

The Ready Resource

*Providing Up-To-Date Trainings and Resources for
Judicial Officers*

Welcome to the second issue of The Ready Resource, designed to provide up-to-date information focused on trends and practices as courts work to improve responses to intimate partner violence cases.

Latest News from NCJFCJ

There Can Be No Justice Without Compassion

A message from the NCJFCJ President of the Board Directors and CEO

People around the world demand justice for George Floyd and the countless victims of violence and brutality. There can be no justice without compassion, and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) express our sincere condolences to the families who have suffered an unimaginable loss. We acknowledge and understand that the time for transformational and peaceful change is now. The NCJFCJ stands determined, committed, and able to play a central role in positive systematic reform efforts to accomplish these goals.

[Read the Full Message](#)

COVID-19 Responses

We recognize this is a stressful and overwhelming time for court staff and judicial officers. We offer our support and gratitude for the tremendous effort undertaken by judicial leaders to create thoughtful, safe system responses to meet the needs of those seeking relief and intervention from the courts in intimate partner violence cases.

Message from The Honorable Karen Aileen Howze (Ret.)

NCJFCJ Judge-In-Residence

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) offers you opportunities to explore and share your strategies to address and meet the access to justice issues that have arisen during the COVID-19 crisis. The NCJFCJ's mission has been to provide whatever support you and your court staff may need through these unprecedented times, providing space for your voices, your experiences, and your progress in creating new ways to service the public. Over the past few months, your connections to judicial officers across the nation have provided consistent opportunities to explore and share the successes and challenges of virtual hearings to ensure due process, respect, and fair access to litigants. Your conversations over the past few months also touched on the importance of judicial leadership as your courts move into the next phase of jurisdictional responses to reopening your court operations and addressing new challenges that are arising. At the same time, you have engaged in discussions about the best platforms to create meaningful virtual hearings and the importance of self-care for judicial officers and court staff. You are each leading through the challenges of ensuring compliance with the rule of law and court procedures during partial or complete court shutdowns. Finally, you have been exploring your roles in providing access to justice in these unprecedented times. Your connections to judicial officers throughout the nation have provided opportunities to begin defining new approaches to judicial leadership in your communities. Indeed, these will continue to be often stressful and frequently overwhelming times as your courts navigate the personal, jurisdictional and community uncertainties created by the ever-changing realities of the COVID-19 world in which we now live.

The Ready Resource will be an additional tool to support your leadership through the next phases of the pandemic and beyond.

NCJFCJ's COVID-19 Resources and Updates

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) continues to [update resources related to COVID-19](#) and posts updated information as it is made available.

The [NCJFCJ has released a statement](#) regarding Safe Courts and Access to Justice During COVID-19.

[TA2TA Webpage of Resources and Information on COVID-19 Responses](#)

This webpage, developed by NCJFCJ's TA2TA: The TA Provider Resource Center, contains and consolidates the COVID-19 specific resources, events, and webpages developed by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women's (OVW) Training and Technical Assistance Initiative. Resources and information are categorized by profession, which includes a category-specific to judges, and by topic.

Technical Assistance to Judicial Officers and Courts

The NCJFCJ staff are available to assist with customizing training curricula, providing information and resources on specific topics, and offering connections among courts and judicial officers working to improve responses to intimate partner violence. Please contact Jennifer Arsenian for more information at jarsenian@ncjfcj.org or visit the NCJFCJ website at <https://www.ncjfcj.org/family-violence-and-domestic-relations/>.

[New Webpage to Support Judicial Officers](#)

A new webpage was launched on the NCJFCJ's website: Comprehensive Training and Technical Assistance to Judges, which provides information on the latest in-person, virtual, and remote technical assistance (TA) and judicial education opportunities and resources available from the program. Issues of The Ready Resource are also available on this webpage.

National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence (NJIDV)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the EJS workshop scheduled for 2020 has been canceled. Please visit this page or the NJIDV.org page for updates on 2021 judicial institute workshop opportunities. We look forward to future EJS sessions!

Webinars

Recorded Webinars

[Civil Protection Orders and Remote Hearings: A Panel Discussion](#)

This webinar focuses on how five different jurisdictions have used methods such as telephonic and video conferencing to hold hearings for the issuance of and compliance with civil protection orders in the face of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The panelists include:

- Chief Magistrate Judge Berryl Anderson, DeKalb Magistrate Court, Decatur, Georgia
- Administrative Judge Carroll Kelly, Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, Miami, Florida
- Chief Unified Family Court Judge Janet Helson, King County Superior Court, Seattle, Washington
- Stacey Marz, Administrative Director, Alaska Court System
- Amy Hernandez, Domestic Violence Program Coordinator & Justice Court Program Coordinator, Utah Administrative Office of the Courts

[View Webinar Recording](#)

[Utilizing Technology for Remote Hearings During the Pandemic](#)

This interactive webinar will assist courts in understanding the use of Zoom for conducting remote hearings from a judicial perspective. Judicial presenters will offer insight on considerations from the bench and the changes that were implemented to adapt in-person hearings to a virtual environment. Presenters will offer their own personal perspectives from both a level of comfort with technology and one of apprehension. Participants will learn how forms and processes have changed to accommodate remote hearings and how stakeholders participated in the development of these changes.

Faculty:

- Judge Darlene Byrne, Travis County, Texas
- Judge Aurora Martinez Jones, Travis County, Texas

[View Webinar Recording](#)

[Court Responses to Domestic Violence Cases During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Panel Discussion](#)

This discussion will focus on how four court systems are developing responses to domestic violence cases during the COVID-19 pandemic. Topics will include remote responses, building community collaborations, and promoting access.

Presenters:

- Hon. Berryl Anderson, Chief Judge, Magistrate Court, DeKalb County, GA
- Hon. H. Lee Chitwood, Judge, Pulaski County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, VA
- Hon. Carroll Kelly, Administrative Judge, Domestic Violence Division, 11th Judicial Circuit, Miami-Dade County, FL
- Hon. Marshall Murray, Presiding Judge, Probate Court, Milwaukee County, WI

[View Webinar Recording](#)

To view webinars on domestic violence, including firearms, stalking, and immigrant survivors: <https://njidv.org/resources.html>

To view webinars on access to justice, animal cruelty, civil protection orders, and more: <https://www.ncjfcj.org/webinars/>

Other Resources from NCJFCJ

[Judicial Engagement Network \(JEN\)](#)

JEN is a national community of engaged judges and judicial officers leading efforts to improve community responses and judicial and court practices to domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This is a project for judges, by judges, which the NCJFCJ supports through the provision of technical assistance, tools, and training. The JEN offers virtual forums and conferencing for remote discussions. See the [JEN flyer](#) for more information or contact Jennifer Arsenian at jarsenian@ncjfcj.org.

JEN: A Network for Judges by Judges – Join JEN Today!

[Civil Protection Orders](#)

NCJFCJ offers technical assistance to courts, judges, and other professionals (civil attorneys, law enforcement, advocates) to address challenges and emerging needs identified by those involved in the issuance, service, and enforcement of protection orders. NCJFCJ's technical assistance, training, and resource development offer courts and communities the opportunity to enhance their ability to safeguard victims of domestic violence, provide for children's safety and well-being through the use of child-related relief in civil protection orders, and hold abusers accountable. For more information and to request TA, please visit the [Civil Protection Order project website](#).

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For more information or to request technical assistance please contact us at info@njidv.org

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