or economic matters, such as petitions for divorce/dissolution, non-IV-D child support or paternity, or IV-D child support or paternity.

Figure 9

Services provided by intake



Management schemes also vary across the courts with specialized intake for domestic violence cases (see Figure 10). The most common system is court management by court employees (66 percent). In the remaining third of the courts, management is the responsibility of a multi-agency team on which the court is a partner, a multi-agency team that does not include the court, or an outside agency.

Figure 10

Intake management (n=66)



■ Case Screening and Coordination

The Delphi panel members were unanimous in their agreement that effective management and adjudication of domestic violence cases requires screening to identify all cases related to the parties and children and integrated case processing. These practitioners also strongly agreed that lethality assessments and safety planning are essential functions in domestic violence case processing.

Operations in the 103 courts participating in the mail survey lag behind the preferred practice voiced by the Delphi panel. Among these courts, 66 screen domestic violence cases for related cases. Forty-seven of these courts report that at least one purpose of screening is to link and/or coordinate cases for case processing. Fewer courts regularly apply the information gained from case screening to guide judicial decision making in key areas of victim safety. Thirty-nine of the courts use case screening information to inform bail and/or sentencing decisions, while 36 draw on screening information for developing civil protection orders and/or safety plans. Nineteen courts use their screening capability for all three of these important purposes.

■ Judicial Assignment and Training

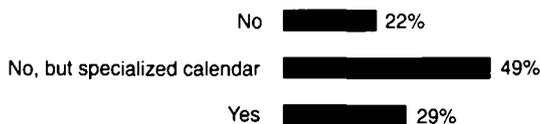
The participants in the Delphi study voiced fairly strong support for specialization of the bench for domestic violence cases. Among these practitioners, 82 percent agreed that domestic violence cases should be heard by judges assigned exclusively to these cases. These practitioners showed lower but still substantial support for assigning a single judge to all family cases involving the victim and/or the defendant (e.g., divorce, custody, dependency) (74 percent) and for as-

signing all related cases (including criminal) to the same judge (73 percent).

In practice, 29 percent of the 103 courts participating in the mail survey assign judges exclusively to domestic violence cases (see Figure 11). In a much larger proportion of these courts (49 percent), judges have a mixed caseload that includes assignment to cases heard on a dedicated domestic violence calendar. In approximately one-fifth of the courts, judges are not specialized in their assignments at all.

Figure 11

Judges exclusively assigned to hear domestic violence (n=103)

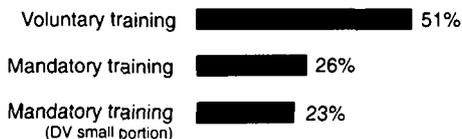


Judicial training is an area in which court practice diverges substantially from the recommendations of the practitioners participating in the Delphi study. Seventy percent of the Delphi panel members agreed that domestic violence cases are difficult to prosecute because judges lack training in domestic violence. Nearly all of the panel members (96 percent) agreed that ongoing, mandatory domestic violence training for judges and court personnel is necessary for a court to manage and adjudicate domestic violence cases effectively.

In contrast to the practitioners' views, judicial training in domestic violence issues apparently is given little attention in courts with specialized processes for domestic violence cases. Most of the courts surveyed by telephone reported some type of judicial training on domestic violence, but in half of these courts the training is voluntary (see Figure 12). Only 22 courts require specific domestic violence training for judges. A more disconcerting finding is that only six of the courts in which judges have exclusive assignments to domestic violence cases require these judges to participate in any training on domestic violence.

Figure 12

Types of domestic violence training (n=70)



■ Batterer Compliance Monitoring

Batterer accountability for abusive behavior is a primary goal of most courts with specialized processes for domestic violence cases. According to the Delphi study panel, mechanisms for courts to monitor batterers' compliance with batterer intervention program participation and other court orders are necessary for effective domestic violence case management. The consensus of the Delphi panel was that the court's role in providing, delivering and/or monitoring services in domestic violence cases includes referring domestic violence defendants to batterer intervention programs. Furthermore, the panel unanimously agreed that the court's role in providing, delivering, and/or monitoring services in domestic violence cases should include monitoring compliance with service-related orders.

The telephone survey of 82 courts with specialized processes for domestic violence cases sought clarifying information about the approaches courts use to monitor batterer compliance. Seventy-one of these courts reported that they regularly order batterers to participate in batterer intervention programs, and all but one of these courts has some type of monitoring mechanism in place (see Figure 13).

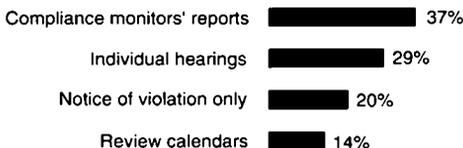
Of the 70 courts that monitor batterer compliance, 43 percent reported having some type of hearings to review batterer compliance. The frequency of hearings varies from court to court (e.g., every 30, 60, or 90 days after the initial hearing up to a year after the hearing). Thirty-seven percent of the 70 courts do not regularly hold hearings, but monitoring reports are submitted to the court on a regular basis. In another 20 percent of the courts, batterer compliance is monitored more passively; other agencies are responsible for notifying the court only when the batterer does not participate in the ordered batterer intervention program.

Among the courts that hold hearings as a primary method to monitor batterer compliance, more courts set compliance hearings on an individual basis on calendars for other domestic relations hearings. In fewer courts, batterer hearings and status checks are held periodically (e.g., once a week or monthly) on a calendar dedicated to batterer compliance review. For example, on the third Friday of each month the Tucson City Court has a domestic violence case review docket. The prosecutor and the batterers are present during the hearings set on this docket. During this time the batterer intervention provider advises the court

regarding individual batterers' compliance with the court's order for batterer intervention and charges for violations of orders are filed then.

Figure 13

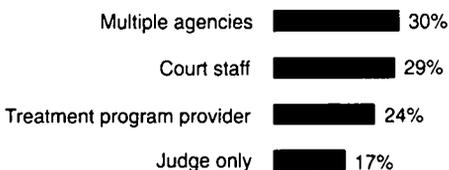
Types of compliance monitoring (n=70)



There appear to be multiple and overlapping methods for monitoring batterers. Sixty-six of the courts in the telephone survey report that various agencies are involved in monitoring batterer compliance (see Figure 14). In 30 percent of these courts, several different agencies share responsibility for monitoring batterers (for example, advocates monitor compliance with protection orders while probation officers monitor criminal defendants). In 29 percent of the courts, court staff have sole responsibility for monitoring court ordered batterer intervention programs. Batterer intervention providers or community-based advocates perform this function in 24 percent of the courts, while judges reportedly are the only monitors in 17 percent of the courts.

Figure 14

Agencies that monitor compliance (n=66)



The reasons courts put forth for lacking a proactive judicial approach to monitoring batterer compliance center on caseload and resource issues. Some courts report that they could not support a judicial review calendar because of the high volume of protection order cases and/or misdemeanor cases. One court reportedly had set review hearings for batterer compliance in the past, but dis-

continued them for lack of effectiveness. Batterers continuously failed to report for the hearings, which led to an ever-expanding volume of warrants and higher caseloads. The court abandoned the judicial review process because it could not harness the resources necessary to both pursue non-compliant batterers and handle new cases.

■ Services Provision and Referral

The Delphi panel members were in unanimous agreement that a specific goal of specialized domestic violence case processes in the courts is to offer a coordinated response to the parties that is effective, safe and consistent. The panel members strongly agreed (93 percent) that courts should provide domestic violence victims easy access to the judicial system as well as to support services and resources. The vast majority of panel members also agreed that effective management and adjudication of domestic violence cases requires liaison to victims to assist them in escaping abuse (96 percent), community-based advocates to provide victim support in court proceedings (93 percent), and the provision of accurate and comprehensive agency referral lists to victims (93 percent). A smaller, but still large, majority of the panel members (82 percent) also agreed that the court should assist victims in various service areas, such as shelter and counseling.

Reports from the 103 courts participating in the mail survey indicate that service provision by or through courts has not reached the level that the Delphi panel recommends. Seventy-five courts reported that they regularly provide some type of service to domestic violence victims or link victims to services. (See Figures 15 – 17 for specific types of services and proportions of courts based on the 103 courts in the survey.) Legal or victim advocacy services are the most common type of service provided through courts. Social and economic services are the next most prevalent, with medical, psychological, and mental health services following closely.

