

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

FILED
MAR - 3 1994
NOEL K. DESSAINT
CLERK SUPREME COURT
BY

In the Matter of:)
) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
COMMITTEE ON THE IMPACT OF) NO. 94 - 14
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE COURTS)
)
_____)

In accordance with Administrative Order No. 90 - 13, the Chief Justice may establish standing committees to the Arizona Judicial Council to assist the Council in carrying out its responsibilities. One area of concern is domestic violence.

Various entities of Arizona's government are responsible for responding to incidents of domestic violence and for providing protection to the victims of the violence. These entities include courts, probation staff, prosecutors and law enforcement. Differing procedures and philosophies and lack of common standards among the various entities throughout the state often produce inconsistent approaches to the treatment of domestic violence cases and inconsistent results when court relief and protection are sought.

Domestic violence is increasing statistically as well as in severity each year. Reinforcement of gender bias values, the breakdown of appropriate family role models for children and lack of funding for the abused and their children have produced an ever increasing number of cases that involve serious acts of violence, perpetrated mainly against women and children. To cope with these problems, the court system must devise an approach that includes a range of options and techniques administered in a more uniform method to achieve commons goals. These goals include acknowledgement of the severity of the problem, awareness of victim resources, sanctions for criminal conduct, follow through by law enforcement to enforce orders of protection, development of treatment and rehabilitation resources as well as the proper certification of professionals who provide those services and the overall promotion and enhancement of safety for victims and the professionals who interact with them. Now, therefore,

IT IS ORDERED THAT a committee on domestic violence is established and shall be known as the Committee on the Impact of Domestic Violence and the Courts.

1. Purposes.

The Committee on the Impact of Domestic Violence and the Courts shall:

- a. Improve the administration of justice in all Arizona communities by assessing state and local proceedings and services as related to the issues of domestic violence.**
- b. Make recommendations for system changes that will promote safety for victims and those providers who interact with them.**

2. Membership.

Committee membership shall be appointed by the Chief Justice to include the chair and vice chair. Members shall represent a variety of viewpoints, experiences and expertise.

3. Responsibilities of Members.

Committee members shall actively participate in committee meetings, the administration of committee business, and advisory committees.

4. Organization.

The Chief Justice shall appoint committee leadership as needed to organize committee business. Advisory committees to help the Committee carry out its responsibilities may be appointed by the chairperson.

5. Meetings.

The Committee shall meet no less than twice a year and additional meetings may be called at the discretion of the committee chairperson. All meetings shall provide public notice and be open to the public.

6. Actions.

The Committee shall adopt rules for conducting committee business. These rules shall prescribe the quorum and majority needed to constitute committee actions.

7. Funding.

The Committee, with the assistance of the Administrative Office of the Courts, may seek grant funding from local, state and national organizations for its expenses of operation, including expert advice and consultations. To the extent that funds are available, Supreme Court funds may also be used to partially or fully fund the committee's expenses.

8. Staff.

Under the direction of the Chief Justice, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide staff for the committee and may conduct or coordinate research as recommended by the Committee.

DATED AND ENTERED this 3rd day of March, 1994.

~~STANLEY G. FELDMAN~~
Chief Justice