

# We Need to Talk!

## Handling Domestic Violence Cases That Appear in Multiple Courts



---

---

---

---

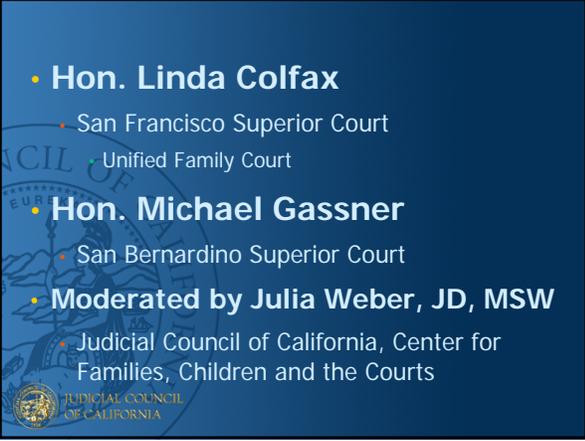
---

---

---

---

- **Hon. Linda Colfax**
  - San Francisco Superior Court
  - Unified Family Court
- **Hon. Michael Gassner**
  - San Bernardino Superior Court
- **Moderated by Julia Weber, JD, MSW**
  - Judicial Council of California, Center for Families, Children and the Courts



---

---

---

---

---

---

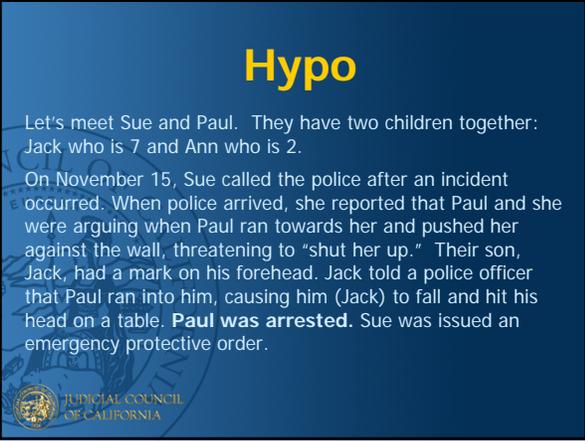
---

---

## Hypo

Let's meet Sue and Paul. They have two children together: Jack who is 7 and Ann who is 2.

On November 15, Sue called the police after an incident occurred. When police arrived, she reported that Paul and she were arguing when Paul ran towards her and pushed her against the wall, threatening to "shut her up." Their son, Jack, had a mark on his forehead. Jack told a police officer that Paul ran into him, causing him (Jack) to fall and hit his head on a table. **Paul was arrested.** Sue was issued an emergency protective order.



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Hypo

Sue is told by the officer that the EPO expires in 5 days and that she needs to go to court to get it "extended." Sue gets help from the court's self-help center in completing an application for a domestic violence restraining order. In her request for order, she asks the court to protect her, Jack and Ann. She also requests a move-out order, property control of the family dog, Dozer, and sole physical and legal custody of the children, with supervised visitation to Paul.



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Hypo

Let's assume Sue does proceed with the DVRO, the juvenile court takes jurisdiction, and the criminal case is proceeding.



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Hypo

After a few months, the court grants Paul unsupervised visits with Jack and Ann. The court orders that exchanges are to occur at the local police station. At one of the exchanges, Sue brings her friend, Bill, with her. When Paul sees Bill he is very upset and tells Bill, 'You better stay away from my family or ELSE!' Bill feels threatened by Paul and files a civil harassment restraining order against Paul.



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Hypo

Assume no petition is filed in juvenile dependency, but the social worker, who suspects that mom is abusing drugs, encourages grandmother to file for guardianship.



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Contacts

Judicial Council Staff

Julia Weber, JD, MSW

[julia.weber@jud.ca.gov](mailto:julia.weber@jud.ca.gov)

Frances Ho, JD

[frances.ho@jud.ca.gov](mailto:frances.ho@jud.ca.gov)



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---