Figure 15

Legal victim advocacy (n=103)

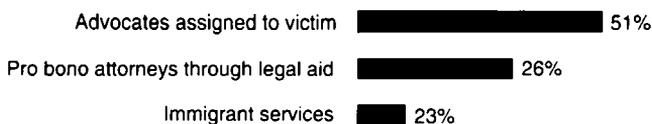


Figure 16

Social and economic services (n=103)

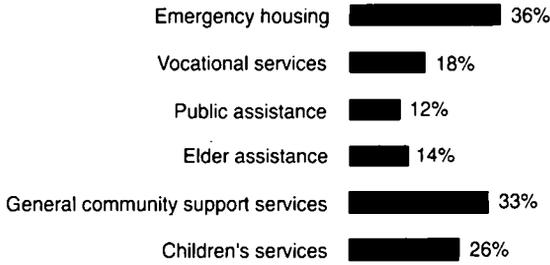


Figure 17

Medical, psychological, mental health services (n=103)

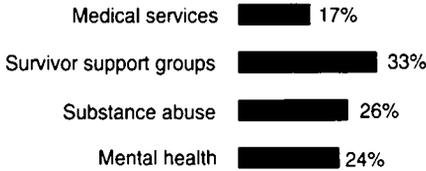
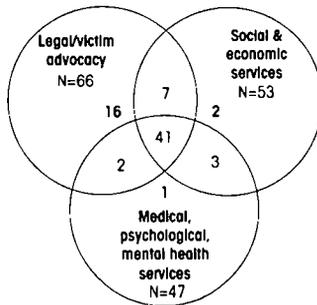


Figure 18 demonstrates the various combinations of service types that 75 courts provide. Fifty of the 66 courts that provide or link victims to legal or advocacy services also help victims access one of the other two categories of services. The most common configuration of services includes all three types of services (41 courts).

Figure 18

Types of services in courts that provide service referral and delivery (n=75)





Chapter 5 Implications of the Research

Our examination of specialized processes, structures, and services for domestic violence cases in 103 courts across the country indicates a field undergoing rapid and differentiated change. Although the concept of specializing court structures and operations for domestic violence cases is gaining momentum, the court community has yet to develop and test models based on a shared vision about the goals of domestic violence courts or specialized processes. The most common reasons courts cite for implementing specialized processes for domestic violence cases are improved assistance to victims, enhanced victim safety, and increased batterer accountability. Yet, in the majority of courts, these goals are not supported by the key services and practices needed for survivor safety and batterer accountability.

- In many courts, screening and case coordination are not standard operations
- Many courts do not use available information systems for case screening and tracking
- Many courts do not use available information to inform decisions critical to victim safety, such as protection order provisions, safety planning, and bail arrangements
- Most courts do not have systematic mechanisms for monitoring batterer compliance
- Judicial training is severely lacking, even in courts where judges have exclusive assignments to domestic violence calendars

- Few courts provide the full array of services needed to assist survivors
- Few courts provide access to legal assistance for civil matters and economic support

An essential first step in aligning court practice with safe, effective, and fair responses to domestic violence should be to provide mechanisms for judges and court managers to consider carefully and systematically what these responses should be. This consideration process should be fostered to promote at least a basic consensus on the goals of specializing domestic violence case management. The discourse should be informed by the experiences of those who have designed and implemented systems to increase victim safety, batterer accountability, and public trust and confidence that the judicial process will benefit domestic violence survivors who seek the remedies it offers.

As courts move more closely toward a shared set of goals for domestic violence courts and specialized processes, they should be receiving evaluative information about processes and systems currently in place (for evaluative guidelines see Burt et al., 1997 and Fagan, 1996). This need is strongly indicated by the diversity of court practice and the extent to which court practice diverges from the recommendations of experienced practitioners and experts.

Evaluation should proceed systematically and should be grounded in common understandings of (1) what processes and structures are being examined, and (2) what the context for the processes or structures is. Current practice is so diverse that standardized definition of terminology is difficult (e.g., dedicated dockets, exclusive assignment of judges, intake, and judicial review). Without a common understanding of what these features are, they cannot be effectively evaluated.

Furthermore, the context in which the court program operates has substantial implications for evaluation. For example, a dedicated docket for protection orders with judges who rotate in and out of this assignment may function differently than one to which the same judge or set of judges sits for an extended period of time. Similarly, a protection order docket in isolation from a misdemeanor docket might have less impact of victim safety and batterer accountability than a more integrated system with both civil and criminal caseloads or a reliable and accurate system for exchanging information about related civil and criminal cases. These two examples are more obvious than many of the other

variations that the courts we examined demonstrated. Therefore, research and evaluation may be needed at many different levels and in many different contexts.

The good news from our examination of specialized court processes is that many courts are paying serious attention to the complex problems of domestic violence victims and the cases they pursue in the judicial process. They also are making positive changes to their systems and working more collaboratively with other components of the justice system and the community. Our challenge now is to channel these good intentions and the increased commitment of courts to address domestic violence into a more coherent, consistent, and effective system response.

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Appendix 1

**Case Management
Features of 103 Courts**

- 1 2nd Judicial District Court**
1700 Ramsey County Courthouse
St. Paul, MN 55102

- 2 Las Vegas Municipal Court**
400 E. Stewart Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89101

- 3 Jefferson County Superior Court**
P.O. Box 1220
Port Townsend, WA 98368

- 4 Clallam County Superior Court**
223 East 4th Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362

- 5 Alameda County Superior Court**
Berkeley Courthouse
2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Berkeley, CA 94704

- 6 16th Judicial Circuit - Upper Keys**
53 High Point Road
Tavernier, FL 33070

	Court Identification Number					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Court has jurisdiction for civil protection orders	X		X	X		X
Court has specialized unit/calendar for civil protection orders			X	X		X
Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV misdemeanors	X					
Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV felony						
Batterer compliance is monitored by:						
Compliance monitoring reports	X		X	X		
Individual hearings		X				
Notice of violation only						X
Review calendars						
Agencies that monitor compliance:						
Multiple agencies			X			
Court staff	X					X
Treatment program provider		X		X		
Judge only						
Judges are assigned exclusively to DV:						
Yes, judges are assigned exclusively to hear DV cases					X	
No, mixed caseload with special DV calendars	X		X		X	X
No, mixed caseload with no special DV calendar		X				
DV cases are screened for other related cases	X	X	X	X	X	X
Court has intake unit/process	X	X			X	X
Cases handled by intake:						
Protection orders	X				X	X
Criminal misdemeanors		X			X	X
Criminal felony					X	X
Custody					X	
Child support					X	
Divorce						
Services provided by intake:						
Protection order petitions	X	X			X	X
Screen cases for other pending matters	X				X	X
Divorce/dissolution petitions						
Non-IV-D paternity/child support petitions						
IV-D paternity/child support petitions						
Intake managed by:						
Court with court employees	X	X			X	X
Multi-agency team with court						
Multi-agency team without the court						
Outside agency with agency employees						
Court has conducted an evaluation of DV practices/procedures			X	X		
Judicial DV training	X	X	X			X
Services provided by the court:						
Medical services						
Survivor support groups				X		
Substance abuse						X
Mental health						X
Advocates assigned to victim	X		X	X	X	X
Pro bono attorneys through legal aid				X	X	X
Immigrant services						
Emergency housing						X
Vocational services						X
Public assistance						
Elder assistance						
General community support services			X	X		X
Children's support services			X			X

Court ID Number	Name/Address of Court
-----------------	-----------------------

- 7** **1st District Court**
 316 E. 5th Street
 Waterloo, IA 50703
- 8** **3rd Judicial District Court**
 201 W. Picacho, Suite A.
 Las Cruces, NM 88005
- 9** **4th, 9th, 10th Judicial District Court**
 700 N. Main St., Suite 15
 Clovis, NM 88101
- 10** **King Country Superior Court**
 1400 W. Lacey Blvd.
 Hanford, CA 93230
- 11** **Las Vegas Township Justice Court**
 P.O. Box 552511
 200 South Third Street
 Las Vegas, NV 89155
- 12** **Spokane Municipal District Court**
 N. 901 Monroe #200
 Spokane, WA 99201

