

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: PREVENTION AND SERVICES**

**HEARINGS**  
BEFORE THE  
**SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT EDUCATION**  
OF THE  
**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**NINETY-SIXTH CONGRESS**  
**FIRST SESSION**

HEARINGS HELD IN WASHINGTON, D.C., ON JULY 10, 11, 1979

Printed for the use of the Committee on Education and Labor



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(II)

**CONTENTS**

	Page
Hearings held in Washington, D.C. on:	
July 10, 1979.....	1
July 11, 1979.....	147
Statement of—	
Allen, Clara L., Director, New Jersey Division on Women, Department of Community Affairs, Trenton, N.J.....	67
Allison, William W., deputy director, Community Services Administration.....	213
Barnes, Hon. Michael D., a Representative in Congress from the State of Maryland; accompanied by Cynthia Anderson and Lise Moulton.....	13
Boggs, Hon. Lindy, a Representative in Congress from the State of Louisiana.....	12
Brown, Sam, Director, ACTION; accompanied by Torrie Mattes, Office of Policy and Planning; Kathleen Fojtik, National Technical Assistance Center; and Sharon Vaughan, Women's Shelter, St. Paul, Minn.....	181
Campbell, Jane, National Council of Churches.....	150
Dames, Cynthia, battered womens project, Santa Fe, N. Mex.....	140
Edelstein, Dr. Saul, director, emergency services, George Washington University Hospital.....	39
Ferraro, Hon. Geraldine, a Representative in Congress from the State of New York.....	5
Fleming, Richard C.D., Deputy Assistant Secretary for Neighborhoods, Voluntary Associations and Community Protection, Department of Housing and Urban Development; William Allison, Deputy Director, Community Services Administration.....	209
Goodrich, Hon. George Herbert, associate judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, head of the Family Division.....	50
Green, Kinsey, executive director, American Home Economic Association.....	159
Grimes, J. Robert, Assistant Administrator, Office of Criminal Justice Programs, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration; accompanied by Jeannie Neidermeyer-Santos, program manager, family violence program.....	188
Halsey, Capt. Patricia, U.S. Marine Corps; and Lt. (jg.) Serge R. Doucette, Jr., Bureau of Medicine and Surgery for the Navy, head of family advocacy program.....	58
Hyde, Hon. Henry J., a Representative in Congress from the State of Illinois.....	16
Marschner, P.J., director of program development, Center for Women Policy Studies, accompanied by Diane Hamlin, director, Resource Center.....	228
McMahon, Ginger, martial abuse project, Delaware County, Pa.....	136
Meyer, Jeanie Keeny, police department, Kansas City, Mo.....	33
Mikulski, Hon. Barbara A., a Representative in Congress from the State of Maryland.....	23
Moore, Janice, My Sister's Place, Washington, D.C.....	133
Nazeer, Freda, director, legislation and research, General Federation of Women's Clubs on behalf of Mrs. Quint.....	198
Olson, Beth, Junior League, Jacksonville, Fla.....	154
Pence, Ellen, State Director of battered women's programs, Department of Corrections, St. Paul, Minn.....	107
Ramirez, Blandina Cardenas, Commissioner, Administration for Children, Youth and Families, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; accompanied by June Zeitlin, Office of Domestic Violence.....	166
Stahly, Geraldine, WomenShelter, Long Beach, Calif.....	128
Warren, Faye, General Federation of Women's Clubs, deputy director for the Hands Up program.....	200

(III)

IV

Prepared statements, letters, supplemental materials, et cetera.—	
Allen, Clara L., director, New Jersey Division on Women, Department of Community Affairs, Trenton, N.J.:	
"Accused Wife Slayer Defied Court," newspaper article from Star Ledger, October 3, 1978.....	93
"Atlantic County Abuse Center, Counseling, Referral, and Shelter Program for Victims of Domestic Violence," article entitled.....	87
"Battered Women's Guide," a leaflet.....	84
Prepared statement of..... 66388	71
"Section 10—Coordination of Federal Programs".....	90
"Section 11—Definitions".....	92
"Senate Committee Substitute for Senate No. 807".....	95
"Senate No. 3244".....	98
"Shelter for Battered Filled to Capacity," newspaper article from Star Ledger, March 11, 1979.....	94
Allison, William, Deputy Director, Community Services Administration:	
Factsheet.....	216
Information requested entitled "Community Services Administration Support of Domestic Violence Projects".....	220
Prepared statement of.....	214
Barnes, Hon. Michael D., a Representative in Congress from the State of Maryland, prepared statement of.....	13
Boggs, Hon. Lindy, a Representative in Congress from the State of Louisiana, prepared statement of.....	2
Brown, Samuel W., Director, ACTION Agency, prepared statement of.....	183
Campbell, Jane, National Council of Churches:	
Letter to Chairman Simon, dated July 11, 1979.....	149
Prepared statement on behalf of.....	147
Dames, Cynthia, battered women's project, Santa Fe, N. Mex., prepared statement of.....	117
Doucette, Lt. (jg.) Serge R., Jr., Medical Service Corps, U.S. Navy Reserve, head, family advocacy program, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Department of the Navy:	
"Family Advocacy: Program Elements and Format," article entitled.....	57
Prepared statement of.....	55
Fleming, Richard, C. D., Deputy Assistant Secretary for Neighborhoods, Voluntary Associations and Community Protection, Department of Housing and Urban Development:	
Letter to Chairman Simon, enclosing information requested.....	219
Prepared statement of.....	212
Goodrich, Hon. George Herbert, associate judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, head of the Family Division, prepared statement of.....	49
Green, Kinsey, executive director, American Home Economics Association, prepared statement of.....	156
Grimes, J. Robert, Assistant Administrator, Office of Criminal Justice Programs, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, prepared statement of.....	192
Hyde, Hon. Henry J., a Representative in Congress from the State of Illinois, prepared statement of.....	16
Marschner, P. J., director of program development, Center for Women Policy Studies, prepared statement of.....	235
McMahon, Ginger, administrative Director of a domestic violence project, Delaware County, prepared statement of.....	125
Meyer, Jeanie Keeny, police department, Kansas City, Mo. prepared statement of.....	31
Mikulski, Hon. Barbara A., a Representative in Congress from the State of Maryland, prepared statement of.....	23
Miller, Hon. George, a Representative in Congress from the State of California, prepared statement of.....	30
Moore, Janice, My Sister's Place, Women's Legal Defense Fund, Washington, D.C., prepared statement of.....	123
Olson, Beth, Junior League, Jacksonville, Fla., prepared statement of.....	151

V

Prepared statements, letters, supplemental materials, etc.—con.	
Pence, Ellen, State Director of battered women's programs, Department of Corrections, St. Paul, Minn., prepared statement of.....	101
Quint, A. M., president, General Federation of Women's Clubs, prepared statement enclosing a resolution.....	202
Ramirez, Blandina Cardenas, Commissioner, Administration for Children, Youth, and Families, Office of Human Development Services, prepared statement of.....	171
Stahly, Geraldine Butts, executive director, WomenShelter, Long Beach, Calif., letter to Select Education Subcommittee, dated July 10, 1979, enclosing a statement.....	119
Warren, Faye, General Federation of Women's Clubs, deputy director, Hands Up program:	
Prepared statement of.....	204
Projects of:	
Battered Spouses—Big Rapids Intermediate Women's Club, Mich.....	208
Battered Spouses—Junior Women's Club of Golden Beach, Md.....	206
Child Abuse and Neglect (CA/N) North Carolina.....	205
Family abuse and neglect prevention and education program.....	206
Haven Hills, Inc.—Canoga Park Women's Club, Canoga Junior Women's Club, Calif.....	207
West Virginia's campaign against child abuse and neglect....	207

