

# The Connecticut General Assembly



## Domestic Violence Criminal Justice Response and Enhancement Advisory Council Arrest Warrants & Orders of Protection: Compliance, Enforcement & Outcomes Subcommittee

MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, September 18, 2024  
11:00 AM LOB Room 1 E

MEMBERS PRESENT: Attorney Phyllis DiCara, Joe DiTunno, Honorable Kevin C. Doyle, Attorney Gail Hardy, Merit Lajoie, Capt. Heather LaRock, Rep. Tammy Nuccio, Andrea O'Connor, GERALYN O'NEIL-WILD, Marc Pelka, Chief Robert Rosado

- I. CALL TO ORDER  
Chairwoman Gail Hardy called the meeting to order at 11:07 am.
- II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS  
Welcoming remarks and members introduced themselves.
- III. MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL  
Merit LaJoie made a motion to accept the August meeting minutes, second Phyllis DiCara. There were no additions or corrections. All in favor.
- IV. DISCUSSION REGARDING LAW ENFORCEMENT CONDITIONS OF RELEASE, COLLECT FILE 20 AND FAILURE TO APPEAR (FTA)  
Discussion did not take place as invited guests were unable to attend. Discussion tabled for a possible future meeting.
- V. DISCUSSION RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADVISORY COUNCIL  
Chairwoman Gail Hardy reviewed the charge of the subcommittee is to focus on family violence arrest procedures, prosecution penalties, violations of family violence orders of protection both criminal and civil, and firearm surrender monitoring and compliance. The subcommittee is then tasked with reporting back to the larger Council with any recommendations legislative or otherwise which would be included in a report to the Legislature in January 2025.

Prior meeting presentations which included: law enforcement response to a family violence call, arrest warrant process, follow-up and execution, how orders are enforced,

## The Connecticut General Assembly

firearm seizure at the scene and monitoring compliance after an arrest and order of protection.

Discussed first subcommittee meeting discussion regarding a victim safety issue that came out of Stamford, GA 1 and the confidentiality of a victim's address on a protective order and balancing a victim's concern for safety, confidentiality and privacy and what does and does not need to be entered in the protective order registry for the court or law enforcement. Discussed how this process is handled differently in each GA court location and that there needs to be a uniform process. Discussion included the fact that the Judicial Branch met to discuss the form available for a similar purpose in family court and it is currently being reviewed by the Judicial legal department. Merit LaJoie made a motion that the subcommittee recommend that a uniform process and a form be developed or modified for criminal court to allow a victim's address to remain confidential and not be included on a criminal protective order. Second Chief Robert Rosado.

Discussed presentation on law enforcement response to a family violence call, what occurs when guns are on site, arrest vs. arrest by warrant and the process. The previous discussion at the presentation included how arrest warrants are presented to the prosecutor's office – walked in, dropped off, does law enforcement wait for response, is there a period of time that prosecutors are expected to review and what does that process look like? Discussion included that the process varies from Judicial District to Judicial District (JD). Chairwoman Hardy discussed that each JD has developed some sort of policy for domestic violence arrest warrants and how they are to be addressed. Process may also vary depending on if there is a dedicated domestic violence prosecutor in the court. If there is not a dedicated prosecutor, the warrants may be divided among the prosecutors to review. Domestic violence warrants should be considered a high priority, reviewed immediately and law enforcement notified of outcome including if more information is needed.

Discussed victim requests for modifications of protective orders and the lack of a uniform process across the State with some courts providing a process for a victim to file a motion to modify or referring the victim to the family violence victim advocate and some requiring the modification requests to come through the defense council, prosecutors' office, or family relations. Discussion included suggestions for obtaining more information on a local level as to how each court handles victim requests for modification. Chairwoman Hardy reported the topic is on the agenda for the October domestic violence roundtable meeting with prosecutors, family relations and family violence victim advocates. CCADV's director of criminal legal advocacy Shauna Harrington present at the meeting shared after querying family violence victim advocates recently most courts refer the victim to the family violence victim advocate who then provides input to the State. At the time of the survey there were three courts where victims are allowed to file a motion to modify – New Haven, Danbury and New Britain. New Britain has now gone back to the family violence victim advocates submitting input to the State. It was agreed to continue the conversation regarding modifications.

Chairwoman Gail Hardy reminded members that the subcommittee previously discussed that it would be helpful to bring Darren Mitchell with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges to come back and work with the subcommittee reviewing Connecticut's current policies and procedures related to orders of protection and firearm

# The Connecticut General Assembly

surrender, seizure, compliance monitoring and where there could be opportunities to enhance the current systems responses.

Representative Nuccio raised the issues of repeat offenders and violations of protective orders and dedicated domestic violence dockets. Another topic mentioned was orders of protection, firearms and victim notification of compliance and lastly the arrest warrant process and timeline for the State and law enforcement.

## VI. UPDATES AND OTHER BUSINESS

## VII. UPCOMING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

- NOVEMBER 20

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Merit LaJoie made a motion to adjourn and Joe DiTunno second.  
Meeting adjourned 12:37 pm.