7 8 9 10 11 12

Court has jurisdiction for civil protection orders _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Court has specialized unit/calendar for civil protection orders X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV misdemeanors _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV felony _____ X _____ X _____ X

Batterer compliance is monitored by:

Compliance monitoring reports _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Individual hearings _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Notice of violation only _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Review calendars _____ X _____ X _____ X

Agencies that monitor compliance

Multiple agencies _____ X
 Court staff _____ X
 Treatment program provider _____ X
 Judge only _____ X

Judges are assigned exclusively to DV

Yes, judges are assigned exclusively to hear DV cases _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 No, mixed caseload with special DV calendars _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 No, mixed caseload with no special DV calendar _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X

DV cases are screened for other related cases _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X

Court has intake unit/process _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X

Cases handled by intake:

Protection orders _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Criminal misdemeanors _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Criminal felony _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Custody _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Child support _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Divorce _____ X _____ X _____ X

Services provided by intake:

Protection order petitions _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Screen cases for other pending matters _____ X _____ X
 Divorce/dissolution petitions _____ X _____ X
 Non-IV-D paternity/child support petitions _____ X _____ X
 IV-D paternity/child support petitions _____ X _____ X

Intake managed by:

Court with court employees _____ X _____ X
 Multi-agency team with court _____ X
 Multi-agency team without the court _____ X
 Outside agency with agency employees _____ X

Court has conducted an evaluation of DV practices/procedures _____ X

Judicial DV training _____ X _____ X _____ X

Services provided by the court:

Medical services _____ X _____ X
 Survivor support groups _____ X _____ X
 Substance abuse _____ X _____ X
 Mental health _____ X _____ X
 Advocates assigned to victim _____ X _____ X
 Pro bono attorneys through legal aid _____ X _____ X
 Immigrant services _____ X _____ X
 Emergency housing _____ X _____ X
 Vocational services _____ X _____ X
 Public assistance _____ X _____ X
 Elder assistance _____ X _____ X
 General community support services _____ X _____ X
 Children's support services _____ X _____ X

- 13 Fife Municipal Court**
3737 Pacific Hwy E.
Fife, WA 98001

- 14 13th District Court**
P.O. Box 1089
Los Lunas, NM 87031

- 15 Rhode Island Family Court**
One Dorrance Plaza
Providence, RI 2903

- 16 Garfield County Court**
114 West Broadway
Enid, OK 73701

- 17 17th Judicial Circuit Court**
Broward County
201 SE 6th St., Room 565
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

- 18 Domestic Violence Court**
201 E. Main Street
Durham, NC 27701

	Court Identification Number					
	13	14	15	16	17	18
Court has jurisdiction for civil protection orders	X	X	X	X	X	X
Court has specialized unit/calendar for civil protection orders	X	X			X	X
Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV misdemeanors					X	X
Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV felony					X	
Batterer compliance is monitored by:						
Compliance monitoring reports				X	X	
Individual hearings		X				X
Notice of violation only						
Review calendars	X					
Agencies that monitor compliance:						
Multiple agencies				X		
Court staff	X				X	X
Treatment program provider						
Judge only						
Judges are assigned exclusively to DV:						
Yes, judges are assigned exclusively to hear DV cases		X			X	
No, mixed caseload with special DV calendars	X		X			X
No, mixed caseload with no special DV calendar				X		
DV cases are screened for other related cases			X		X	X
Court has intake unit/process		X	X		X	X
Cases handled by intake:						
Protection orders		X	X		X	
Criminal misdemeanors					X	X
Criminal felony					X	
Custody					X	
Child support					X	
Divorce					X	
Services provided by intake:						
Protection order petition		X	X		X	X
Screen cases for other pending matters			X			X
Divorce/dissolution petitions					X	
Non-IV-D paternity/child support petitions					X	
IV-D paternity/child support petitions					X	
Intake managed by:						
Court with court employees		X	X		X	X
Multi-agency team with court						
Multi-agency team without the court						
Outside agency with agency employees						
Court has conducted an evaluation of DV practices/procedures	X	X			X	
Judicial DV training	X	X	X	X	X	X
Services provided by the court:						
Medical services	X				X	
Survivor support groups	X		X		X	X
Substance abuse	X				X	
Mental health	X				X	
Advocates assigned to victim	X		X		X	X
Pro bono attorneys through legal aid	X				X	
Immigrant services					X	
Emergency housing	X				X	X
Vocational services	X				X	
Public assistance	X				X	
Elder assistance	X				X	
General community support services	X		X		X	X
Children's support services	X				X	

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 19 | San Francisco Superior Court
Unified Family Court
400 McAllister St., Dept 405
San Francisco, CA 94102 |
| 20 | 16th Judicial Circuit-Lower Keys
500 Whitehead Street
Key West, FL 32040 |
| 21 | 16th Judicial Circuit - Middle Keys
53 Highpoint Road
Tavernier, FL 33070 |
| 22 | San Francisco Superior Court
851 Bryant Street
San Francisco, CA 94103 |
| 23 | Denver County Court
1437 Bannock Street, Room 108
Denver, CO 80202-5301 |
| 24 | Family Court of the State of Delaware
704 King Street, Second Floor
Wilmington, DE 19801 |

	19	20	21	22	23	24
Court has jurisdiction for civil protection orders	X	X	X		X	X
Court has specialized unit/calendar for civil protection orders	X	X	X		X	X
Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV misdemeanors		X				X
Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV felony						
Batterer compliance is monitored by:						
Compliance monitoring reports						X
Individual hearings	X					
Notice of violation only					X	
Review calendars		X	X			
Agencies that monitor compliance:						
Multiple agencies			X			X
Court staff					X	
Treatment program provider						
Judge only	X	X				
Judges are assigned exclusively to DV:						
Yes, judges are assigned exclusively to hear DV cases		X			X	
No, mixed caseload with special DV calendars	X		X	X		X
No, mixed caseload with no special DV calendar						
DV cases are screened for other related cases		X				
Court has intake unit/process		X				X
Cases handled by intake:						
Protection orders		X				X
Criminal misdemeanors						
Criminal felony						X
Custody						X
Child support		X				
Divorce						X
Services provided by intake:						
Protection order petition						X
Screen cases for other pending matters		X				
Divorce/dissolution petitions						X
Non-IV-D paternity/child support petitions						X
IV-D paternity/child support petitions						
Intake managed by:						
Court with court employees						X
Multi-agency team with court						
Multi-agency team without the court						
Outside agency with agency employees			X			
Court has conducted an evaluation of DV practices/procedures	X	X				X
Judicial DV training	X	X	X		X	X
Services provided by the court:						
Medical services						
Survivor support groups						
Substance abuse						X
Mental health	X					X
Advocates assigned to victim	X					X
Pro bono attorneys through legal aid	X					X
Immigrant services	X					
Emergency housing	X					
Vocational services						
Public assistance						
Elder assistance	X					
General community support services	X					
Children's support services						X

- 25 San Diego Superior Court**
Central Division
220 West Broadway,
Departments M-12 and M-17
San Diego, CA 92101

- 26 San Diego Superior Court**
East County Division
250 East Main Street
El Cajon, CA 92020

- 27 1st Judicial District Court**
P.O. Box 2268
Santa Fe, NM 87504

- 28 4th Judicial District Court**
665 W. Silver Street
Elko, NV 89801

- 29 Scott County District Court**
Iowa Judicial Branch
416 West 4th Street
Davenport, IA 52801