APPENDIX

"Battered Wives," article from Baltimore Jewish Times.....	530
Carstenson, Dr. Blue, legislative director, Minnesota Social Service Association, St. Paul, Minn., letter to Congressman Erdahl, dated July 9, enclosing testimony.....	244
Catania, Susan, chairwoman, Illinois Commission on the Status of Women, letter to Chairman Simon, dated June 1, 1979.....	409
Center for Women Policy Studies:	
"A Message To Parents About: Child Sexual Abuse," a publication entitled.....	436
"Family Violence Program," fiscal year 1978, local projects.....	461
Literature, a listing of publications.....	491
Response to violence and sexual abuse in the family, a publication entitled:	
Vol. 2, No. 2, November/December, 1978.....	410
Vol. 2, No. 5, March 1979.....	418
Vol. 2, No. 6, April 1979.....	426
"Violence In the Home Is A Crime Against The Whole Family," a publication entitled.....	453
"What If Your Child Has Been Sexually Molested," a booklet entitled.....	458
Cochran, Johnnie L., Jr., assistant district attorney, Los Angeles, Calif.: Congressional testimony.....	407
Letter to Chairman Simon, dated July 6, 1979, enclosing recommendations.....	402
Cotter, Hon. William R., a Representative in Congress from the State of Connecticut:	
"Help for Battered Women in Connecticut," a list.....	261
Testimony of.....	258
DASH, Inc., a group of citizens in a 13 county area of eastern Kentucky, testimony of.....	280
Family Service Association of America and The National Conference of Catholic Charities, position statement..... 66370	262
General Federation of Women's Clubs, Washington, D.C.:	
"Domestic and Personal Violence," article entitled..... 66395	509
Hands Up booklet.....	500
Hands Up objective, 1979.....	508
Kuhle, Shirley J., president, Nebraska Task Force on Domestic Violence: "Rural Perspective on Domestic Violence," statement on..... 66371	321
Statement presented to Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, July 9, 1979.....	328
Moakley, Hon. John Joseph, a Representative in Congress from the State of Massachusetts, testimony of.....	314

	Page
National Council of Jewish Women, New York, New York, testimony of.	272
National Technical Assistance Center on Family Violence, Ann Arbor, Mich., summary report of domestic violence assistance organizations	330
Nordenbrook, Ruth, chairperson, Committee of Women and Criminal Justice, Section of Criminal Justice, American Bar Association, statement on behalf of	245
Parolla, Helen R., director, Public Policy Center, National Board, YWCA, testimony of	270
Pence, Ellen, State Director, Minnesota programs for battered women: "Minnesota Data Collection on Battered Women: System Design and Data Analysis," excerpt of a report	287
Testimony of	284
Pines, Burt, city Attorney, city of Los Angeles, Calif., domestic violence program	367
Schindler, Jayne, legislative chairman, Colorado Eagle Forum, Wheatridge, Colorado, Statement in Opposition to H.R. 2977, dated Oct. 4, 1979, enclosing several newspaper articles	537
Simons, Larry L., national vice president, International Brotherhood of Police Officers, statement of	256
Stern, Barbara, Rockland Family Shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence, Nyack, N. Y., written testimony of	241
Stonehill, Harriet, director of Public Affairs, B'nai B'rith Women, Washington, D.C., statement of	277
Womens Justice Center, Detroit, Mich., statement of	499

LOS ANGELES CITY ATTORNEY

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM



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FOREWORD

National attention has begun to focus on the problems of domestic violence. A 1976 study funded by the National Institute of Mental Health reports that every year an estimated 1.8 million women are subjected to severe assaults and that such attacks occur at all socio-economic levels. Spouses are not the only victims; law enforcement agencies report that the investigation of family disputes accounts for approximately 25 percent of all police officers killed in the line of duty and 40 percent of all officer work-related injuries.

The Los Angeles City Attorney Domestic Violence Program has been created in recognition of a significant social problem which is of critical concern to the administration of criminal justice. The Program is based upon an acknowledgement that the offenses involved are among the most unreported crimes and that those cases reported to the police and referred to a prosecuting agency are often abandoned because of victim reluctance. Thus, criminal conduct which occurs in the context of a continuing relationship has been permitted to escape prosecution.

Public awareness of a trained group of attorneys and hearing officers who are sensitive to the special problems of domestic violence victims should increase the number of reported cases and successful prosecutions. This Manual provides the operational framework within which a prosecution agency can foster an effective response to this major community problem.

BURT PINES  
Los Angeles City Attorney  
November, 1978

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Production of this manual is the result of contribution, cooperation and assistance of many people. Deputy City Attorney Susan Kaplan developed the concepts and procedures of the program through experience with actual cases and provided the substantive content on which the final program documentation is based. In addition, significant contributions were made by Deputy City Attorney S. Thomas Todd, who assisted in the development of filing guidelines and the overall presentation of content; Deputy City Attorney Jon Mayeda, who guided the progress of a federal grant application in conjunction with development of this project; Administrative Coordinator Alice Hand, who assisted in the development and documentation of administrative procedures; and by all the Criminal Branch supervisors and Division Managers who devoted many hours to resolving policy issues and preparing the final document for publication.

Finally, we are grateful for the support and encouragement of Geraldine Stahly, Director of Long Beach WomenShelter, Dr. Barbara Starr, and attorney Susan Weiss.

GEORGE C. ESKIN  
Chief Assistant City Attorney  
November, 1978

### I. THE PROBLEM

The administration of criminal justice has frequently failed to provide an effective response mechanism for the complex problem of domestic violence. In far too many cases, aggressors have neither been deterred nor rehabilitated and victims have not been protected.

Often, domestic violence cases have been assigned a low priority and have been challenged as a legitimate criminal justice concern. Crimes committed in the home have been perceived as domestic relations matters and not as violations of the penal law. Once the perception of the criminal conduct is obscured, police officers, prosecutors and judges too often justify their conduct by asserting that they do not have the capability or responsibility for providing a remedy to a social problem.

Traditionally, the public prosecutor has viewed domestic violence cases as fraught with evidentiary problems which render the likelihood of conviction too remote to warrant aggressive prosecution efforts. Foremost among these problems has been the "reluctant victims", who have been hesitant to cooperate for several reasons. Personal beliefs and "role acceptance" are sometimes influential. According to psychological and sociological studies, some victims think that physical abuse should be tolerated. Poor self-esteem and the social stigma attached to the failure of a marital relationship are frequently reinforced by relatives, neighbors, friends and professional advisors. Many victims fear further injury or loss of shelter and support if they cooperate with the prosecution. Finally, many cling to the hope that "things can be worked out" and fear that prosecution will destroy the relationship.

Inadequate police investigations have created another problem faced by the prosecutor in domestic violence cases. Many law enforcement officers consider themselves intruders in a private quarrel. They often characterize such incidents as "mutual combat" and do not regard such circumstances as serious. Violent conduct which occurs in the context of a continuing relationship is not considered criminal. As a result, essential evidence is not collected and reports are either incomplete or not prepared.

After preparation of an initial police report, victims are often uninformed and confused. Defendants or defense counsel may contact victims and attempt to manipulate weaknesses. Easily influenced as a result of anxiety and insecurity, victims are told they have the power to decide whether a case is prosecuted and will be responsible for the defendant's inevitable incarceration and likely loss of employment. Finally, victims

are assured that the defendant is remorseful and will not repeat the conduct.

Even if a case advances to trial with a cooperative victim, the prosecutor faces jurors who may reflect society's lack of sympathy for the victim. Defense attorneys usually resort to trial tactics which have the effect of placing the victim on trial. Insinuations that the violation was provoked by the victim cause some jurors to find the violent act is justified and that the defendant is entitled to a "reasonable doubt."

Many of these problems can be traced to the absence of a prosecutorial model for domestic violence cases. There have been no filing guidelines, no system to monitor cases and no expertise developed to deal with victim-suspect role ambiguity. There has been no affirmative policy developed to deal with the reluctant, passive and frightened victims.

### II. THE OBJECTIVE

The objective of the City Attorney Domestic Violence Program is to establish an understanding that crimes of violence which occur between persons in a continuing personal relationship are no less criminal than those involving strangers. The protections of the United States Constitution and the California Constitution and Penal Code do not stop at the threshold of a family residence and crimes of violence committed in the home will be prosecuted.

The professional orientation of public prosecutors toward all cases, regardless of the charge, is to evaluate the quality of admissible evidence to determine if it is sufficient to establish guilt beyond a reasonable doubt and whether there is a likelihood the trier of fact will convict the accused. The diversity of problems in most domestic violence cases requires more than one response capability. The Program provides an aggressive, sensitive, integrated system which supports victims, pursues punishment in appropriate cases, encourages aggressors to obtain treatment, and seeks court supervision to deter further attacks.

