



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS

Center for Families,
Children & the Courts

455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA
94102-3688
Tel 415-865-4200
TDD 415-865-4272
Fax 415-865-4205
www.courtinfo.ca.gov

FACT SHEET

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Domestic Violence Safety Partnership (DVSP)

Domestic violence is a critical issue facing family, criminal, and juvenile courts in California. The Domestic Violence Safety Partnership (DVSP) was developed to enhance safety and improve practices and protocols in the handling of domestic violence cases. A court that participates in the DVSP uses the Domestic Violence Safety Partnership Self-Assessment—a tool furnished by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)—to examine its own practices and needs in the handling of domestic violence cases, especially in relation to legal mandates. The court, if it wishes, can then work with the DVSP project staff to discuss ways of improving its practices or to obtain the training or technical assistance that the court has determined would be helpful.

The court does not pay for training or technical assistance received through the DVSP. Funding for this component of the project is granted to the AOC by the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA), with resources from the federal Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).

Project Goals

DVSP provides resources for local courts so that they can:

- Identify and review selected statutes and other mandates addressing domestic violence;
- Identify and review safety considerations related to domestic violence cases;
- Obtain AOC-sponsored and AOC-funded technical assistance to ensure compliance with requirements or enhance safety;
- Obtain AOC-sponsored and AOC-funded local training on domestic violence-related topics for judicial officers or court staff; and
- Obtain AOC purchased computer or audio visual equipment for court specific domestic violence related projects.

Assessment Tools

The packet addresses procedures in the following categories:

- Emergency Protective Orders
- Civil Domestic Violence [Domestic Violence Protection Act (DVPA)]–Prehearing
- Civil Domestic Violence (DVPA)–Hearing
- Civil Domestic Violence (DVPA)–Post-hearing
- Domestic Violence Review–Family Court Services Domestic Violence Protocol
- Criminal Court Domestic Violence–General
- Criminal Court Domestic Violence–Pretrial
- Criminal Court Domestic Violence –Conviction
- Criminal Court Domestic Violence–Probation
- Information Applicable to All Orders
- Juvenile Dependency Court Restraining Orders–General
- Juvenile Dependency Court Restraining Orders–Temporary Restraining Orders
- Juvenile Dependency Court Restraining Orders–Content of Orders
- Juvenile Dependency Court Restraining Orders–Post-hearing
- Juvenile Dependency Court–Court-Connected Dependency Mediation
- Juvenile Delinquency Court Restraining Orders–General
- Juvenile Delinquency Court Restraining Orders–Temporary Restraining Orders
- Juvenile Delinquency Court Restraining Orders–Content of Orders
- Juvenile Delinquency Court Restraining Orders–Post-hearing
- Court Administration
- Part II–Safety Considerations

Criteria for Applying for Funds for Technical Assistance or Local Education

Applications for funds to cover the cost of technical assistance or local education will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted. Although participation in the self-assessment process is not a prerequisite to obtaining assistance under this program, completion of the self-assessment tools is strongly encouraged and priority will be given to courts that do complete the process. DVSP funds will be

expended for short-term projects up to \$5,000. Requests for amounts that exceed \$5,000 will be taken into consideration on a case-by-case basis. The funding cycle is on the federal fiscal year from October 1 through September 30. As a result, all activities must be completed by September 30, 2013. No funds are available to pay directly for meals, although travel meals can be reimbursed through a travel claim process, using the state's per diem rates.

All requests must be directly related to the DVSP's primary goals set out above. Requests must also relate specifically to enhancing a court's response in cases involving adult victims of domestic violence.

Types of Assistance Available

No funds will be granted directly to the local courts. Requests for assistance must be for goods or services that can be purchased by the AOC. Examples of likely types of assistance follow:

- Reimbursement of travel costs for a team from your court to visit another court;
- Purchase of consulting services to assist your court;
- Payment of an honorarium and travel expenses for faculty for a local education program;
- Funding for logistical expenses (excluding payment for on-site meals) associated with local education programs; and
- Purchase of computer equipment to access either the California Court Protective Order Registry (CCPOR) or the California Restraining and Protective Order System (CARPOS) or other relevant databases housed within the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS).
- Purchase of audio visual equipment to show videos to parties in domestic violence court on court procedure.

Further Information and DVSP Staff

For additional information about DVSP or to obtain a copy of the self-assessment packet, please contact:

Ms. Penny Davis
Senior Court Services Analyst
Center for Families, Children & the Courts
Administrative Office of the Courts
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688
Phone: 415-865-8815
Fax: 415-865-7217
penny.davis@jud.ca.gov

Additional DVSP project staff:

Ms. Tamara Abrams
Senior Attorney
Phone: 415-865-7712
tamara.abrams@jud.ca.gov

Ms. Kerry Doyle
Attorney
Phone: 415-865-8791
kerry.doyle@jud.ca.gov

Ms. Gabrielle Selden
Attorney
Phone: 415-865-8085
gabrielle.selden@jud.ca.gov

Ms. Julia Weber
Supervising Attorney
Phone: 415-865-7693
julia.weber@jud.ca.gov

Ms. Bobbie Welling
Supervising Attorney
Phone: 415-865-7822
bobbie.welling@jud.ca.gov