- 30 10th Judicial District Court**
P.O. Box 1067
Tucumcari, NM 88401

	25	26	27	28	29	30
Court has jurisdiction for civil protection orders	X	X	X	X	X	X
Court has specialized unit/calendar for civil protection orders	X	X	X	X	X	X
Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV misdemeanors	X	X				
Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV felony						
Batterer compliance is monitored by:						
Compliance monitoring reports			X			X
Individual hearings	X	X				
Notice of violation only						
Review calendars						
Agencies that monitor compliance:						
Multiple agencies						X
Court staff	X					
Treatment program provider			X			
Judge only			X			
Judges are assigned exclusively to DV:						
Yes, judges are assigned exclusively to hear DV cases			X			X
No, mixed caseload with special DV calendars		X		X		X
No, mixed caseload with no special DV calendar	X					
DV cases are screened for other related cases	X	X		X		X
Court has intake unit/process	X	X	X	X		X
Cases handled by intake:						
Protection orders		X	X	X		X
Criminal misdemeanors	X					
Criminal felony						
Custody		X	X			
Child support		X	X			
Divorce		X	X			
Services provided by intake:						
Protection order petition		X	X	X		X
Screen cases for other pending matters	X	X				X
Divorce/dissolution petitions		X	X			
Non-IV-D paternity/child support petitions		X	X			
IV-D paternity/child support petitions			X			
Intake managed by:						
Court with court employees	X	X	X	X		X
Multi-agency team with court						
Multi-agency team without the court						
Outside agency with agency employees						
Court has conducted an evaluation of DV practices/procedures						X
Judicial DV training	X	X	X	X	X	X
Services provided by the court:						
Medical services	X					X
Survivor support groups						X
Substance abuse				X		X
Mental health				X		X
Advocates assigned to victim	X			X		X
Pro bono attorneys through legal aid		X				X
Immigrant services	X					X
Emergency housing	X					X
Vocational services						X
Public assistance						X
Elder assistance						X
General community support services				X	X	X
Children's support services				X		X

Court ID Number	Name/Address of Court
------------------------	------------------------------

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 31 | 32nd Judicial District Court
201 W. Front St.
Medea, PA 19063 |
| 32 | Mason County District Court
P.O. Box 1490
Shelton, WA 98584 |
| 33 | 21st Circuit Court
450 East Court Street, Third Floor
Kankakee, IL 60901 |
| 34 | 18th Judicial Circuit Court
505 N. County Farm Rd., Suite 2015
Wheaton, IL 60187 |
| 35 | 20th Judicial Circuit Court
P.O. Box 831
Belleville, IL 62222-0831 |
| 36 | Sonoma County Superior Court
600 Administration Drive
Room 209-J
Santa Rosa, CA 95403 |

Court Identification Number

	31	32	33	34	35	36
Court has jurisdiction for civil protection orders	X	X	X	X	X	X
Court has specialized unit/calendar for civil protection orders	X	X	X	X	X	X
Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV misdemeanors			X	X	X	X
Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV felony			X		X	
Batterer compliance is monitored by:						
Compliance monitoring reports						
Individual hearings	X			X		X
Notice of violation only		X			X	
Review calendars			X			
Agencies that monitor compliance:						
Multiple agencies	X			X		
Court staff		X				X
Treatment program provider			X		X	
Judge only						
Judges are assigned exclusively to DV:						
Yes, judges are assigned exclusively to hear DV cases	X			X	X	X
No, mixed caseload with special DV calendars			X			
No, mixed caseload with no special DV calendar		X				
DV cases are screened for other related cases		X		X	X	
Court has intake unit/process	X	X	X			X
Cases handled by intake:						
Protection orders	X	X				
Criminal misdemeanors	X			X		X
Criminal felony	X			X		
Custody	X					
Child support	X					
Divorce	X					
Services provided by intake:						
Protection order petition	X	X	X			
Screen cases for other pending matters				X		X
Divorce/dissolution petitions						
Non-IV-D paternity/child support petitions						
IV-D paternity/child support petitions						
Intake managed by:						
Court with court employees	X	X	X			X
Multi-agency team with court						
Multi-agency team without the court						
Outside agency with agency employees						
Court has conducted an evaluation of DV practices/procedures	X	X	X			
Judicial DV training		X	X	X		X
Services provided by the court:						
Medical services						X
Survivor support groups	X					X
Substance abuse						X
Mental health						
Advocates assigned to victim	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pro bono attorneys through legal aid	X					X
Immigrant services						
Emergency housing	X		X		X	X
Vocational services						
Public assistance						
Elder assistance	X					
General community support services	X	X			X	X
Children's support services	X					X

- 37 Santa Barbara County Superior Court**
118 East Figueroa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

- 38 Riverside County Superior Court**
4100 Main Street
Riverside, CA 92501

- 39 11th Judicial District Court**
P.O. Box 849
Sanford, NC 27330

- 40 15th District Court**
101 East Huron, P.O. Box 8650
Ann Arbor, MI 48107

- 41 Henderson Municipal Court**
243 Water Street
Henderson, NV 89105

- 42 Westport Municipal**
P.O. Box 1208
Westport, WA 98595

Court has jurisdiction for civil protection orders
 Court has specialized unit/calendar for civil protection orders
 Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV misdemeanors
 Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV felony

Batterer compliance is monitored by:

Compliance monitoring reports
 Individual hearings
 Notice of violation only
 Review calendars

Agencies that monitor compliance:

Multiple agencies
 Court staff
 Treatment program provider
 Judge only

Judges are assigned exclusively to DV:

Yes, judges are assigned exclusively to hear DV cases
 No, mixed caseload with special DV calendars
 No, mixed caseload with no special DV calendar

DV cases are screened for other related cases

Court has intake unit/process

Cases handled by intake:

Protection orders
 Criminal misdemeanors
 Criminal felony
 Custody
 Child support
 Divorce

Services provided by intake:

Protection order petition
 Screen cases for other pending matters
 Divorce/dissolution petitions
 Non-IV-D paternity/child support petitions
 IV-D paternity/child support petitions

Intake managed by:

Court with court employees
 Multi-agency team with court
 Multi-agency team without the court
 Outside agency with agency employees

Court has conducted an evaluation of DV practices/procedures

Judicial DV training

Services provided by the court:

Medical services
 Survivor support groups
 Substance abuse
 Mental health
 Advocates assigned to victim
 Pro bono attorneys through legal aid
 Immigrant services
 Emergency housing
 Vocational services
 Public assistance
 Elder assistance
 General community support services
 Children's support services

- 43 13th Judicial District Court**
Brunswick County
P.O. Box 127
Bolivia, NC 28422

- 44 Grundy County Court**
111 E. Washington Street
Morris, IL 60450

- 45 6th Judicial Circuit Court**
West Pasco Judicial Center
7530 Little Road
New Port Richey, FL 34654

- 46 1st Judicial District Court**
901 N. 9th Street, Room 609
Milwaukee, WI 53233

- 47 Iowa District Court**
Linn County
P.O. Box 1468
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-1468

- 48 4th Judicial District Court**
632 Court Street
Jacksonville, NC 28540

	Court Identification Number					
	43	44	45	46	47	48
Court has jurisdiction for civil protection orders	X	X	X	X	X	X
Court has specialized unit/calendar for civil protection orders		X	X	X	X	
Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV misdemeanors	X	X		X		
Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV felony		X				
Batterer compliance is monitored by:						
Compliance monitoring reports		X		X		X
Individual hearings			X			
Notice of violation only						X
Review calendars						
Agencies that monitor compliance:						
Multiple agencies		X				X
Court staff						X
Treatment program provider			X	X		
Judge only						
Judges are assigned exclusively to DV:						
Yes, judges are assigned exclusively to hear DV cases				X		
No, mixed caseload with special DV calendars	X	X	X		X	X
No, mixed caseload with no special DV calendar						
DV cases are screened for other related cases			X	X		X
Court has intake unit/process		X	X	X		
Cases handled by intake:						
Protection orders		X		X		
Criminal misdemeanors		X	X			
Criminal felony		X				
Custody						
Child support						
Divorce						
Services provided by intake:						
Protection order petition		X	X	X		
Screen cases for other pending matters		X		X		
Divorce/dissolution petitions						
Non-IV-D paternity/child support petitions						
IV-D paternity/child support petitions						
Intake managed by:						
Court with court employees						X
Multi-agency team with court				X		
Multi-agency team without the court		X				
Outside agency with agency employees						
Court has conducted an evaluation of DV practices/procedures	X					X
Judicial DV training	X	X	X	X		X
Services provided by the court:						
Medical services						X
Survivor support groups						X
Substance abuse			X			X
Mental health			X			
Advocates assigned to victim			X			X
Pro bono attorneys through legal aid				X		X
Immigrant services						
Emergency housing			X			X
Vocational services						
Public assistance						
Elder assistance			X			
General community support services				X		X
Children's support services						X

- 49 10th Judicial District Court**
Johnson County
1255 E. 119th Street
Olathe, KS 66061

- 50 Tucson City Court**
P.O. Box 27210
Tucson, AZ 85926-7210

- 51 12th Judicial District Court**
1000 New York Ave., Room 209
Alamogordo, NM 88310