### III. THE GOALS

The Domestic Violence Program has the following goals:

- (1) improve the quality of cases presented for prosecution;
- (2) provide victims with access to other protective and legal resources;

- (3) give victims continuing information, support and reassurance related to the pending prosecution;
- (4) increase the likelihood of conviction; and
- (5) reduce aggressor recidivism.

The Program includes the following operational components to accomplish the Goals:

Filing Guidelines

Office Hearing Referral Guidelines

Victim Assistance Guidelines

Disposition Guidelines

Sentencing Alternatives

Deferred Prosecution Program

System to Monitor Case Progress

Information System

Evaluation

Police, Hearing Officer and Prosecutor Training

Public Education Program

#### IV. PERSONNEL AND DUTIES

##### A. Coordinator

An attorney shall be selected by Criminal Branch management to serve as Coordinator. The duties of the Coordinator are to develop and implement program components and to monitor and review the effectiveness of those components. An organization chart which depicts the relationship of the Coordinator to Criminal Branch management is included as Exhibit A at page 13. The Coordinator shall:

1. plan and conduct meetings of attorneys, hearing officers and support personnel to discuss program progress and disseminate written materials;

2. implement and monitor record-keeping systems, including printing and distribution of forms;
3. review filing of complaints in domestic violence cases;
4. assist responses to victim inquiries;
5. notify assigned trial attorneys of all contacts with victims;
6. coordinate participation of hearing officers (see Part VI, infra);
7. review all dispositions in domestic violence cases;
8. develop and implement deferred prosecution program;
9. assist Los Angeles Police Department training;
10. conduct continuing education seminars for attorneys, hearing officers, and support personnel; and
11. analyze statistics and report regularly to Central and Branch Operations Division Managers.

##### B. Attorneys

All Criminal Branch attorneys will be trained to perform the duties in domestic violence prosecutions.

Attorneys assigned to complaint review will:

1. examine police reports, applying Office Crime Charging Standards and Domestic Violence Filing Guidelines (see Exhibit B, page 14) and Office Hearing Referral Guidelines (see Exhibit C, page 17);
2. attempt to contact victim directly;
3. complete Domestic Violence Record Card (see Exhibit D, page 21);
4. handle telephone calls and personal visits by victims;

5. forward completed Record Cards daily to Coordinator; and
6. note all contacts with victims on Office Case Record Form (see Exhibit E, page 22).

Attorneys assigned to master calendar will:

1. ascertain recommendation of assigned trial attorney, and
2. apply Office Disposition Standards and Guidelines and Domestic Violence Disposition Guidelines (see Exhibit F, page 23).

Attorneys assigned to trial will:

1. contact victim as soon as possible after case assignment;
2. provide victim with office telephone number and encourage inquiries in the event of future problems and concerns;
3. coordinate all pretrial matters with Law and Motion Section personnel pursuant to standard Office procedures;
4. report all case problems and dispositions pursuant to procedures set forth in Part VI, infra; and
5. advise attorneys assigned to master calendar of recommended disposition.

#### C. Hearing Officers

All hearing officers must be familiar with the elements necessary for successful prosecution of offenses which may occur in domestic violence circumstances. In addition, they must be able to provide appropriate responses to victims. Therefore, all hearing officers will participate in specialized training seminars described in Part IX, infra.

Hearing officers will:

1. interview victim to discuss pertinent facts, provide an explanation of court process and importance of victim's testimony, and confirm names of corroborating witnesses;

2. interview respondent, following an admonition and waiver of basic constitutional rights;
3. warn respondent of potential consequences of conviction; and
4. record any statements by respondent and any new information provided by any witness.

#### V. PROCESS

The progress of domestic violence cases is monitored by use of a 5" x 8" three-copy Record Card. Notations on the Card are first entered at the time of "Initial Review", as indicated in subdivision B below, and the top page of the Card is sent to the Coordinator. Future actions are noted on the second and final ("hard") copies of the Card attached to the case file, and the Coordinator is informed by telephone of any changes. Upon disposition of a case, the final copy is sent to the Coordinator, leaving one copy permanently with the case file.

A flow chart which depicts the process described below is included as Exhibit G at page 25.

##### A. Intake

Cases are presented to the Office from four primary sources:

1. Penal Code section 17(b)(4) referrals from an L.A.P.D. Watch Commander or the District Attorney;
2. police misdemeanor complaint applications;
3. misdemeanor arrests; and
4. citizens who visit the Office to report an incident.

These cases will be referred to a deputy city attorney designated to review and evaluate domestic violence matters.

##### B. Initial Review

The attorney reviewing the case will complete and attach a Record Card to the case file. If, during the course of reviewing the case, the attorney has contact with the victim, the information on the reverse side of the final copy of the Record Card will be completed. If this information is not acquired at the time of filing review, it will be obtained during the first



contact with the victim. After selecting one of the following four alternatives, the attorney will record the action on the Record Card and send the first copy of the Card to the Coordinator.

1. Request Further Investigation

A case may require additional information to establish important elements which are absent or unclear in the reports, such as a specific description of the severity of injuries; whether a weapon was used or how it was used; and whether adequate notice was given to support allegation of a Code of Civil Procedure section 527(b) violation.

In such situations, the attorney will request that the investigating officer provide specified further information before a filing decision is made. Appropriate notations will be entered on a Further Investigation Request form (see Exhibit H, page 26) to be delivered to the investigating officer.

2. Request Office Hearing

The attorney may request a hearing by completing the Office Hearing Request form (see Exhibit I, page 27). The hearing will be set within ten business days. A written notice will be sent to the victim, respondent and any witnesses. If the respondent is in custody at the time the hearing is set, notice of the hearing date will be given before release. The hearing date will be noted on the Record Card and the first copy of the Card sent to the Coordinator.

3. File Criminal Complaint

The attorney may conclude that the Office Crime Charging Standards and Domestic Violence Filing Guidelines justify a criminal complaint. In addition to standard Office procedures, the action will be noted on the Record Card and the first copy of the Card sent to the Coordinator.

4. Rejection

Rejected cases will be processed as follows:

- a. branch office supervisor will review file;
- b. reason for rejection will be noted on Record Card and first and final copies of Card sent to Coordinator;

c. photocopy of entire case file will be sent to Coordinator for review; and

d. if Coordinator believes a different disposition would be appropriate, branch office supervisor will be consulted.

C. Office Hearing

The hearing may conclude with one of four possible dispositions:

1. Resolved

If no further action is required, the completed final copy of the Record Card will be sent to the Coordinator, with the reasons for resolution noted on the reverse side of the final copy.

2. Reset

If the victim and respondent do not appear, the Coordinator will be notified by telephone of the new hearing date.

a. If the victim cannot be contacted by telephone and fails to appear for two scheduled hearings, the case file, including the Record Card and a rejection recommendation, will be forwarded to the complaint review attorney and the Coordinator. A letter listing available social services will be mailed to both parties at their last known address(es).

b. If the respondent fails to appear for two hearings and the victim does appear, the case file and Record Card will be sent to the complaint review attorney with a filing recommendation.

3. Continued for Resolution

If the hearing officer decides to continue the case for resolution, the following action will be taken:

a. Coordinator will be notified by telephone;

- b. victim and/or respondent will be referred to an appropriate social service agency; and
- c. hearing officer will monitor the progress of any counseling program.

4. Referred to Complaint Review Attorney

The filing recommendation will be transmitted to the complaint review attorney.

- a. If the facts support the elements of a criminal offense and the victim is cooperative, the hearing officer should recommend the filing of a complaint and forward complete notes of the hearing, a record of any social service referrals and the results of such referrals to the filing attorney.
- b. All cases in which the hearing officer recommends rejection will be sent to the complaint review attorney.

All recommendations will be noted on the Record Card and the Coordinator will be notified by telephone.

D. Arraignment

At the arraignment, the defendant may plead "guilty" or "nolo contendere", or "not guilty"; the case may be continued for referral to a deferred prosecution program; or the complaint may be dismissed. All actions will be noted on the Record Card and the Coordinator will be notified by telephone.

1. Guilty Plea

If the defendant pleads "guilty" or "nolo contendere", the Office Disposition Standards and Guidelines and Domestic Violence Disposition Guidelines will be applied.

