

Task Force to Study the Statewide Response to Minors Exposed to Domestic Violence

Presentation of the Judicial Branch

October 27, 2015

Topics to discuss

- Domestic Violence Training for Connecticut Judges – *Judge Barbara Bellis*
- Criminal Protective Orders – *Judge Robert Devlin*
- Family Restraining Orders – *Judge Elizabeth Bozzuto*
- Civil Orders of Protection – *Judge Barbara Bellis*
- Judicial Branch Recommendation – *Judge Bozzuto*

Domestic Violence Training

Presented by Judge Barbara Bellis

- Understanding victim and offender behavior
- Unique dynamics of domestic violence
- Characteristics of domestic violence
- Children as hidden victims
- Techniques to use so that the victim is not blamed
- Review of relevant laws
- Role playing in the issuance of orders

Domestic Violence Training

Presented by Judge Barbara Bellis

- CT's recognition of serious nature of domestic violence *crimes* (criminal division)
 - Mandatory arrests
 - Risk assessments and lethality factors
 - Addressing substance and mental health issues
 - Emphasis on the court reviewing materials
 - Addressing accountability
 - Judicial monitoring

Criminal Protective Orders

Judge Robert Devlin

- Process to impose a criminal protective order
- Risk assessments done of criminal defendants charged with domestic violence offenses
- Information provided to criminal judges
- Assistance provided to victim and defendant
- Kinds of restrictions that may be imposed
- Duration of order

Family Restraining Orders (46b-15)

Judge Elizabeth Bozzuto

- Eligibility to apply
- Application process
- Information provided to judges (statutorily limited)
- Assistance provided to applicant and respondent
- Findings the statute requires judges to make
- Kinds of restrictions
- Duration

Civil Order of Protection (46b-16a)

Judge Barbara Bellis

- Eligibility to apply
- Application process
- Information provided to judges (statutorily limited)
- Assistance provided to applicant and respondent
- Findings the statute requires judges to make
- Kinds of restrictions
- Duration

Judicial Branch Recommendation

- Amend 46b-15 (family restraining order) and 46b-16a (civil orders of protection) to provide family and civil judges access to more information such as:
 - Results of a risk and lethality assessment
 - Protective/Restraining Order Registry Review
 - All criminal records

Questions

Feel free to ask questions of:

- Any of the presenters
- Judge Bernadette Conway, Chief
Administrative Judge of the Juvenile Division
- Stephen Grant, Executive Director, Court
Support Services Division