- 52 2nd Judicial District Court**
DV Division
P.O. Box 488
Albuquerque, NM 87108

- 53 Douglas County District Court**
P.O. Box 730
Bridgeport, WA 98813-0730

- 54 Clark County District Court**
P.O. Box 9806
Vancouver, WA 98666-9806

Court has jurisdiction for civil protection orders _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Court has specialized unit/calendar for civil protection orders _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV misdemeanors _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV felony _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X

Batterer compliance is monitored by:

Compliance monitoring reports _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Individual hearings _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Notice of violation only _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Review calendars _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X

Agencies that monitor compliance:

Multiple agencies _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Court staff _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Treatment program provider _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Judge only _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X

Judges are assigned exclusively to DV:

Yes, judges are assigned exclusively to hear DV cases _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 No, mixed caseload with special DV calendars _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 No, mixed caseload with no special DV calendar _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X

DV cases are screened for other related cases _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X

Court has intake unit/process _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X

Cases handled by intake:

Protection orders _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Criminal misdemeanors _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Criminal felony _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Custody _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Child support _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Divorce _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X

Services provided by intake:

Protection order petition _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Screen cases for other pending matters _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Divorce/dissolution petitions _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Non-IV-D paternity/child support petitions _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 IV-D paternity/child support petitions _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X

Intake managed by:

Court with court employees _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Multi-agency team with court _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Multi-agency team without the court _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Outside agency with agency employees _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X

Court has conducted an evaluation of DV practices/procedures _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X

Judicial DV training _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X

Services provided by the court:

Medical services _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Survivor support groups _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Substance abuse _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Mental health _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Advocates assigned to victim _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Pro bono attorneys through legal aid _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Immigrant services _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Emergency housing _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Vocational services _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Public assistance _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Elder assistance _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 General community support services _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Children's support services _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X

- 55 21st Prosecutorial District Court**
P.O. Box 20083
Winston Salem, NC 27102

- 56 McLean County Circuit Court**
411 Justice Center
104 W. Front Street
Bloomington, IL 61701

- 57 Yolo County Superior Court**
725 Court Street, Room 308
Woodland, CA 95695

- 58 Brooklyn Domestic Violence Court**
Kings County Supreme Court
360 Adams Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201

- 59 12th Judicial Circuit Court**
14 West Jefferson Street
Joliet, IL 60432

- 60 Pottawattamie County District Court**
P.O. Box 476
Council Bluffs, IA 51501-0476

	Court Identification Number					
	55	56	57	58	59	60
Court has jurisdiction for civil protection orders	X	X	X		X	X
Court has specialized unit/calendar for civil protection orders	X	X	X		X	
Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV misdemeanors	X		X		X	
Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV felony			X			
Batterer compliance is monitored by:						
Compliance monitoring reports						
Individual hearings		X	X		X	
Notice of violation only	X					
Review calendars						
Agencies that monitor compliance:						
Multiple agencies	X					
Court staff		X				
Treatment program provider						
Judge only			X		X	
Judges are assigned exclusively to DV:						
Yes, judges are assigned exclusively to hear DV cases			X	X	X	
No, mixed caseload with special DV calendars	X	X				
No, mixed caseload with no special DV calendar						X
DV cases are screened for other related cases	X	X	X	X	X	
Court has intake unit/process	X	X	X		X	X
Cases handled by intake:						
Protection orders	X	X	X		X	X
Criminal misdemeanors	X		X			
Criminal felony			X			
Custody			X			
Child support			X			
Divorce			X			
Services provided by intake:						
Protection order petition	X	X	X		X	X
Screen cases for other pending matters			X		X	
Divorce/dissolution petitions			X			
Non-IV-D paternity/child support petitions			X			
IV-D paternity/child support petitions						
Intake managed by:						
Court with court employees	X		X		X	
Multi-agency team with court						
Multi-agency team without the court						
Outside agency with agency employees		X				X
Court has conducted an evaluation of DV practices/procedures			X			X
Judicial DV training	X		X			
Services provided by the court:						
Medical services						X
Survivor support groups	X					X
Substance abuse			X			X
Mental health			X			X
Advocates assigned to victim			X			X
Pro bono attorneys through legal aid	X					X
Immigrant services						X
Emergency housing	X					X
Vocational services						X
Public assistance						X
Elder assistance						X
General community support services			X			X
Children's support services			X			X

- 61 Kitsap Superior Court**
614 Division Street
Port Orchard, WA 98366
- 62 Pierce County Superior Court**
930 Tacoma Avenue South #108
Tacoma, WA 98402
- 63 18th Judicial District Court**
525 N. Main Street
Wichita, KS 67203
- 64 Berrien County Trial Court**
Berrien County Courthouse
St. Joseph, MI 49085
- 65 Carbon County Court of Common Pleas**
P.O. Box 166
Jim Thorpe, PA 18229-0166
- 66 Phoenix Municipal Court**
400 North 7th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85006

	61	62	63	64	65	66
Court has jurisdiction for civil protection orders		X			X	X
Court has specialized unit/calendar for civil protection orders		X				X
Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV misdemeanors						
Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV felony						
Batterer compliance is monitored by:						
Compliance monitoring reports		X				
Individual hearings						X
Notice of violation only						
Review calendars						
Agencies that monitor compliance:						
Multiple agencies						
Court staff		X				
Treatment program provider						
Judge only						X
Judges are assigned exclusively to DV:						
Yes, judges are assigned exclusively to hear DV cases			X			
No, mixed caseload with special DV calendars	X	X		X		
No, mixed caseload with no special DV calendar					X	X
DV cases are screened for other related cases	X	X	X	X		X
Court has intake unit/process	X	X	X	X		
Cases handled by intake:						
Protection orders	X	X	X	X		
Criminal misdemeanors			X		X	
Criminal felony		X			X	
Custody			X			
Child support						
Divorce						
Services provided by intake:						
Protection order petition	X	X			X	
Screen cases for other pending matters		X				
Divorce/dissolution petitions		X				
Non-IV-D paternity/child support petitions			X			
IV-D paternity/child support petitions			X			
Intake managed by:						
Court with court employees		X		X		
Multi-agency team with court			X			X
Multi-agency team without the court						
Outside agency with agency employees						
Court has conducted an evaluation of DV practices/procedures					X	X
Judicial DV training		X			X	X
Services provided by the court:						
Medical services		X				X
Survivor support groups		X				X
Substance abuse			X			X
Mental health			X			X
Advocates assigned to victim		X	X			X
Pro bono attorneys through legal aid		X				X
Immigrant services			X			X
Emergency housing			X			X
Vocational services						X
Public assistance						X
Elder assistance			X			X
General community support services			X			X
Children's support services			X			X

Court ID Number Name/Address of Court

- 67 Wake County Criminal Domestic Violence Court**
P.O. Box 31
Raleigh, NC 27602

- 68 26th Judicial District Court**
700 E. Trade Street
Charlotte, NC 28202

- 69 Bainbridge Island Municipal Court**
P.O. Box 151
Rolling Bay, WA 98061

- 70 District/Superior Court**
P.O. Box 1925
Rockingham, NC 28380

- 71 Snohomish District Court**
Cascade Division
415 E. Burke Avenue
Arlington, WA 98223

- 72 5th Judicial District Court**
P. O. Box 1776
Roswell, NM 88202-1776

67 68 69 70 71 72

Court has jurisdiction for civil protection orders X X X X X X
 Court has specialized unit/calendar for civil protection orders X X X X X
 Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV misdemeanors X X X
 Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV felony X

Batterer compliance is monitored by:

Compliance monitoring reports X X
 Individual hearings X
 Notice of violation only X
 Review calendars X

Agencies that monitor compliance:

Multiple agencies X
 Court staff X
 Treatment program provider X
 Judge only X X

Judges are assigned exclusively to DV:

Yes, judges are assigned exclusively to hear DV cases
 No, mixed caseload with special DV calendars X X X X X
 No, mixed caseload with no special DV calendar X

DV cases are screened for other related cases X X X

Court has intake unit/process X X

Cases handled by intake:

Protection orders
 Criminal misdemeanors X
 Criminal felony X
 Custody
 Child support
 Divorce

Services provided by intake:

Protection order petition X X
 Screen cases for other pending matters X
 Divorce/dissolution petitions
 Non-IV-D paternity/child support petitions
 IV-D paternity/child support petitions

Intake managed by:

Court with court employees
 Multi-agency team with court X X
 Multi-agency team without the court
 Outside agency with agency employees

Court has conducted an evaluation of DV practices/procedures X X X X
 Judicial DV training X X X X X X

Services provided by the court:

Medical services X
 Survivor support groups X X X
 Substance abuse X X
 Mental health X X
 Advocates assigned to victim X X X X
 Pro bono attorneys through legal aid X X X
 Immigrant services
 Emergency housing X X X
 Vocational services X
 Public assistance X
 Elder assistance
 General community support services X
 Children's support services X

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 73 | 5th Judicial District Court / Eddy County
P. O. Box 1776
Roswell, NM 88202-1776 |
| 74 | 5th Judicial District Court/Lea County
P. O. Box 1776
Roswell, NM 88202-1776 |
| 75 | Sacramento County Superior Court
120 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814 |
| 76 | 7th Judicial Circuit Court
125 E. Orange Ave., Suite 300
Daytona Beach, FL 32114 |
| 77 | North Las Vegas Municipal Court
2240 Civic Center Drive
North Las Vegas, NV 89030 |
| 78 | Guilford County District Court
P.O. Box 3008
Greensboro, NC 27402-3008 |

	73	74	75	76	77	78
Court has jurisdiction for civil protection orders	X	X	X	X		X
Court has specialized unit/calendar for civil protection orders	X	X	X	X		X
Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV misdemeanors			X	X		
Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV felony			X			
Batterer compliance is monitored by:						
Compliance monitoring reports	X					X
Individual hearings						
Review calendars			X	X		
Agencies that monitor compliance:						
Multiple agencies					X	X
Court staff			X			
Treatment program provider				X		
Judge only	X					
Judges are assigned exclusively to DV:						
Yes, judges are assigned exclusively to hear DV cases			X			
No, mixed caseload with special DV calendars	X	X		X		X
No, mixed caseload with no special DV calendar						X
DV cases are screened for other related cases	X		X	X		X
Court has intake unit/process	X	X		X		
Cases handled by intake:						
Protection orders	X			X		
Criminal misdemeanors				X		
Criminal felony						
Custody						
Child support						
Divorce						
Services provided by intake:						
Protection order petition	X			X		
Screen cases for other pending matters	X					
Divorce/dissolution petitions						
Non-IV-D paternity/child support petitions						
IV-D paternity/child support petitions						
Intake managed by:						
Court with court employees	X					X
Multi-agency team with court				X		
Multi-agency team without the court						
Outside agency with agency employees						
Court has conducted an evaluation of DV practices/procedures						
Judicial DV training	X	X				X
Services provided by the court:						
Medical services						X
Survivor support groups						X
Substance abuse				X		X
Mental health	X					X
Advocates assigned to victim	X			X		X
Pro bono attorneys through legal aid				X		X
Immigrant services						
Emergency housing	X			X		X
Vocational services						X
Public assistance						
Elder assistance						
General community support services						
Children's support services						X

- 79 Seatac Municipal Court**
17900 International Blvd., Ste. 401
Seatac, WA 98058

- 80 Everson Municipal Court**
P.O. Box 315
Everson, WA 98247

- 81 Domestic Relations Court**
425 North Orange Ave., Rm. 320
Orlando, FL 32801

- 82 Fresno County Superior Court**
619 N Street
Sanger, CA 93657

- 83 5th Judicial District Court**
500 Mulberry Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

- 84 Snohomish County District Court**
Evergreen Division
P.O. Box 625
Monroe, WA 98272

	Court Identification Number					
	79	80	81	82	83	84
Court has jurisdiction for civil protection orders	X	X	X	X	X	X
Court has specialized unit/calendar for civil protection orders			X		X	X
Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV misdemeanors						
Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV felony						
Batterer compliance is monitored by:						
Compliance monitoring reports		X				
Individual hearings						
Notice of violation only			X			
Review calendars		X			X	X
Agencies that monitor compliance:						
Multiple agencies						X
Court staff						
Treatment program provider		X	X			
Judge only						
Judges are assigned exclusively to DV:						
Yes, judges are assigned exclusively to hear DV cases						
No, mixed caseload with special DV calendars				X	X	X
No, mixed caseload with no special DV calendar	X	X				X
DV cases are screened for other related cases	X	X	X			X
Court has intake unit/process		X	X			X
Cases handled by intake:						
Protection orders		X	X			X
Criminal misdemeanors		X				X
Criminal felony						X
Custody				X		X
Child support				X		X
Divorce				X		X
Services provided by intake:						
Protection order petition		X	X			X
Screen cases for other pending matters		X				
Divorce/dissolution petitions			X			
Non-IV-D paternity/child support petitions						
IV-D paternity/child support petitions						
Intake managed by:						
Court with court employees						X
Multi-agency team with court				X		
Multi-agency team without the court						
Outside agency with agency employees		X				
Court has conducted an evaluation of DV practices/procedures				X		
Judicial DV training	X		X			X
Services provided by the court:						
Medical services			X			X
Survivor support groups	X	X				
Substance abuse			X			
Mental health			X			
Advocates assigned to victim	X	X		X	X	X
Pro bono attorneys through legal aid						X
Immigrant services						
Emergency housing		X				X
Vocational services						X
Public assistance						
Elder assistance						
General community support services	X	X				
Children's support services			X			X

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 85 | Socorro County District Court
P.O. Drawer 1129
Socorro, NM 87801 |
| 86 | 3rd Judicial District Court
450 South State
Salt Lake City, UT 84111 |
| 87 | 7th Judicial Circuit Court
200 S. 9th Street, RM 405
Springfield, IL 62701 |
| 88 | 29th Judicial District Court
Wyandotte County
710 North 7th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101 |
| 89 | Blaine Municipal Court
344 H Street
Blaine, WA 98230 |
| 90 | 3rd Judicial District Court
669 Washington Street
Easton, PA 18042 |

		85	86	87	88	89	90
Court has jurisdiction for civil protection orders	X			X			X
Court has specialized unit/calendar for civil protection orders	X			X			X
Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV misdemeanors				X			
Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV felony							
Batterer compliance is monitored by:							
Compliance monitoring reports						X	X
Individual hearings							
Notice of violation only							
Review calendars				X			
Agencies that monitor compliance:							
Multiple agencies							
Court staff						X	X
Treatment program provider	X						
Judge only				X			
Judges are assigned exclusively to DV:							
Yes, judges are assigned exclusively to hear DV case				X	X		
No, mixed caseload with special DV calendars			X				X
No, mixed caseload with no special DV calendar		X				X	
DV cases are screened for other related cases				X	X	X	X
Court has intake unit/process	X	X	X			X	X
Cases handled by intake:							
Protection orders	X	X	X				X
Criminal misdemeanors			X	X		X	X
Criminal felony				X			X
Custody							X
Child support							
Divorce							
Services provided by intake:							
Protection order petition	X	X	X			X	X
Screen cases for other pending matters					X		X
Divorce/dissolution petitions							
Non-IV-D paternity/child support petitions							
IV-D paternity/child support petitions							
Intake managed by:							
Court with court employees	X	X				X	
Multi-agency team with court				X			
Multi-agency team without the court							X
Outside agency with agency employees							
Court has conducted an evaluation of DV practices/procedures	X			X			
Judicial DV training	X			X		X	X
Services provided by the court:							
Medical services							
Survivor support groups					X		X
Substance abuse	X				X		
Mental health							X
Advocates assigned to victim			X	X		X	X
Pro bono attorneys through legal aid			X		X		X
Immigrant services							
Emergency housing					X		X
Vocational services		X			X		
Public assistance							
Elder assistance							X
General community support services					X		X
Children's support services							X

- 91** **Everett Municipal Court**
3028 Wetmore Avenue
Everett, WA 98201-4018

- 92** **Pacific County Superior Court**
P.O. Box 67
South Bend, WA 98586

- 93** **8th Judicial District Court**
Family Division
601 N. Pecos Road, Rm. 54
Las Vegas, NV 89101-2408

