



# Legislative Agenda

## Increase Accountability for Batterers Enrolled in the Family Violence Education Program

To avoid sending the message that serious offenses will not be punished severely, the following measures should be enacted to reform the Family Violence Education Program:

- Eligibility for the program should be limited to only those offenders who are facing their first prosecution for domestic violence
- Offenders charged with felonies or crimes resulting in serious injury to the victim would be ineligible
- Automatic sanctions should take effect for offenders who do not satisfactorily complete the program

## Extend the Length of Restraining Orders to One Year

Currently, victims must return to court to seek renewal to their restraining orders at least once every 180 days, which can put them in harm's way by forcing them to interface with offenders. Therefore, the law should be amended to increase the maximum allowable length of restraining orders to up to one year.

## Enhance Strategies for Locating Offenders for Service of Process

A victim seeking a restraining order must currently return to court every two weeks and submit a new request if state marshals are unable to locate the defendant for service of process. Since in some cases these same defendants are on probation and thus required to check in with their probation officers, improved collaboration between the courts, the Adult Probation Offices, and the marshals will help locate defendants in a timely manner and serve them with restraining orders.

## CCADV Supports the Recommendations of the Task Force on Law Enforcement Response to Family Violence

The General Assembly's Task Force on Law Enforcement Response to Family Violence has developed several recommendations for a statewide law enforcement model policy that, when signed into law, will serve to strengthen Connecticut's provisions to assist victims of domestic violence. CCADV is pleased to support their recommendations.

### *Institute a Statewide Model Policy for Law Enforcement Response to Family Violence*

Law enforcement, as a minimum standard, would be required to meet the provisions of the model policy. A Family Violence Model Policy Governing Council would be established to provide for an annual review of our state's mandatory arrest law and other statutes concerning domestic violence.

Important recommendations of the model policy are as follows:

- Revise the DPS-230 reporting form to include a section to document the reason for the dual arrest
- Designate a domestic violence liaison within each police department
- Add continuing education hours of domestic violence training for established officers

### *Improve Monitoring and Enforcement of Orders of Protection*

Allow a victim to file a complaint reporting an alleged violation (through electronic or telephonic means, or U.S. mail) of a protective or restraining order:

- in the town in which such person resides
- in the town where the contact is received by the protected party
- or in the town where such contact was initiated

If such contact is provided to a law enforcement agency in a town where the protected party does not reside, law enforcement will provide law enforcement from the town in which the protected party resides with information in regard to such violation, if so directed by the victim.

### **Amend the Text of Protective and Restraining Orders**

The text of protective and restraining orders should be amended to provide that:

- a copy of the order be sent to any school the protected person attends, including, but not limited to, the campus police at any school, college or university at which the victim is enrolled, unless otherwise prohibited by the Connecticut General Statutes
- if applicable, the defendant is to remain outside the prescribed distance from the victim at any school the victim attends, including a school also attended by the defendant, unless otherwise prohibited by the Connecticut General Statutes

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FACTS IN CONNECTICUT

In the last fiscal year (7/1/10 - 6/30/11) CCADV's 18 domestic violence agencies, as listed on the left, provided services to **54,178** victims of domestic violence. The following is a breakdown of statistics.

- **Crisis Services** –**21,986** contacts with victims in crisis were handled by the staff and volunteers of our member agencies.
- **Safe Home Services** – **1,364** adults and **1,038** children stayed in our emergency safe homes because they were in serious physical danger and had no other safe options.
- **Community Services** –**13,062** adult victims, **283** teens experiencing dating violence and **908** children received support services from our agencies. These services included individual counseling, support groups, legal advocacy, information and referral, and assistance with developing safety plans.
- **Criminal Court Based Services** – **37,523** court referred domestic violence victims received direct services from our staff and volunteer advocates who are based in the criminal courts. These services included counseling, court advocacy, assistance with orders of protection, information and referral to community services and assistance with developing safety plans.
- **Community Education Services** –**144,057** people attended our community education programs. These programs included training for police officers and professional groups; presentations to religious, civic and business organization; and domestic violence prevention programs to elementary through college-age students.

If you need help or just someone to talk to,  
Call the statewide domestic violence hotline.  
It's safe, free and confidential.  
**888-774-2900**

### WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic violence is a crime involving a pattern of abusive behavior in intimate relationships where one partner tries to control and dominate the other. The behavior may be physically, sexually, psychologically, or verbally abusive, with the victim left feeling scared, confused, dependent and insecure.

**CCADV**

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