



**Monroe County Domestic Violence Coalition
Meeting Minutes
July 19, 2019**

Mission: The Monroe County Domestic Violence Coalition is committed to improving our community's response to domestic violence issues through communication and coordination of services.

Attending: Tia Arthur, Heather Davis, Mary Goetze, Harry Heyer, Debra Morrow, Apply Muncy, Becky Sharon, Ron Smith, Carrie Stillions, Sally Thomas, Charlotte Willian, Katie Rodriguez, Catherine Stafford, Grace Landry, LaRae Powers, Josefa Luce (CFRD), Brenda Esponza (CFRD)

City Staff: Michael Shermis (CFRD), Karina Suarez (CFRD)

I. Introductions

A. Brief introductions

II. Monroe County Circuit Court: Judge Catherine Stafford

A. How domestic violence impacts divorce and paternity cases:

1. Custody, parenting time and dissipation of assets:

- a) Best interest standard according to age, wishes of parent, mental and physical health of all individuals, evidence of a pattern of domestic violence (by either pattern) parenting time, dissipation of assets
- b) More specifics one gives judge at hearing, higher chances of ruling in favor of
- c) Costs for domestic violence could be argued as dissipated costs (medical, missed work, etc.)

B. If there is violence between parents, 45-60% chance of child abuse

Best practices for parties:

- Make sure courts know about domestic violence (provide evidence including witnesses, photographs, medical records, police records)
- Fifth Amendment: rights against self-incrimination
- Be clear on how much children were exposed to domestic violence

- Bring in child's therapist, if possible, not notes from therapist
- Offer as an exhibit (specific proposal on custody and parenting time with times and locations; most specifics down to the minute.)

Best practices for courts:

- Protect Fifth Amendment rights
- Consider Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines
- Write specific possible order, from neutral locations with events between (school or camp)

-How does DV impact protection order cases?

1. Harassment
2. Stalking (can be anybody, may be basis for Ex Parte Order, two or more instances to count as stalking)
3. Domestic or family violence (some type of familial relationship, may be basis for Ex Parte Order)

Do orders of protection work?

A huge reduction of intimate violence occurred as a result of order. 80% reduction in police reported violence. Has to be part of a larger safety plan, not the only plan.

How does DV impact small claims cases?

- Landlord is required to change locks within 24 hours of receiving the protection order if they both lived in the unit. 48 hours if they didn't.
- Judges can evict people based on domestic violence

If victim wanted protection order dismissed they can in the same day. Judges have no say in the matter.

III. Staff Update

Need to start collecting statistics for the next booklet

IV. Information Sharing

- A. In Indianapolis. Jean Capler will bring more information to the next meeting.
- B. As of July 1st, Prosecutor Office will combine domestic violence and special crimes cases to a Special Victims unit. Enables them to be more active and supportive with DV victims.
- C. Looking for list of things/services (rental assistance, pet placement, childcare) to be donated, sold as a less cost, for DV victims

D. Local trustees office has resources to help out with utilities or rental assistance

Next Meetings:

12 p.m., August 16, 2019, McCloskey Room, City Hall

Guest Speaker: Julia Dotson, Centerstone

Topic: Seeking Safety

12 p.m., September 20, 2019, McCloskey Room, City Hall

Guest Speaker: Jean Capler

Topic: Domestic Violence and Brain Injuries