- 94** **13th Judicial Circuit Court**
100 W. Lafayette Street
Ottawa, IL 61350

- 95** **Second Judicial Circuit Court**
P.O. Box 726
Tallahassee, FL 32302

- 96** **10th Judicial District Court**
P.O. Box 31
Raleigh, NC 27602

	Court Identification Number					
	91	92	93	94	95	96
Court has jurisdiction for civil protection orders			X	X	X	
Court has specialized unit/calendar for civil protection orders			X			
Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV misdemeanors				X		
Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV felony						
Batterer compliance is monitored by:						
Compliance monitoring reports						
Individual hearings		X		X		
Notice of violation only						X
Review calendars						
Agencies that monitor compliance:						
Multiple agencies				X	X	
Court staff		X				
Treatment program provider						
Judge only						
Judges are assigned exclusively to DV:						
Yes, judges are assigned exclusively to hear DV cases			X			
No, mixed caseload with special DV calendars				X	X	X
No, mixed caseload with no special DV calendar		X	X			
DV cases are screened for other related cases		X		X	X	X
Court has intake unit/process		X		X		X
Cases handled by intake:						
Protection orders			X		X	
Criminal misdemeanors		X				X
Criminal felony						X
Custody						
Child support						
Divorce						
Services provided by intake:						
Protection order petition			X		X	X
Screen cases for other pending matters		X		X		X
Divorce/dissolution petitions						
Non-IV-D paternity/child support petitions						
IV-D paternity/child support petitions						
Intake managed by:						
Court with court employees			X			X
Multi-agency team with court					X	
Multi-agency team without the court						
Outside agency with agency employees		X				
Court has conducted an evaluation of DV practices/procedures						
Judicial DV training		X		X	X	
Services provided by the court:						
Medical services			X			
Survivor support groups			X	X	X	X
Substance abuse			X			
Mental health			X			
Advocates assigned to victim		X				X
Pro bono attorneys through legal aid			X	X	X	
Immigrant services			X			
Emergency housing			X			X
Vocational services			X			
Public assistance			X			
Elder assistance			X			
General community support services			X			
Children's support services			X			

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 97 | 6th Judicial District Court
P.O. Box 608
Lordsburg, NM 88045 |
| 98 | Lake Forest Park Municipal Court
17711 Ballinger Way NE
Lake Forest Park, WA 98155 |
| 99 | Dallas County Criminal Court
133 N. Industrial Blvd.
2nd Floor, LB 3
Dallas, TX 75207 |
| 100 | 8th Judicial Circuit Court
Alachua County Courthouse
201 E. University Ave., Suite 400
Gainesville, FL 32601 |

Court has jurisdiction for civil protection orders _____ X _____ X
 Court has specialized unit/calendar for civil protection orders _____ X _____ X
 Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV misdemeanors _____ _____ _____ _____
 Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV felony _____ _____ _____ _____

Batterer compliance is monitored by:

Compliance monitoring reports _____ X _____
 Individual hearings _____ _____ _____
 Notice of violation only _____ _____ X _____
 Review calendars _____ _____ _____ _____

Agencies that monitor compliance:

Multiple agencies _____ X _____
 Court staff _____ _____ _____
 Treatment program provider _____ _____ _____
 Judge only _____ _____ _____ _____

Judges are assigned exclusively to DV:

Yes, judges are assigned exclusively to hear DV cases _____ X _____ X _____ X
 No, mixed caseload with special DV calendars _____ _____ X _____ X
 No, mixed caseload with no special DV calendar _____ _____ _____ _____

DV cases are screened for other related cases _____ X _____ X _____ X

Court has intake unit/process _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X

Cases handled by intake:
 Protection orders _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Criminal misdemeanors _____ _____ X _____ X
 Criminal felony _____ _____ X _____ X
 Custody _____ _____ _____ _____
 Child support _____ _____ _____ _____
 Divorce _____ _____ _____ _____

Services provided by intake:

Protection order petition _____ X _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Screen cases for other pending matters _____ _____ X _____ X
 Divorce/dissolution petitions _____ _____ _____ _____
 Non-IV-D paternity/child support petitions _____ _____ _____ _____
 IV-D paternity/child support petitions _____ _____ _____ _____

Intake managed by:

Court with court employees _____ _____ _____ X
 Multi-agency team with court _____ _____ X _____
 Multi-agency team without the court _____ _____ _____ _____
 Outside agency with agency employees _____ _____ _____ X

Court has conducted an evaluation of DV practices/procedures _____ _____ _____ X

Judicial DV training _____ _____ _____ X _____ X

Services provided by the court:

Medical services _____ _____ X
 Survivor support groups _____ _____ X _____ X
 Substance abuse _____ _____ X _____ X
 Mental health _____ _____ X _____ X
 Advocates assigned to victim _____ _____ X _____ X _____ X
 Pro bono attorneys through legal aid _____ _____ _____ X
 Immigrant services _____ _____ _____ X
 Emergency housing _____ _____ X _____ X
 Vocational services _____ _____ X _____ X
 Public assistance _____ _____ X _____ X
 Elder assistance _____ _____ _____ X
 General community support services _____ _____ X _____ X
 Children's support services _____ _____ X _____ X

Court ID Number Name/Address of Court

102 Connecticut Superior Court
Judicial District Courthouse
1061 Main Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

103 Yakima County Superior Court
128 N. 2nd Street, #323
Yakima, WA 98901

	102	103
--	-----	-----

Court has jurisdiction for civil protection orders _____ X
 Court has specialized unit/calendar for civil protection orders _____ X
 Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV misdemeanors _____ X
 Court has specialized unit/calendar for DV felony _____ X

Batterer compliance is monitored by:
 Compliance monitoring reports _____
 Individual hearings _____
 Notice of violation only _____
 Review calendars _____ X

Agencies that monitor compliance
 Multiple agencies _____ X
 Court staff _____
 Treatment program provider _____
 Judge only _____

Judges are assigned exclusively to DV
 Yes, judges are assigned exclusively to hear DV cases _____
 No, mixed caseload with special DV calendars _____ X _____ X
 No, mixed caseload with no special DV calendar _____

DV cases are screened for other related cases _____ X _____ X

Court has intake unit/process _____ X
 Cases handled by intake:
 Protection orders _____
 Criminal misdemeanors _____ X
 Criminal felony _____ X
 Custody _____
 Child support _____
 Divorce _____

Services provided by intake:
 Protection order petition _____
 Screen cases for other pending matters _____
 Divorce/dissolution petitions _____
 Non-IV-D paternity/child support petitions _____
 IV-D paternity/child support petitions _____

Intake managed by:
 Court with court employees _____ X
 Multi-agency team with court _____
 Multi-agency team without the court _____
 Outside agency with agency employees _____

Court has conducted an evaluation of DV practices/procedures
 Judicial DV training _____

Services provided by the court:
 Medical services _____ X
 Survivor support groups _____ X
 Substance abuse _____ X
 Mental health _____ X
 Advocates assigned to victim _____ X _____ X
 Pro bono attorneys through legal aid _____ X _____ X
 Immigrant services _____ X
 Emergency housing _____ X
 Vocational services _____ X
 Public assistance _____ X
 Elder assistance _____ X
 General community support services _____ X
 Children's support services _____ X

Appendix 2

Survey

Domestic Violence Courts:
Jurisdiction, Organization,
Performance Goals,
and Measures

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURTS: JURISDICTION, ORGANIZATION,
PERFORMANCE GOALS, AND MEASURES**



Contact Name: _____
Title: _____
Court: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Chief/Presiding Judge: _____

- Please try to complete all applicable questions in this survey.
- If you are not the person most able to complete the survey, please pass it on to the person who is.
- If you feel that the response options for a particular question do not adequately or fully characterize your court organization, processes, or services, feel free to include explanatory notes or comments.
- If you have difficulty understanding a question, skip it and we will call to clarify the item with you after you return the survey.
- If you have any questions about the survey or would like more information about the project, please call Hillery Efken (703) 841-0200.
- Please complete the enclosed survey and fax or mail it to the NCSC by **April 30, 1999**.

