



NH Judicial Branch Domestic Violence Committee

Committee Report/Minutes

Attending: Hon. Kimberly Chabot, Jean Kilham, Anne Zinkin, Karen Gorham, Katie Tripp, Dianne Martin, Chair.

The NHJB Domestic Violence Committee met on May 5, 2022 to:

- I. Review and Approve Meeting report/minutes from March 29, 2022 and April 12, 2022.
- II. Receive an Update on the Coalition's Training Material Request.
- III. Review Draft Superior Court Form Change Proposal Regarding Recommendation 4.4
- IV. Discuss how to modify the website to make it more user-friendly for individuals seeking to file a petition for a protective order or civil stalking order and seeking to extend an order (Recommendations 4.2 and 4.3)
- V. Receive an Update on DV issues in the Courts - Jean Kilham
- VI. Wrap up and next steps

At the meeting, the Committee approved the report/minutes from the March 29, 2022 meeting and approved the report/minutes from the April 12, 2022 meeting, as amended to reflect Judge Chabot's departure.

Jean Kilham reported that she completed materials setting forth the procedure for emailed domestic violence petitions and had shared them with the Coalition the previous Friday, along with a set of training materials from a crisis center that were very well done, so that they could be used in conjunction with the procedural materials for a training. Jean reported that she does not have the bandwidth to provide the training herself because there are vacancies in the registry and she is doing that additional work at this time.

Karen Gorham presented draft changes to the Superior Court Acknowledgement of Rights form intended to implement recommendation 4.4. The Committee reviewed and discussed the proposed changes. Judge Chabot suggested including the federal gun control act acknowledgement. The Committee reviewed forms NHJB 2413d, 2717a-d, and 3004-s. Karen will incorporate changes and provide a revised draft. The Committee then considered how to modify the website to make it more user-friendly and to make it easier to find the procedure to file a petition for domestic violence or civil stalking. The Committee decided to add to the "I want to" drop down menu on the landing page: "File a petition for a domestic violence or stalking restraining order." This will eliminate the need to know what court a

petition must be filed in. It also makes it possible to link to the process and forms directly from the landing page. Katie Tripp is going to research websites in other jurisdictions and report back. The Committee will continue to work on improvements to the website.

Finally, the Committee heard from Jean Kilham about recent DV related issues in the courts. Jean shared that it was reported that in certain small jurisdictions police were not serving protective orders in a safe way and defendants were told to come to police station to pick up a protective order or were told to go home and get their guns and bring them back. The clerk had attempted to address the issue with the police chief. Jean reached out to the AG's Office and to the county attorney, who addressed the issue. Judge Chabot inquired as to whether State Police serve or the Sheriff serve? Jean will look into that and talk with clerk and report back. The Committee recommended that this issue be shared with the Governor's Commission. Jean also reported that a prosecutor asked for show cause hearing when a victim didn't appear at criminal trial despite subpoena and there is a concern that this is not a trauma-informed practice. Judge Chabot reported that in her experience as a prosecutor it occurred in very rare circumstances. The Committee agreed this issue should be shared with the Governor's Commission.

The Committee discussed next steps and scheduled the next meeting.

<p>Recommendations and tasks completed following the May 5, 2022 meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation 4.2: (Make court forms more easily accessible on website)
<p>Expectations for next meeting</p>	<p>The Committee will continue to work on Recommendation 4.4 regarding notifying the defendant of the consequences of a domestic violence criminal conviction in relation to the possession and ownership of firearms, and on Recommendations 4.2 and 4.3 related to the website improvements. The Committee will continue with the remaining items on the agenda that were not reached at this meeting.</p>