2. Not Guilty Plea

If the defendant pleads "not guilty", the case should be set for trial as soon as possible. The deputy city attorney will request that the court order victims who appear in court at the time of arraignment to return for trial. This procedure will provide a form of proof of service. The case will be assigned to a trial attorney by the branch office supervisor, and the Coordinator will be notified by telephone.

3. Deferred Prosecution

Prosecution of the case may be deferred if the criteria described in Part II of the Domestic Violence Disposition Guidelines are satisfied. Upon referral of a defendant to a counseling program approved by the court and upon any subsequent court appearance, the Coordinator will be notified by telephone. Following disposition, the final copy of the Record Card will be sent to the Coordinator.

4. Dismissal

If the arraignment attorney ascertains facts which justify an application for dismissal pursuant to Penal Code section 1385, approval of the branch office supervisor is required. Civil compromise pursuant to the provisions of Penal Code sections 1377-79 is considered inappropriate in domestic violence cases and will be opposed. Following disposition, the final copy of the Record Card will be sent to the Coordinator.

E. Master Calendar

No disposition of a case shall occur without approval of the assigned attorney. No application for dismissal shall be made without concurrence of the branch office supervisor. All dismissals by the court which have not been approved shall be opposed on the record and in open court. All procedures set forth above in subdivision D, "Arraignment", regarding pleas of "guilty" or "nolo contendere", and "not guilty" and deferred prosecution apply to master calendar, where appropriate. Following disposition, the final copy of the Record Card will be sent to the Coordinator.

F. Trial

The Coordinator will be available to assist in trial preparation and, if practical, will discuss by telephone problems which arise during trial. The Coordinator will be notified promptly of any "not guilty" verdict and the final copy of the Record Card will be sent to the Coordinator with a copy of a completed Trial Report form (see Exhibit J, page 29). In the event of a mistrial, the decision to request resetting will be made by the trial attorney and branch office supervisor. Following a "guilty" verdict, the final copy of the Record Card and a copy of the Trial Report form will be sent to the Coordinator.

All procedures set forth above in subdivision D, "Arraignment", regarding pleas of "guilty" or "nolo contendere", and "not guilty" and deferred prosecution apply to trial, where appropriate.

**VI. VICTIM RELATIONSHIP**

Victims frequently approach the prosecution and express a desire to "drop the charges". Attorneys must explain to victims, defendants, court personnel and the public at large that the City Attorney's Office, representing the People of the State of California, will decide whether to file a complaint and whether to request dismissal of a complaint by the court. Because victims cannot assume the obligation of prosecuting a case, it must be explained that the public prosecutor has the responsibility for such decisions since the defendant committed a crime against the State. All personnel who interview victims should consider the following:

- (1) If the victim expresses a desire to "drop charges," explain that a criminal offense has occurred and the prosecutor has the duty to decide whether the court should be asked to dismiss a complaint.
- (2) Victims usually need reassurance. Private surroundings and the time necessary to provide support are essential. An extra five minutes spent in conversation may prevent the victim's nonappearance at trial.
- (3) Personal contacts will enable the attorney or hearing officer to make a more valid assessment of the victim's credibility to a trier of fact, and should be noted in the file.

A Victim Information Card (see Exhibit K, page 30) which contains an annotated list of Los Angeles area agencies and services and the Coordinator's office telephone number will be distributed to all victims who request assistance. All contacts with victims will be noted on the Case Record Form and the Coordinator advised promptly of any critical problems.

**VII. SHELTER RELATIONSHIP**

Victims often need assistance from shelters and other social service agencies. Attorneys and hearing officers will have available for distribution a supply of Victim Information Cards. Victims will be made aware of the available alternatives, but City Attorney personnel will not provide counselling or recommend a course of action beyond those described in this manual.

**VIII. TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION**

The training and continuing education program is designed for law enforcement personnel, City Attorney hearing officers, prosecutors and the judiciary. It includes selected reading for general background information from a recommended bibliography (see Exhibit L, page 32); lectures by psychologists, sociologists, and victims concerning psychological profiles of abusers and victims, and characteristics of relationships; seminars and group discussions concerning the role of criminal justice; motion picture films and videotape presentations; and visits to social service agencies.

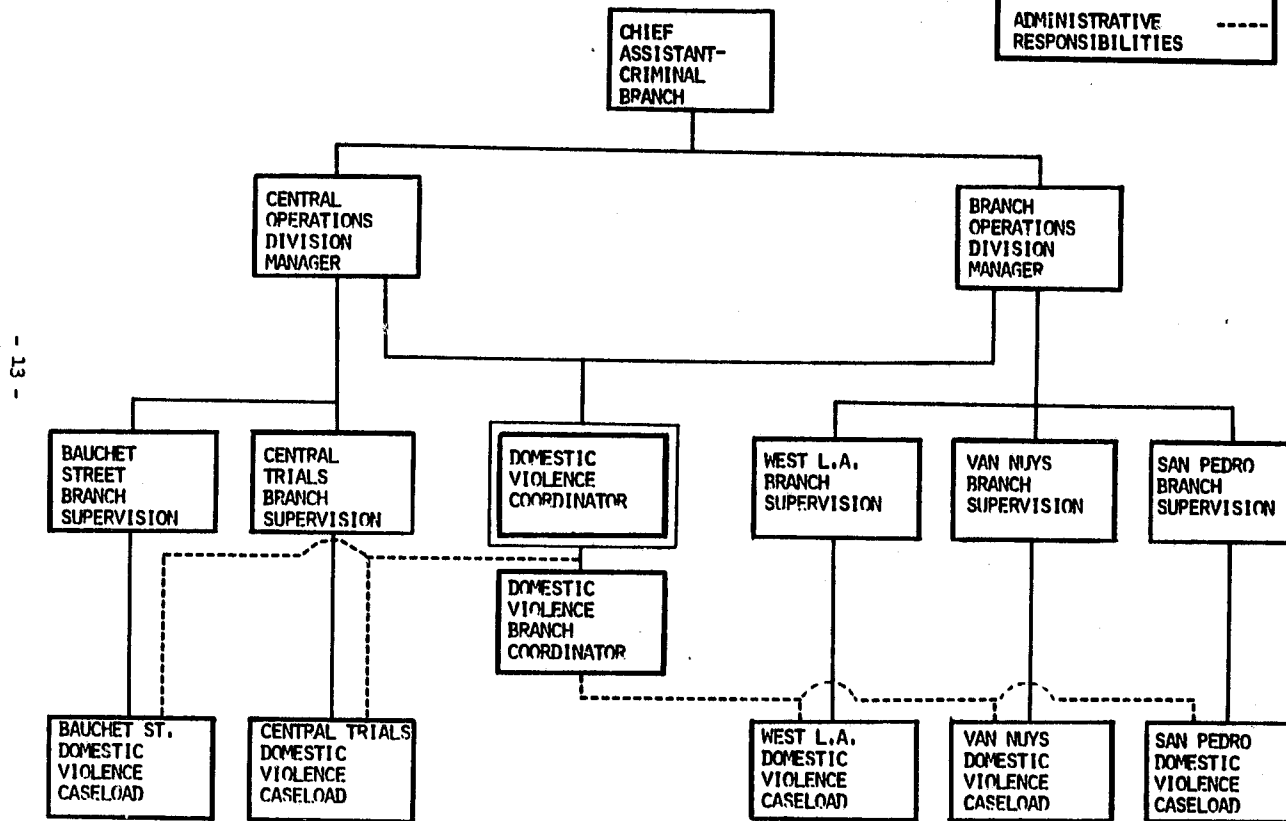
Following an initial orientation meeting of Criminal Branch hearing officers and trial attorneys, all personnel participate in regular seminar programs. Some seminars are conducted at branch offices and others are general meetings of all Criminal Branch personnel. During the branch office meetings, specific case problems are discussed.

Law enforcement training programs are coordinated with the Los Angeles Police Department Training Division and include assistance in the preparation of bulletins, videotape programs, and "roll call" presentations for patrol officers and investigators. In addition, investigators are invited to attend Office seminars.

