



DV AWARE: Helping Courts Implement Protocols for DV Analysis, Warning, Action, Recovery, and Engagement

What is DV AWARE?

The [DV AWARE Project](#) is a partnership between NCJFCJ and the State Justice Institute, which aims to improve juvenile and family courts' ability to:

- anticipate dangerous incidents associated with domestic violence,
- respond in a manner that mitigates these tragedies, and
- recover from violence in their courts with trauma-informed, healing strategies for the court and community.

Experts in security, threat assessment and management, court administration, domestic violence advocacy, and juvenile and family court practices informed the project and the development of multiple unique resources, including:

- The DV AWARE Guiding Principles,
- The DV AWARE Blueprint for Leadership,
- The DV AWARE Toolkit, a web-based resource structured around the elements of Analysis, Warning, Action, Recovery and Engagement (AWARE).

For more information, please visit the [DV AWARE](#) website, email our team at contactus@ncjfcj.org, or call 775-507-4777.

Why Do we Need DV AWARE?

Perpetrators of domestic violence threaten the safety and well-being not only of their intimate partners and children, but also their communities. In a recent [report](#) by the United States Secret Service, NTAC, 35% of attackers had committed prior acts of domestic violence. Other [studies](#) have also found a link between mass shootings and domestic violence.

For many who commit domestic violence, their tactics escalate as they perceive a loss of power and control. This presents not only an alarming risk to victims, but to the

courts that interact with both victims and perpetrators in divorce, child support, visitation, custody disputes, or in response to child abuse and neglect cases. In a [study](#) looking at courthouse violence for the span of a century (1907-2007), domestic violence was the motive in one-third of courthouse shootings.

DV AWARE Resources

[The DV AWARE Guiding Principles.](#)

DV AWARE's Guiding Principles were developed by national experts, and set forth principles for collaborative, inclusive, strategic, and informed systems improvement, risk assessment, risk reduction, safety and response.

[The DV AWARE Blueprint for Leadership.](#)

DV AWARE's Blueprint provides a guide for creating and sustaining multidisciplinary leadership teams, introduces DV AWARE principles and protocols in a local jurisdiction, and addresses collaboration, team-building, systems change, and sustainability.

[The DV AWARE Toolkit.](#) The DV AWARE web-based Toolkit was developed as a resource for judicial officers, court managers, court security, and others to improve strategies in courtroom safety for families and staff in cases of domestic violence. It includes curated resources for courts specific to the needs of multidisciplinary leadership

teams and is organized around DV AWARE's pillars of Analysis, Warning, Action, Recovery, and Engagement. The DV AWARE Toolkit includes information on [Judicial Safety and Security Resources](#) and provides links to state-specific resources, risk and threat assessments, community readiness and evaluation resources, victim assistance, and trauma-responsive practice resources.

[The DV AWARE Curriculum.](#) With guidance from topical experts, NCJFCJ developed the DV AWARE Curriculum to enhance the capacity of courts stakeholders to critically analyze the risks posed to their staff, community, and the administration of justice by domestic violence perpetrators. The Curriculum encourages structured learning about the risks of domestic violence perpetrators to their families and communities, mitigation of these risks, and elements of recovery that support confidentiality, healing, safety, and community.



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