



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 June 20, 2022 to:

- I. Review and approve meeting report/minutes from June 7, 2022.
- II. Update on Salem Pilot Meeting with Local Advocates – Katie Tripp
- III. Simplified Process for Requests for Records from Dept. of Safety/Gun Line – Update from Karen Gorham/Katie Tripp
- IV. Law About Guides – Discussion/edits
<https://www.courts.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt471/files/inline-documents/sonh/legal-guides-about-dv-stalking.pdf>
- V. DV Committee Discussion and Recommendations Regarding Proposed Process for Protocol Updates – Proposed process is to begin with review and revision of Chapters 1, 2 and 5 and to complete those revisions within 6 months. Circuit Court Advisory Group prepare proposed first draft, to be reviewed by the DV Committee, with a revised version returning to the Advisory Committee for review, then back to the DV Committee. The DV Committee will share that draft with external stakeholders, including the Coalition, for review and input.
- VI. New Hampshire Legal Assistance Information Packet – Committee Discussion and Recommendations to NHLA (Recommendation 5.17)
- VII. Prioritize Next Task Force Recommendations and tasks.
- VIII. Wrap up and next steps

At the meeting, the Committee approved the report/minutes from the June 9, 2022, as amended. The Committee received an update on the pilot meeting with area crisis center program from Katie Tripp. Katie reported that she is meeting with representatives of the local crisis center for a planning meeting next Friday. Karen Gorham and Katie Tripp reported that they are working on the simplified process for requests for court records by the Dept. of Safety/Gunline and will report back on progress.

The Committee then discussed how to publicize the “Law About...” guides that pertain to Domestic Violence and Stalking, beyond putting them on the NHJB website and the law

library website. It was suggested that a poster could be made and placed in the lobby of the courts, near the kiosks, so that people could easily see them. Posting them at libraries and providing them to the crisis centers was also suggested. Judge Chabot suggested a public service announcement on the radio. Dianne Martin will discuss with the Communications team and circle back.

Katie Tripp suggested the Committee could create a sheet that could be used branch wide that could be provided to the filer in a DV case. It could contain the link to the Law About webpage, along with other useful court information.

The Committee discussed the DV and stalking related content on the NHJB website and the need to be sure it is all consistent and updated. The Committee requested its intern, Natalie Mandes, review the content for consistency and to be sure it is current and report back to the Committee. Karen Gorham will review the video related to the Superior Court and advise whether it needs to be updated. Judge Chabot reported she watched the video with Judge Carbon in it and it is “spot on.”

Jean Kilham described the proposed process to revise and update the DV protocols to the Committee. Judge Chabot would be included in the group of judges in the Circuit Court Advisory Group. Judge Chabot indicated her willingness to participate. Jean would also be involved directly in the Circuit Court Group. The first phase of the process would take 6 months and would address Chapters 1, 2 and 5, the most important sections. Once the draft is prepared it would be brought to the DV Committee for review. If any revisions are made by the Committee it will go back to the Advisory Group before returning to the Committee. If not, the Committee will share the draft with external stakeholders, including the Coalition for review and input. Dianne Martin asked if the Circuit Court could cover all of the Chapters through Chapter 5 so that whole section would be updated. Jean indicated she would bring that back and make that request to the Circuit Court Advisory Group. The Committee was supportive of the process. The Circuit Court Advisory Group commits to a longer term review and revision of the remainder thereafter.

Jean Kilham then described the NH Legal Assistance information packet and suggested that it could be adapted to address Recommendation 5.17. She will reach out to NHLA to discuss and report back to the Committee.

The Committee discussed its priorities for next steps. Judge Chabot stressed the importance of Recommendation 6.7 and the relationship between courts and crisis centers. She recalled that Coordinating Councils had been very useful historically. They were consisted of a

multidisciplinary team of stakeholders in the local area around a court. She noted that the one in Manchester still exists. Judge Carbon had been involved in creating them originally. She will talk with Judge Carbon and see if she can come to our next meeting to discuss. The Committee unanimously agreed this should be a priority for focus by the Committee.

The Committee also discussed the firearms related recommendations in the Task Force Report and noted that they are also a priority, although they are primarily external. Jean Kilham suggested that the Courts could review the return of service form to consider ways to make it clearer for Law Enforcement when service these orders. The Committee will discuss further what the NHJB can do in this area.

The Crisis Center staffing situation was also discussed and it was identified as an area of concern.

<p>Recommendations and tasks completed following the June 7, 2022 meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation 5.1.1: (Publicize the availability of NH Law About... guides) (continued) • Recommendation 4.2 and 4.3: (Website improvements)(continued) • Recommendation 5.2.3 (Crisis center brochures should be made available in court locations around the state). Confirmed with Coalition this is happening.
<p>Expectations for next meeting</p>	<p>The Committee will review the webpage created for the “Law About...” and report back with any revisions. Karen Gorham and Katie Tripp will continue to work on a simplified process for requests for court records by DOS/Gunline. Dianne Martin will reach out to Communications regarding further publication of the NH Law About guides. Judge Chabot will connect with Judge Carbon on the idea of re-starting the Coordinating Councils. Karen Gorham will review the Superior Court video on the website to make sure it is current. Katie Tripp will meet with local advocates in the Salem area regarding the pilot to reestablish the court/local advocate lunches/communications. Jean Kilham will reach out to NHLA about adapting the NHLA information packet to address Recommendation 5.1.7. Jean will also</p>

request the Circuit Court Advisory Council review and update Sections 1-5 in phase one of the update process.