Participation of the judiciary is coordinated with the Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles Judicial District and the supervising judges of the branch courts. Attendance by judges and commissioners at lectures and film presentations is encouraged.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM ORGANIZATION CHART

LEGEND  
LINE SUPERVISION ———  
ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES - - - - -



- 13 -

382

EXHIBIT A

## SECTION NINE:\*

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FILING GUIDELINES

I. STATEMENT OF POLICY

Domestic violence cases involve conduct in an interpersonal relationship, frequently occurring between parties who are or at one time were living together. These Guidelines are designed to improve the quality of evidence available for prosecution of such cases. A criminal complaint shall be filed in a domestic violence case if the evidence satisfies the Crime Charging Standards and these Guidelines.

II. FILING GUIDELINESA. Injured Victim

1. General. A police or crime report or complaint application which does not include the following information must be supplemented by further investigation prior to filing:

- a. a detailed description of the injuries sustained by the victim;
- b. the name, address, and telephone number of all witnesses, including any person(s) who administered any medical treatment; and
- c. a telephone number where a message can be left for the victim in addition to the home and business numbers.

Whenever there is visible injury, the complaint review attorney will request photographs and a medical treatment report.

2. Corporal Injury. A complaint alleging violation of Penal Code section 273.5 requires evidence of corporal injury resulting in a traumatic condition<sup>1/</sup> inflicted upon a spouse or

---

<sup>1/</sup> "A traumatic condition . . . is a bodily wound or an abnormal bodily condition, whether of a minor or serious nature, and whether internal or external, resulting, however, from contact with some external, physical force, influence or cause." (CALJIC 9.37.)

\* Los Angeles City Attorney Criminal Branch Trial Manual, Chapter Four

any person of the opposite sex with whom the suspect is cohabiting. Additional counts alleging violation of Penal Code sections 245(a) and/or 242 will also be filed if the Crime Charging Standards and the guidelines for those offenses are satisfied.

3. Aggravated Assault. A complaint alleging violation of Penal Code section 245(a) based upon use of force likely to produce great bodily injury requires evidence of serious visible or internal injury. A police officer's opinion of the seriousness of the injury shall not be determinative; the attorney will consider the officer's factual description of the injuries, photographs, medical treatment reports and any other relevant information. When violation of section 245(a) is alleged, an additional count alleging violation of section 242 will be filed because battery is not a lesser included offense of aggravated assault.

4. Battery. A complaint alleging violation of Penal Code section 242 requires evidence of visible or internal injury sufficient to corroborate the victim's statement.

B. No Physical Injury to Victim

1. Use of Deadly Weapon or Instrument. A complaint alleging violation of Penal Code section 245(a) based upon use of a deadly weapon or instrument requires clear and convincing evidence of the suspect's intent to commit a violent injury upon the victim. If no such evidence exists, a complaint alleging violation of Penal Code section 417 will be filed if the weapon was exhibited in a rude, angry or threatening manner. In either case, corroboration by another witness or physical evidence is required.

\* 2. Trespass. A complaint alleging violation of Penal Code section 602.5 requires a corroborating witness.

3. Vandalism ("Malicious Mischief"). A complaint alleging violation of Penal Code section 594 requires corroborating evidence.

4. Violation of Temporary Restraining Order Issued Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure Section 527(b).

A complaint alleging violation of Code of Civil Procedure section 527(b) will be filed upon presentation of the following:

- a. a certified copy of a temporary restraining order which was in effect on

the date the alleged violation of the order occurred; and

- b. proof of service upon the suspect of notice of the temporary restraining order, (affidavit of service by mail or in person, or an affidavit of oral notice by the victim, a police officer or other person); and
- c. a complaint application which describes in detail the conduct alleged to be in violation of the restraining order.<sup>2/</sup>

Additional counts alleging violation of other Penal Code sections will be filed if the General Crime Charging Standards and any other Guidelines for those sections are satisfied.

---

<sup>2/</sup> If the restraining order is phrased in general terms, for example, "defendant is ordered not to annoy, harass or molest" the victim, then the suspect's conduct must be such that a reasonable person would have been disturbed or irritated. Continued or repeated acts are most likely to fit this definition of "annoy, harass or molest."

## EXHIBIT C

## SECTION TWO:\*

## OFFICE HEARING REFERRAL GUIDELINES

I. INTRODUCTION

The Office Hearing Program exists primarily to resolve cases involving technical or relatively minor violations of the law, and, where appropriate, to obtain compliance with regulatory ordinances. Referring such cases to an Office hearing will increase the resources available for serious law enforcement problems prosecuted by criminal complaints.

Office hearings are also utilized to assist in the determination whether there is a reasonable likelihood a criminal prosecution will result in conviction (see Section One, Part II. H, page 4-4, supra). Where this is the purpose, the hearing officer may seek to determine whether a victim or essential witness is willing to cooperate with and testify for the prosecution, to evaluate witness credibility, to ascertain any potential defenses which should be anticipated and to determine whether additional evidence exists which will increase the likelihood of conviction.

In no event should a hearing be recommended unless it appears that a criminal law violation has occurred; referral to hearing should not occur as a substitute for rejection of the complaint application. A hearing should not be used to pacify citizens by attempting to referee disputes not involving criminal violations. Further, a hearing recommendation should be based solely on the merits of a case and not upon the insistence of counsel for the victim or prospective defendant.

II. GENERAL GUIDELINES

General criteria to be considered in deciding whether to recommend a hearing for reasons other than assisting in the determination whether there is a reasonable likelihood of conviction are stated below. A hearing should not be recommended merely because a case meets one of these criteria; however, if a combination of these factors exists, such a recommendation should be given serious consideration.

\* Los Angeles City Attorney Criminal Branch Trial Manual, Chapter Four

1. Seriousness of the charge. Does the case involve a relatively minor violation of the law? Is the injury suffered by the victim of a minor nature? Is the property damaged or stolen of minimal value? For example, depending upon the other factors stated below, a hearing may be appropriate in the following cases:

a. Penal Code sections 240 or 242, assault or battery, if no weapons were involved and if the victim sustained no injury or only minor injury;

b. Penal Code section 148, resisting a public officer (other than a Los Angeles police officer\*), if the conduct consists of noncooperation or verbal resistance or minor physical resistance, with no physical injury to the public officer and no property damage;

c. Penal Code section 602, trespass, if it is clear the suspect was not on the property to commit theft or to injure persons or property;

d. Penal Code section 484, theft. Specific guidelines for shoplifting cases are provided in Part IV, infra; and

e. Various Los Angeles Municipal Code sections defining public offenses; e.g., section 63.57(k), sale of merchandise, and section 116.01, loud and unusual noise.

2. Relationship of the parties. Does the case involve parties who have a continuing relationship? Examples of such relationships are husband/wife, family, boyfriend/girlfriend, landlord/tenant, neighbors, and business acquaintances. Specific guidelines for domestic violence cases are provided in Part V, infra, and in the City Attorney Domestic Violence Program Operations Manual.

3. Repetitive nature of the offense. Does the case involve an isolated incident, rather than one that is recurring or likely to recur?

\* Office policy requires referral of such cases in which officers of the Los Angeles Police Department are victims to the District Attorney for prosecution.

4. Degree of criminal culpability. Does the case involve strict liability or general criminal intent, as opposed to specific criminal intent?

5. Criminal record. Does the accused have a record of arrests, convictions or Office hearing referrals?

6. Credibility. Is there some factor which might seriously affect a jury's evaluation of the credibility of the alleged victim of the crime or one or more witnesses? Has the victim made complaints which have been evaluated by Office personnel on prior occasions? Does the evidence consist of the word of one person against another?

### III. AGENCY CASES

Cases submitted by such City, County, and State agencies as the Building and Safety Department, Animal Regulation Department, Fire Department, Health Department, Labor Commission, Board of Education, and Contractors State License Board generally involve strict liability offenses. Such cases should be referred to the Office Hearing Program unless the offender's conduct is aggravated (e.g., imminent danger to public health or safety), wilful (e.g., theft, false pretenses), repeated (e.g., prior notice of violation or inadequacy), or it is obvious that a hearing would not assist in achieving compliance and/or restitution.

