

LA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL (DVC)
COMMITTEE ON SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT (CSI MEETING)

Wednesday, May 14, 2025
12:00 P.M. to 1:30 P.M. | Pacific Time (US & Canada)
Family Source Center (FSC) in Leimert Park
4305 Degnan Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90008
Room: 105/ Floor #1

Mission Statement: To implement domestic violence laws and policies and to provide resources and problem-solving support to community partners when implementation issues and problems arise. The Committee also addresses emerging issues that impact victims of domestic violence.

[See the DVC Calendar for Meeting Information](#)

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order – Gail Pincus, Rachelle Neshkes, Kate Forrest.
Meeting Protocols- Before we begin this meeting, please be reminded that this is an open and public meeting. Therefore, anything discussed (both verbally and within the online chat) are not protected by any type of confidentiality. Any client identifying information should not be presented. Please avoid discussion of personal cases as well. If you need additional resources, please contact the co-chairs after this meeting.
- II. Welcome and Introductions
- III. New, critical, and emerging issues
 - Pre-service solicitation of DVRO respondents: California State Bar Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct (COPRAC) convened a working group to address this issue through possible amendment of Rule 7.3 of the Rules of Professional Conduct which was discussed at their 5/9/25 meeting, which several CSI members attended. COPRAC members had some confusion about the logistics of the underlying problem, but all seemed interested in addressing it. Those interested in following this process <https://www.calbar.ca.gov/Attorneys/Conduct-Discipline/Ethics/Committees/COPRAC> to see upcoming meetings and links to view the live feed or subscribe to notifications. To make a public comment in support of the amendment, complete this form no later than Friday, July 18, 2025: https://fs16.formsite.com/SB_RRC/dehslalbcl/index
 - Problematic custody orders coming out of dependency court: members continue seeing orders for joint custody with abusers, vague or unworkable visitation, etc. that need to be fixed in family court after dependency terminated jurisdiction, but there is conflict amongst bench officers over whether 3044 can be immediately applied upon motion or if a substantial change of circumstances must first be proven as a threshold issue before modification can be made; several members were at the Family Law Coalition meeting with Judges Dordi and Kaufman where this problem was raised, but no clear or satisfactory answers were reached. Committee body agrees that getting a 3044 equivalent into the Welfare & Institutions Code needs to be a priority
 - Problematic caselaw issued In Re: AM & RY (<https://www4.courts.ca.gov/opinions/documents/D084344.PDF>): In addition to leeway granted to courts to deny a TRO even when sufficient evidence of abuse is presented, committee is concerned about the harmful language in this case regarding DVRO petitions “used for tactical purposes in family law cases;” FVAP is already looking into remedies, either request to de-publish entirely or strike offending language

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- Sheriff liaison returns: retired Det. William Strnad's rehiring is now complete; he is on a 2 day per week schedule but now exclusively dedicated to his former DV roll. Please note new email address wc1strna@lasd.org
- Barriers with City Attorney collaboration: member attorney shares concern about being required to have client present to speak to ACA prosecuting client's abuser instead of just signing an authorization; Pallavi confirms this is not department policy, as it erects an additional unnecessary barrier to victim support. Anyone encountering this issue should reach out to Pallavi for assistance, pallavi.dhawan@lacity.org
- DVRO System Mapping project update: Hanna Denyer reports that two of the tangible improvements arising out of this collaboration are a know-your-rights package designed to be handed out at self-help centers to alert those seeking TROs of related rights (housing, employment, etc.), and a flyer about the benefits of a DVRO that can be posted in county facilities with a QR code to more info on OVP website; flyer is shared (attached), and anyone wishing to make comments or suggestions should contact hdenyer@ph.lacounty.gov

