

April 2021

The Ready Resource

*Providing Up-To-Date Information and Resources to
Improve Judicial Response to Intimate Partner Violence*

Understanding the Context of Domestic Violence: Identifying and Addressing Coercive Control

By Darren Mitchell, JD (Consultant, NCJFCJ)

Understanding the context of domestic violence

Judicial officers hearing cases involving domestic violence encounter tremendous challenges in making fair and effective decisions, whether they preside over criminal or civil dockets. Because domestic violence typically is patterned and part of a dynamic course of conduct over time, judicial officers cannot simply assess a single incident or snapshot in time. Instead, effective decision-making that holds abusers accountable and provides for the safety of victims and children demands a careful analysis of what we refer to as the **context** of the abuse: the abuser's intent or purpose for the abusive acts, the meaning of those acts to the victim, and the effect of the abuse on the victim (and children). Only by assessing all three of these components can a judicial officer fully understand the context of domestic violence in a case and tailor a response that accounts for it. As an example, if an abuser threatens a victim that if she leaves him "you will never see the kids again," a contextual analysis could look like this...

[Click here to read the entire article!](#)

Judicial Decision Making: When and Why to Consider Supervised Visitation in Situations where Controlling and Abusive Behavior is Present

By Hon. Victor Reyes (Ret.), District Judge, Colorado

Judges in family law cases face the task of making life-altering decisions on a daily basis. These decisions have far-reaching implications when there has been, or continues to be, controlling or abusive behavior in a relationship. Family courts and the law have traditionally placed an emphasis on maintaining the parent-child relationship intact and unencumbered. However, as courts and legislatures recognize the lifelong effects of domestic violence; there has been an emphasis on balancing a domestic violence perpetrator's right to parent with the physical and emotional safety of a child or at-risk parent. Supervised visitation is one remedy that courts have relied upon to reach this parenting/safety balance...

[Click here to read the entire article!](#)

Break from the Bench Series



NCJFCJ'S LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) is hosting Break from the Bench: A Lunch and Learn Series each month in 2021. These panel discussions are on a wide range of topics. Expert faculty provide information for judges and courts on strategies for improving responses to intimate partner violence.

Upcoming Session:

April 27, 2021 | 12:00 p.m. PT | 1:00 p.m. MT | 2:00 p.m. CT | 3:00 p.m. ET

Responding to Immigrant Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence

Register for Break from the Bench Series!

Past Session Recordings and Resources:

Break from the Bench recordings are posted to the [NCJFCJ website](#).

January 2021 Session: [Recognizing Context and Coercive Controlling Abuse in Intimate Partner Violence](#)

Additional Resources

- [National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence](#)
- [Integrating Domestic Violence into Custody Evaluation Analysis and Reports](#)
- [Coercive Control during COVID-19: New Tactics](#)
- [Parenting in the Context of Coercive Control](#)

February 2021 Session: [Considerations When Ordering Supervised Visitation in Domestic Violence Cases](#)

Additional Resources

- [Inspire Action for Social Change](#)
- [Navigating Custody and Visitation Evaluations in Cases with Domestic Violence: A Judge's Guide](#)
- [Family Court Enhancement Project](#)
- [Child-Related Relief in the Context of Civil Protection Orders Webinar](#)

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.

Webpage Available to Support Judicial Officers

Check out the [Comprehensive Training and Technical Assistance to Judge's webpage](#), which provides information on the latest in-person, virtual, and remote technical assistance (TA) and judicial education opportunities and resources.

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

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