### IV. SHOPLIFTING CASES

A shoplifting case may be referred for an Office hearing only if (1) the property has minimal value, or (2) there is some doubt regarding the accused's capacity to form the requisite specific intent; e.g., mental disorder and senility. If either of these criteria is met, a presumption is created that the case should be referred for a hearing. This presumption may be overcome, however, upon consideration of the following factors:

1. Nature of the property stolen. Is the property something other than a necessity of life (e.g., food, clothing, medicine)?

2. Employment status. Did the accused have the ability to pay for the property?

3. Attitude. Did the accused demonstrate contrition?

4. Criminal record. Does the accused have a record of arrests and/or convictions for theft-related offenses?

### V. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES

The primary purpose of a hearing in a domestic violence case is to assist the determination whether there is a reasonable likelihood a criminal prosecution will result in conviction. Ordinarily, a hearing will be recommended in the following circumstances:

1. the victim sustained no visible or internal injuries (mere scratches or redness of skin are not considered "visible" injuries);

2. the victim sustained minor injuries and continues to reside with the suspect;

3. the victim expresses a desire to "drop charges" even though the suspect's conduct was aggravated; or

4. the attorney evaluating the case concludes there is substantial likelihood a necessary witness will not cooperate with the prosecution.

A secondary purpose is to provide referral information for counseling, shelter and medical treatment.



EXHIBIT D

FRONT

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CARD**

M.C. NO. OTHER NO. BRANCH CASE OPEN CASE CLOSE

RESPONDENT NAME SEX AGE E.C. VICTIM NAME SEX AGE E.C.

RESPONDENT ADDRESS VICTIM ADDRESS  VERIFIED  
 NOT VERIFIED

RELATION TO VICTIM WITNESSES? VICTIM PHONE ALTERNATE PHONE  
 YES  NO

CHARGES FILED/AMENDMENTS

HEARING PROGRAM  PROSECUTION  DEFERRED PROSECUTION

HEARING NO SHOW SET/RESET RESP. COMP. PROSECUTION ARR. M.C. TRIAL DEFERRED REPORT DUE REC'D

DISPOSITION ON..... DISPOSITION AND SENTENCING

O/C-  PENDING  CLOSED  DISM-  WIT PROB  OTHER

FILING RECOMMENDED  VERDICT-  COURT  JURY  PROGRAM COMPLETED/CASE DISM.

\*FOLLOW-UP  MISTRIAL  RESET  DISM.  RETURNED FOR PROSECUTION

AGENCY REFERRAL SENTENCE:  JAIL - DAYS  PROB. - MOS.  SUM.  FORM. \*AGENCY:

REJECTED REASON

NATURE OF COMPLAINT: VERBAL ABUSE, PHYSICAL, MAJOR INJURIES, MODERATE INJURIES, MINOR INJURIES, WITH WEAPON, TRO

REASON FOR ATTACK: WHO CALLED POLICE? VICTIM, RESP., OTHER IN HOUSE, OTHER OR UNKNOWN

PRIORS: NO. ADULT INCIDENTS, NO. ADULT COMPLAINTS, NO. CHILD INCIDENTS, NO. CHILD COMPLAINTS, RAP?, YES/NO, PREV. DROP?, YES/NO

PREVIOUS COUNSELLING/TREATMENT? YES/NO

NOTES:

BACK (3rd copy only)

CASE RECORD FORM OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY CRIMINAL LAW BRANCH

ARREST WARRANT DATE ISSUED

EXHIBIT E

BOOKING NO. ARREST DATE

MUNI. CRT. # ARREST DIV.

ADDITIONAL CHARGES FILED ALLEGED PRIORS

ASSIGN CASE ASSIGNED TO

ARRAIGNMENT COURT BY DATE DIV. CHEM TEST

CONTINUED FOR

CONTINUED FOR

CONTINUED FOR

TRIAL DATE SET

NOTES

MOTIONS HEARING DATE HEARING RESULT DISCOVERY O.S.T.

P.C. 1868.5  GENERAL  INFORMAL

V.C. 23102.5  PRIOR CONDUCT  DISCRIM. ENFORCE.

ROSS/ROST  POLICE  CIVILIAN  INFORMANT

LAB/OR. APPOINTED DR/LAB NAME HEARING DATE

NOTES COMPLIANCE DATE

PROBATION VIOLATION DATE DIV. RESUBPOENA YES DATE BY

MUNI. CRT. NUMBERS HEARING SET FOR:  VIOLATED  NOT VIOLATED

DATE DEPUTY SW MASTER CALENDAR BY DATE DIV. RESUBPOENA YES DATE BY

CONTINUED FOR

CONTINUED FOR

CONTINUED FOR

CONTINUED FOR

NOTES

DIVERSION GRANTED  DIVERSION DENIED  DIVERSION COMPLETED  RESET FOR TRIAL

DATE DEPUTY SW TRIAL COURT BY DATE DIV. RESUBPOENA YES DATE BY

CONTINUED FOR

CONTINUED FOR

CONTINUED FOR

MISTRIAL/NUJ. JURY:  NOT RESET  RESET FOR: JURY COURT # NO

NOTES

DIVERSION GRANTED  DIVERSION DENIED  DIVERSION COMPLETED  RESET FOR TRIAL

SENTENCE IMPOSED

PROB. VIOLATION FINE OR JAIL AND JAIL

COURT SENTENCE DAYS DAYS

NOTES

CURRENT CASE FINE OR JAIL AND JAIL

CITY ATTY. RECOMMENDED DAYS DAYS

COURT SENTENCE MONTHS MONTHS

PROBATION FORMAL SUMMARY MONTHS MONTHS

CONDITIONS TYPE #'S

DEPUTY AT DISPO. DEFENSE ATTY. AT FINAL DISPO.

PD OTHER DEF PRIVATE

DEPUTY DATE DIV.

GA10 (7/77) PART 1 - CASE FILE PART 2 - DED PART 3 - LEAD - 22 -

## EXHIBIT F

## SECTION SEVEN\*:

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DISPOSITION GUIDELINES

I. CHARGE REDUCTION

The decision to prosecute a criminal case is a responsibility of a public prosecution agency, not the victim of the offense. Victims do not have the authority to "drop charges"; only the prosecutor can make application to the court for dismissal or seek the court's approval of an amendment to the original complaint for the purpose of a plea to a reduced charge.

Complaints filed in compliance with the Domestic Violence Filing Guidelines shall not be dismissed or reduced in the absence of compelling circumstances and supervisory approval. Persons charged with such crimes will be required to plead to the offense charged or proceed to trial.

It is the policy of the City Attorney's Office to oppose civil compromise pursuant to Penal Code sections 1377-78 in all domestic violence cases.

II. DEFERRED PROSECUTION PROGRAM

Prosecution of the case may be deferred if the defendant waives objections to any failure to comply with the statutory time requirements for trial to participate in a counseling program approved by the court. Referral for deferred prosecution will not be recommended without prior supervisory approval. If a certified mental health counselor submits reports at least every six months that the defendant has demonstrated satisfactory progress, and the defendant has committed no further acts of violence during a one-year period following commencement of the program, an application for dismissal of the complaint pursuant to Penal Code section 1385 will be submitted to the court.

A deferred prosecution program may be recommended if the following circumstances exist:

1. the defendant has no prior conviction of a domestic violence offense, and

---

\* Los Angeles City Attorney Criminal Branch Trial Manual, Chapter Five

2. a pre-plea probation report concludes that the defendant is a suitable candidate for counseling, and/or

3. the victim does not oppose such a recommendation.