IV. Follow up on previous agenda items

- Issues w/ SB 290 compliance: Det. Strnad is talking to FOS to do something like the LAPD memo to get the word out, as well as station tours.
 - One potential barrier to be addressed is that the watch deputy does not have access to the photos for release, coordination is needed with the detective (why not centralized system like LAPD uploads to evidence.com?)
 - Discussion is had about law enforcement concerns regarding release of 911 calls made by bystanders – victims who return to their abusers could get the calls and turn them over to the abuser who could retaliate against informant; however, plain language of the law requires “a copy of 911 recordings, if any” without differentiating between who placed the calls, and advocates feel the benefits to victims outweigh potential risks to others
 - **BEST PRACTICES TIP**: Survivors should be advised to bring their ID when requesting reports, because law enforcement agency must verify that they are the victim who is entitled to receive the report.
- TRO training program: prior volunteers are no longer able to take on this project, but there is discussion about funds applied for under a firearms compliance training grant that could be utilized for this purpose; discussion is had about crafting TRO applications with specificity that increases chances of successful confiscation, including showing survivors sample photos of types of firearms if they need help differentiating between rifle, handgun, etc. Applying for firearms compliance training grant, could be incorporated – specificity allows for better confiscation
- Family Law Coalition meeting with Judges: report back from 5/13 meeting with Judges Kaufman and Dordi
 - ICE fears: Court affirms commitment to same policy that has been in effect since 2020 regarding not permitting warrantless detention by ICE on county property, but acknowledges community fear of coming to court; no data on whether this has caused a decrease in those applying for DVROs, court reports that SIJS numbers have not changed; overall, 30-42% (depending on district) of TRO applicants do not appear for their first hearing
 - LACC: While court officially promotes remote appearances and reminds judicial officers to exercise discretion in ordering in-person appearances, judges acknowledge that each judicial officer does have authority to manage his or her own courtroom, and drawbacks of LACC are noted, including lack of integration with the AV system that cause difficulties, particularly when it comes to evidence sharing; judges announce that an Exhibit Bank system (currently used in Orange County) is expected to be rolled out beginning in August for pre-hearing electric filing of exhibits that should help with this problem
 - **BEST PRACTICES TIP**: for clients wanting to appear remotely, increase their chances of being permitted

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to do so and not be ordered to appear in person on a future date by preparing them well for LACC appearance – treat wherever you are appearing from as an extension of the courtroom and treat it with the same deference, including lack of noise/distraction/other people; many judges are particularly peeved by rather common occurrence of appearances while driving (if a vehicle is the quietest place the client has to make the appearance, it may be beneficial to explain that to the court at the outset rather than seeming like proper arrangements were not made)

▪ DVRO practices

- There is no official policy or uniform practice/training regarding how to manage DVRO hearings, so there is going to be continued variance between courtrooms when it comes to taking testimony vs treating DVRO applications as direct testimony; if not addressed by the bench, you can ask the judge to take the declaration as testimony, but it is up to each bench officer
- There is no data on rate of TRO denials so it is unknown whether the anecdotal evidence of an increase is actually happening, but Dordi notes that there is no requirement of leave from the court to amend a pleading prior to the hearing, so if a TRO is denied based on lack of sufficient description of abuse, litigants can re-draft their declarations with more specificity and submit an amended DV-100

▪ Court reporters & electronic recording

- Shortage is not abating (70% of current reporters are eligible for retirement), so practitioners are encouraged to spread the word about the right to request electronic recording when a court reporter is not available; Judge Dordi provided a sample proposed findings for the court to make the required rulings permitting recording (attached)
- FW-020 is not required for DVRO cases - dedicated restraining order courtrooms continue to have reporters every day, and home courts are encouraged to set their DVROs on their “matrix day” for court reporter assignment; if it happens that your DVRO is set on a non-court reporter day, the JA should already be seeking a reporter for the case, and separate application is NOT required for the “attempt to secure” element of the analysis

- Justice Portal access for non-legal aid providers: one community organization has applied but no word yet whether it will be granted or denied
- LASD deputy guide for due diligence: ongoing discussion about best/worst practices for entering comments when making service attempts to lay the foundation for request for alternative service; Det. Strnad Deputy Guides for alternative service

V. Matters not on posted agenda to be presented and placed on a future agenda.

VI. Next steps, action items, and confirm agenda items for next meeting.

- Community members are encouraged to make public comment in support of amending Rules of Professional Conduct 7.3 to prohibit pre-service solicitation of DVRO respondents
- Brainstorm potential sponsors for legislation to apply FC 3044 principles in dependency/enact equivalent provision in WIC – possibly FVAP or sponsors of prior 3044 improvements
- Community members are encouraged to send direct comment on the System Mapping poster and submit public comment ahead of COPRAC meeting
- Det. Strnad will investigate how service attempts are currently logged to give better framework for suggestions on improvements

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- VII. Public Comments: not to exceed two minutes per person and must be on items of interest which are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Council.
- VIII. Reminder to complete our DVC Monthly Meeting Evaluation Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C8MC8V9>
- IX. Next meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2025, at FSC in Leimert Park.
- X. Adjournment

ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS:

American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters, auxiliary aids and services, or reasonable modifications to attend Domestic Violence Council meetings and access to policies and/or procedures (i.e., to assist members of the disability community who would like to request a disability-related accommodation), will be made available if the request is made at least five (5) business days before the meeting. Late requests will be accommodated based on feasibility. Please direct all requests to: dvc@ph.lacounty.gov or call **213-974-2799** (Monday thru Friday; 9am-5pm.)