Susan Kellitz
National Center for State Courts
300 Newport Avenue
Williamsburg, VA 23185
FAX: (757) 220-0449

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURTS: JURISDICTION, ORGANIZATION,
PERFORMANCE GOALS, AND MEASURES**



DESIGNATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASE TYPES

1. In the table below, please check the boxes in Column A for all case types designated as a domestic violence case by your court. Then, for each case type checked in Column A, please check in Columns B – D whether:
 - B. All of the cases for the designated case type typically are assigned exclusively to a specialized division/calendar
 - C. Some of the cases for the designated case type typically are assigned to a specialized division/calendar
 - D. None of the cases for the designated case type typically are assigned to a specialized division/calendar

<i>Possible Domestic Violence Case types:</i>	A. Case types identified as domestic violence	B. All of the cases for the identified cases type are assigned exclusively to a specialized division/calendar	C. Some of the cases for the identified case type are assigned to a specialized division/calendar	D. None of the cases for the identified case type are assigned to a specialized division/calendar
Civil Protection Order Cases [petitioner has children]				
Civil Protection Order Cases [petitioner has no children]				
Domestic Violence Misdemeanors				
Domestic Violence Felonies				
Delinquency [where D.V. offender is a minor]				
Child Abuse & Neglect Cases [with related CPO or DV criminal case]				
Divorce [with related CPO or DV criminal case]				
Custody and Visitation [with related CPO or DV criminal case]				
Paternity and Child Support [with related CPO or DV criminal case]				
Other <i>(please specify)</i>				

2. What does your jurisdiction seek to achieve in establishing specialized procedures for processing and/or adjudicating domestic violence cases? *(Please circle all that apply)*

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Improved case management | 5. Increased accountability of defendants/respondents |
| 2. More efficient use of resources | 6. Better court security |
| 3. Increased victim safety | 7. Increased visibility of domestic violence as a significant social problem |
| 4. Better assistance to victims | 8. Other (specify): _____ |

JUDICIAL RESOURCES

3. Do the judges or other judicial officers (hearing officers/commissioners/magistrates) assigned to hear domestic violence cases hear them exclusively? *(Please circle the number of the appropriate response)*

1. Yes, judges are assigned exclusively to hear domestic violence cases
 Number of judges: _____
2. No, judges have a mixed caseload but also are assigned to a special domestic violence calendar
3. No, judges have a mixed caseload and there is no special domestic violence calendar

CASE SCREENING

4. Does any department of the court or clerk's office screen for related cases (current or past) upon filing of a case involving domestic violence (e.g., screen for criminal offenses when a protection order petition is filed)? *(Please circle the number of the appropriate response)*

0. No *(please go to Question 7)* 1. Yes

5. If yes, please check the casetypes screened in the table below.

Type of Case Filed:	Court screens for the following related cases:							
	Protection Order	Criminal (Domestic Violence)	Other Criminal	Child Abuse & Neglect (Dependency)	Custody	Child support	Divorce	Other (specify)
Protection Order								
Criminal Misdemeanor								
Criminal Felony								
Child Abuse & Neglect (Dependency)								
Custody								
Child Support								
Divorce								
Other family matters <i>(please specify)</i>								

6. What is the purpose of case screening?

- 1. Linking/coordinating cases for case processing
- 2. Informing bail decisions
- 3. Informing sentencing decisions
- 4. Informing development of civil protection orders
- 5. Informing development of safety protection plans
- 6. Other (please specify): _____

INTAKE AND COORDINATION

7. Does your court have a unit or process that assists with the intake or coordination of all or part of the domestic violence caseload? (Note, this does not include an outside agency that performs intake for its own agency and is not connected to the court's case processing). (Please circle the number of the appropriate response)

- 0. No (please go to Question 13)
- 1. Yes

8. Which cases does the intake unit or process handle? (Please circle all that apply)

- 1. Protection Orders
- 2. Criminal Misdemeanor
- 3. Criminal Felony
- 4. Custody
- 5. Child Support
- 6. Divorce
- 7. Other family matters (please specify) _____

9. Who manages your intake unit or process? (Please circle the number of the appropriate response)

- 1. Managed directly by the court with court employees
- 2. Managed by an outside agency with agency employees
(Please specify agency) _____
- 3. Managed by a multi-agency team that includes the court
- 4. Managed by a multi-agency team that does not include the court

10. Is intake staff assigned exclusively to the intake function? (Please circle the number of the appropriate response)

- 0. No
- 1. Yes

11. If yes, how many staff are assigned to intake? _____

12. What services are provided/functions performed by the intake unit or as part of the intake process? (Please circle all that apply)

- 1. Assisting petitioners/victims with protection order petitions
- 2. Assisting petitioner with paternity/child support petitions for Title IV-D petitions
- 3. Assisting petitioner with paternity/child support petitions for non-Title IV-D petitions
- 4. Assisting petitioner with dissolution/divorce petitions
- 5. Screening cases for other pending matters
- 6. Making referrals to other court divisions
- 7. Making referrals to outside service agencies
- 8. Coordinating service provision to petitioners/victims
- 9. Other (please specify): _____

SERVICE REFERRAL AND DELIVERY

13. Does the court assist with or link the victim/protection order petitioner to service referrals or service provision? *(Please circle the number of the appropriate response)*

0. No *(please go to Question 15)* 1. Yes

14. If yes, which services are included in this activity? *(Circle all that apply)*

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Advocates assigned to victim | 9. Elder assistance |
| 2. Pro bono attorneys through legal aid | 10. Substance abuse |
| 3. Emergency housing | 11. Mental health |
| 4. Medical services | 12. General community support service |
| 5. Linked with services for immigrants | 13. Children's services |
| 6. Survivor (victim) support groups | 14. Other <i>(please specify)</i> |
| 7. Vocational services and counseling | _____ |
| 8. Public assistance | |

BATTERERS' INTERVENTION PROGRAMS AND COMPLIANCE

15. Does the court regularly order batterers to participate in a batterer intervention program? *(Please circle the number of the appropriate response)*

0. No *(please go to Question 19)* 1. Yes

16. If yes, by what authority and in which types of domestic violence cases are batterers' intervention programs ordered? *(Circle all that apply)*

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. By statute in criminal misdemeanors | 5. By statute in criminal felonies |
| 2. By practice in criminal misdemeanors | 6. By practice in criminal felonies |
| 3. By statute in protection orders | 7. Other <i>(please specify)</i> |
| 4. By practice in protection orders | _____ |

17. In cases where batterer intervention is required, what agency or court staff monitors compliance with orders? *(Check all that apply)*

<i>Agency Monitoring Compliance:</i>	<i>Case types where treatment required:</i>		
	<i>Misdemeanors</i>	<i>Felonies</i>	<i>Protection Orders</i>
Court probation			
Local non-court probation agency			
State non-court probation agency			
Community-based domestic violence program			
Batterer intervention program			
Court administrative office staff			
Court clerk staff			
Judge			
Other			
N/A			

18. For cases where treatment is ordered, does the court have a regularly scheduled judicial review calendar to monitor treatment progress? *(Please circle the number of the appropriate response)*
0. No 1. Yes

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

19. Does the court have an automated information system in place to: *(Please circle the number of the appropriate response)*

- | | | |
|---|---|--------|
| (a) facilitate identification of related cases? | 0. No | 1. Yes |
| (b) facilitate case tracking | 0. No <i>(please go to Question 21)</i> | 1. Yes |

20. Which outside agencies, if any, also have access to the system(s)? *(Circle all that apply)*

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. No other agencies have access | 5. Corrections |
| 2. Police | 6. Victim Advocacy Organizations |
| 3. Prosecution | 7. Social Service Agencies |
| 4. Probation | 8. Other <i>(please specify)</i> |

21. Which outside agency systems, if any, can the court access? *(Circle all that apply)*

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. No agency systems are accessed by the court | 5. Corrections |
| 2. Police | 6. Victim Advocacy Organizations |
| 3. Prosecution | 7. Social Service Agencies |
| 4. Probation | 8. Other <i>(please specify)</i> |
-

FUNDING

22. What federal funding, if any, is your jurisdiction receiving to assist with the operation and/or evaluation of your specialized procedures for processing and/or adjudicating domestic violence cases? *(Circle all that apply)*

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. No federal funding | 4. VOCA funds |
| 2. Grants to encourage arrest policies | 5. Other <i>(please specify)</i> |
| 3. VAWA STOP grant funds | |
-

OTHER SPECIALIZED PROCESSES

23. Please briefly describe any unique features or procedures of your court for processing domestic violence cases that are not covered by this survey.



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Center for
State Courts



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