III. SENTENCE RECOMMENDATION

The defendant's participation in a court-approved counseling program will be recommended as a condition of probation in all cases. The court should require progress reports not less than every six months. Standard "force and violence" conditions of probation will also be recommended. If the victim sustained moderate or severe injuries or the defendant has been convicted of prior acts of domestic violence, the deputy city attorney will urge that an appropriate period of actual incarceration should be imposed.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM FLOW CHART

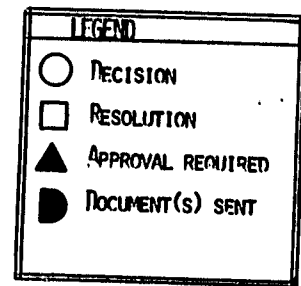
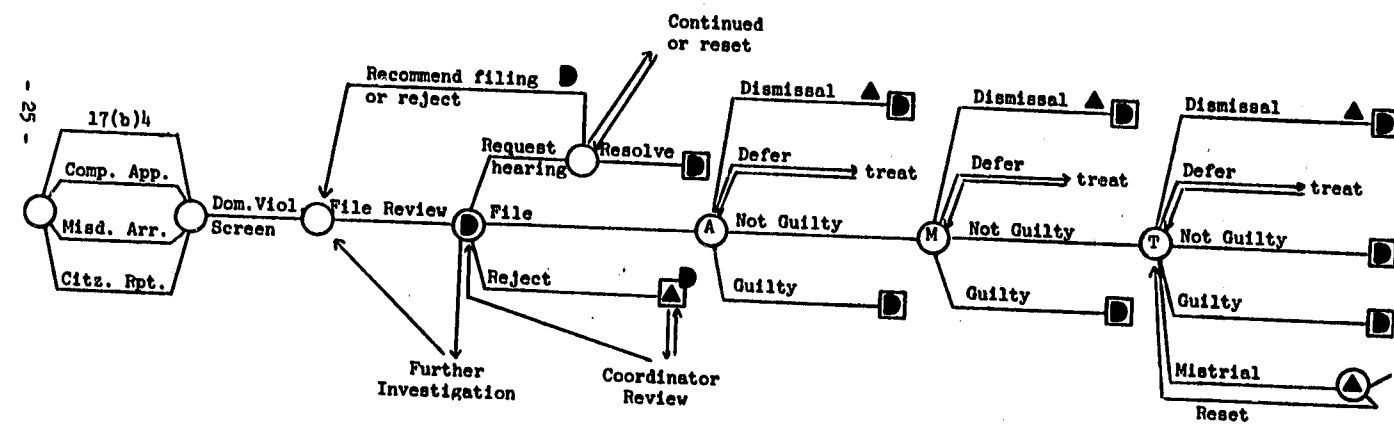


EXHIBIT 6

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FURTHER INVESTIGATION REQUEST

DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY: Circle area in question.

1. Describe specifically the extent of injuries.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Person who provided medical treatment?

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

3. Witness(es).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

4. Method of C.C.P. 527(b) notice.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Other request or notes (explain):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

EXHIBIT I

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY  
CRIMINAL LAW BRANCH  
REQUEST FOR OFFICE HEARING

COMPLAINANT \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

RESPONDENT I \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

RESPONDENT II \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

VIOLATION(S) \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT MATTER \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUCTIONS: Notify Complainant and Respondent(s) to be in office,

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

REMARKS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This request for a hearing has not been presented previously to any  
Deputy City Attorney or Hearing Officer:

COMPLAINANT \_\_\_\_\_

DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY/HEARING OFFICER \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

(OVER)

PURPOSE OF HEARING

1. Seek a workable solution as an alternative to criminal prosecution.
2. Warn defendant that repeating behavior will result in criminal prosecution.
3. Develop case for criminal prosecution.
  - a. Establish whether victim/witness is willing to testify.
  - b. Seek additional evidence. Case is weak because \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Other \_\_\_\_\_
4. Other \_\_\_\_\_

DISPOSITION

1. Return case for filing if case is developed successfully.
2. Return case for filing if dispute remains unresolved.
3. Return case to Division \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_
4. Do not return case for filing.
5. Other \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

WITNESSES: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

TRIAL REPORT EXHIBIT J

PEOPLE VS.		JUDGE	
CASE NO.		DEFENSE COUNSEL <input type="checkbox"/> P.D. <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	
D.C.A.		DAYS IN TRIAL	
CHARGES (I) (II) (III) (IV)		TRIAL DATES	
V.C. 23102(A) B.A.		GUILTY NOT GUILTY JURY COUNT (MISTRIAL) G. NG	
ELCOD <input type="checkbox"/> BREATH <input type="checkbox"/> URINE <input type="checkbox"/>		H & S 11550 URINE: POSITIVE <input type="checkbox"/> NEG. <input type="checkbox"/> REFUSAL <input type="checkbox"/>	

PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF SUMMARY OF FACTS, SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ASPECTS WHICH MAY HAVE AFFECTED THE RESULT, ARTICULATION OF IMPORTANT LEGAL OR PROCEDURAL ISSUES AND ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE TRAINING PROGRAMS OR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION RESULTING FROM THIS TRIAL EXPERIENCE.

EXHIBIT K

The following information relating to social service agencies is contained on the Victim Information card:

MEDICAL

- WESTSIDE:**  
 Santa Monica Hospital . . . . . 451-1511  
 Westside Women's Clinic . . . . . 450-2191  
 Venice Family Clinic . . . . . 392-2488
- CENTRAL:**  
 Feminist Women's Health Center . . . . . 936-6293  
 Women's Clinic . . . . . 655-5410  
 L.A. Free Clinic . . . . . 653-1990  
 Planned Parenthood . . . . . 380-9450/380-9300  
 T.H.E. Clinic for Women . . . . . 735-0081
- HOLLYWOOD:**  
 Hollywood-Sunset Free Clinic . . . . . 660-2400
- EAST L.A.:**  
 La Clinica Familiar del Barrio . . . . . 266-1122  
 La Clinica Libre del Puerto . . . . . 830-0100  
 Women's Hospital (LAC/USC Medical Center) . . . . . 226-3120
- SAN FERNANDO VALLEY:**  
 Northridge Hospital . . . . . 885-8500  
 Planned Parenthood (Canoga Park) . . . . . 883-4710  
 Valley Free Clinic . . . . . 763-8836
- SAN GABRIEL VALLEY:**  
 East Valley Free Clinic (West Covina) . . . . . 960-3804  
 Foothill Free Clinic . . . . . 795-8088  
 Huntington Memorial Hospital . . . . . 796-0371
- SOUTH BAY-HARBOR:**  
 Harbor Free Clinic/San Pedro . . . . . 547-0202  
 Huntington Beach Free Clinic . . . . . (714)536-8894  
 Laguna Beach Free Clinic . . . . . (714)546-3715  
 South Bay Free Clinic . . . . . 376-7979
- EMERGENCY FOOD & SHELTER**  
 Annon Hennessey House, L.A. . . . . 264-8144  
 DPSS Sundown . . . . . 443-4057  
 Haven House, Pasadena . . . . . 681-2626  
 Metropolitan Community Church, L.A. . . . . 466-4241/748-0121  
 Ocean Park Community Center . . . . . 399-9228  
 Salvation Army . . . . . 443-4057/627-5571  
 1736 House, Hermosa Beach . . . . . 374-9334  
 St. Martin de Porres Center, L.A. . . . . 234-9087  
 Sunlight Mission, Santa Monica . . . . . 396-6042  
 Sunshine Mission, L.A. . . . . 747-7419  
 Way Home, Pasadena . . . . . 792-5634  
 Womenshelter, Long Beach (open Sept.77) . . . . . 597-2002  
 Women's Transitional Living Center . . . . . (714)992-1931  
 Y.W.C.A. Women's Center, San Pedro . . . . . 547-0831

## COUNSELLING:

Airport Marina Counselling Center . . . . . 670-1410  
 Benjamin Rush Center: Culver City . . . . . 390-6612  
                                   Venice . . . . . 392-4157  
                                   24 Hour . . . . . 390-8896  
 Central City Mental Health Center . . . . . 232-4111  
 E.L.A. Mental Health (Spanish Speaking) . . . . . 268-9161  
 Family Service, L.A. . . . . 483-7384  
 Friends of the Family (Van Nuys) . . . . . 988-4430  
 Foothill Family Service, Pasadena . . . . . 792-5141  
 Free Clinics (See Medical Listings)  
 Kedren Mental Health, L.A. . . . . 587-9161  
 Long Beach Mental Health . . . . . 599-6691  
 Northridge Mental Health . . . . . 886-6121  
 Parents Anonymous . . . . . (800)352-0386  
 South Bay Mental Health . . . . . 772-1495/679-0041  
 Thaliens, Hollywood . . . . . (ext.573)651-5000

## HOTLINES:

(24 hour crisis counselling)  
 C.A.L.L. - Child Abuse Listening Line . . . . . 828-2255  
 Emergency Services, W.L.A. . . . . 390-8896  
 Hollywood Life Line . . . . . 466-4331  
 Rape Hotlines: L.A. . . . . 677-8116  
                                   E.L.A. . . . . 262-0944  
                                   Long Beach . . . . . 597-2002  
                                   S.E.L.A. (WASA) . . . . . 868-3783  
                                   So. Bay . . . . . 545-2111  
                                   Pasadena (REACT) . . . . . 383-6919  
                                   Sister (Pomona) . . . . . (714)626-HELP  
 Battering Hotlines: L.A. . . . . 677-8116  
                                   Long Beach - Temporary . . . . . 597-2002  
                                   Haven House - Pasadena . . . . . 681-2626

SUICIDE PREVENTION CENTER . . . . . 381-5111

## INFO &amp; REFERRAL:

Multi-Service Center, E.L.A. . . . . 266-3950  
 L.A. County Info: L.A. . . . . 380-2913  
 S.F. Valley . . . . . 785-8861

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JOHN K. VAN DE KAMP, DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
STEPHEN SPANGLER TROTT, CHIEF DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
JOHNNIE L. COCHRAN, JR., ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
18000 CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING  
210 WEST TEMPLE STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
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July 6, 1979

Congressman Paul Simon  
Chairman  
Select Education Subcommittee  
Committee on Education and Labor  
320 Cannon  
H.O.B.  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Simon:

In re: H.R. 2977 - The Domestic Violence Services and Prevention Act

The District Attorney's Office has taken the responsibility of chairing and coordinating the Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Council. I am serving as the Chairperson and Ms. Lonnie Gordon is the Council Coordinator. This Council is composed of 50% private and 50% public sector representatives.

A list of representatives is attached for your information.

Our major concern and purpose is to establish interagency cooperation to help alleviate Domestic Violence. This will require our joint efforts to:

1. Establish information systems to:
  - a. Record the number, nature, and disposition of domestic violence cases handled by each agency, particularly the police departments and district and city attorneys.
  - b. Make the policies and procedures of each agency in handling domestic violence cases known to every other agency.

- c. Serve as an information repository and clearinghouse for its member agencies.
2. Facilitate the development of procedures for handling of cases by County/City agencies with particular emphasis on the physical, emotional, cultural, and language needs of clients.
3. Facilitate the training, education, and provision of technical support to every agency.
4. Provide a program of public information and facilitate public education to enhance awareness of the domestic violence problem.
5. To propose new legislation relevant to criminal justice and social service agencies and to support the development of current bills pending in state and federal legislatures.
6. To provide on-going funding for local agencies who give direct service to victims and their dependents by exploring all possible local, state, federal, and private sources.
7. To distribute a Directory of Services to every agency for a comprehensive referral system.
8. To encourage law enforcement agencies to distribute a 'Woman's Survival Card' to the victims at the time of the crisis situation.

We hereby submit a 1977-78 comprehensive report by the Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Task Force which includes a needs assessment and statistics for Los Angeles County agencies. Also included is a summary of the Task Force recommendations to be implemented by the Domestic Violence Council. Thank you for this opportunity to contribute our concerns and to lend support to the consideration of HR 2977.

Sincerely,

JOHN K. VAN DE KAMP  
District Attorney

By   
JOHNNIE L. COCHRAN, JR.  
Assistant District Attorney

Attachment



REPRESENTATIVES

Los Angeles County Public Defender  
 Los Angeles County Probation Department  
 Los Angeles County Superior Court  
 Los Angeles County Municipal Court  
 Los Angeles County Juvenile Court  
 Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
 Los Angeles Police Department  
 Los Angeles County Mental Health Services  
 Los Angeles County Department of Health Services  
 Los Angeles County Department of Community Development  
 Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services  
 Los Angeles City Attorney  
 Los Angeles County District Attorney  
 Los Angeles City Commission on the Status of Women  
 Los Angeles County Commission on the Status of Women  
 Southern California Coalition on Battered Women  
 National Conference of Christians and Jews  
 League of California Cities  
 Shelters and service providers (various)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Establish a Domestic Violence Council with representation from specified County/City departments and community groups involved with the problem. Representation should be divided equally between public and private sector and have racial/ethnic balance.  
 "Sole Source" contract funding should be explored for community representatives.
2. Establish half-time County Coordinator and half-time Community Coordinator for the Domestic Violence Council.
3. Domestic Violence Council to assist in implementation and monitoring of information systems, resources, services and training.
4. Domestic Violence Council to serve as Information Repository and Clearinghouse.
5. Domestic Violence Council shall explore and make recommendations regarding models of inter-agency coordination.
6. Domestic Violence Council shall ensure programs are responsive to language and cultural needs of clients.
7. Domestic Violence Council shall advocate a Public Information Program.
8. Domestic Violence Council shall facilitate the development of new services in needed areas.
9. Domestic Violence Council shall facilitate development of procedures for handling of cases.
10. Domestic Violence Council shall monitor and coordinate education and awareness programs for staff.
11. Domestic Violence Council shall explore casework intervention models and make recommendations to incorporate into practice.

12. Domestic Violence Council develop recommendation for Board of Supervisors to increase conciliation court staff and develop a Temporary Restraining Order Program.
13. Domestic Violence Council and appropriate County personnel to arrange federal funding for unmet service needs.
14. Board of Supervisors direct appropriate County departments to assist community groups to obtain funds.
15. Board of Supervisors direct Department of Community Development to explore ways to revise HUD guidelines to meet housing and shelter needs of clients.
16. Board of Supervisors direct Housing Authority to explore designation of housing for clients leaving shelter.
17. Domestic Violence Council to initiate Board requests for support of legislation to eliminate housing discrimination against women and children.
18. DPSS to explore ways of expediting AFDC payments or other funds to women in shelters.
19. Domestic Violence Council to initiate and/or support various legislative changes as specified.
20. Domestic Violence Council to initiate and/or support various policy changes as specified.

CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

Domestic violence is a problem which pervades every level of society and has serious ramifications in future generations. It impacts heavily on the criminal justice process and in particular the District Attorney's Office.

The complexity of the cases necessitates an enormous amount of investigatory and case preparation time.

The sensitivities and understanding required in the handling of domestic violence cases require specially-trained and interested prosecutors so that the needs of all those directly involved are dealt with effectively.

Support services for victims of domestic violence and their families are needed to provide an environment of non-helplessness and protection. Victim advocates, shelters and other community resources are relied upon by prosecutors to provide such services during the court process.

If the judicial system becomes more responsive to the problems of domestic violence, more people, professionals and non-professionals alike, would be more willing to initiate intervention on behalf of abuse victims, thereby affording greater protection and opportunity for alternatives.

When rape victims became confident that their interests were being safeguarded by the judicial system, they were more inclined to report the attack; so also with abused spouses and children.

Abuse of one's family members can no longer be tolerated or ignored, a lesson the abuser sorely needs to learn.

Community education and outreach programs are necessary so that the public becomes aware of the problem and responds in an active way when confronted.

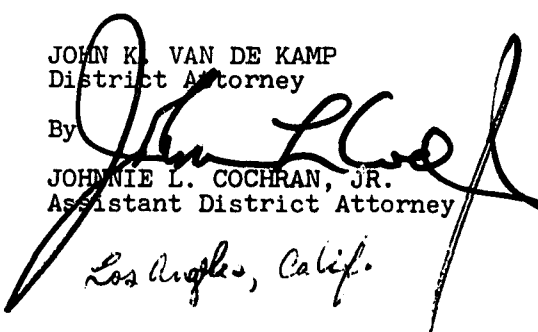
The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office recently received a grant (LEAA/State/County) for one year to initiate uniform prosecutorial policies, procedures and alternatives in domestic violence cases. Providing consultation to law enforcement agencies, medical facilities and community based programs is a significant part of the grant.

There is serious question as to whether the program will be funded for a second year. It is important to continue such programs if the problems of domestic violence are to be addressed in a professional and sensitive manner with equitable results. Otherwise, whatever is being accomplished is merely a Band-Aid and short-lived.

I urge your support of legislation which will provide needed services to effectuate beneficial results.

JOHN K. VAN DE KAMP  
District Attorney

By

  
JOHNNIE L. COCHRAN, JR.  
Assistant District Attorney

*Los Angeles, Calif.*

**END**