

the level of order placed on the offender. However, whether or not an order is issued, and the level of the order issued, is entirely up to the discretion of the judge. While victims are invited and encouraged to attend court proceedings, they may (or may not) be present when criminal protection orders are issued. Victims can provide input about the case and express their wishes – information that can be shared with the judge if the victim so chooses – however, the judge ultimately makes whatever decision he or she determines is in the best interest of the case.

Study Purpose

This project is a collaborative effort among the researcher (Dr. Sullivan) and two practitioners – the family violence victim advocate supervisor (Ms. Bellucci) and the Director of Administration Court Support Services Division (Offender Services), State of Connecticut Judicial Branch (Mr. Hill). The purposes of the study are to (a) elucidate the process of criminal protection orders as a critical strategy to reduce DV, (b) increase knowledge about how criminal protection orders influence the daily lives of women and children, and how they are associated with offender behavior, (c) disseminate findings to practitioners, policymakers, and academics to inform practice, policy, and future research; and (d) document the relevant accounts of the collaboration in order to inform best practices so that future collaborations can lead to better CJ policy, practice, and research (See the *Researcher-Practitioner Partnership Summary* for a detailed account).

Project Design and Methods

An exploratory mixed-methods design¹² was used for this study; the qualitative component was based on the expansion method¹³ whereby most qualitative questions followed the larger quantitative component to extend the breadth and range inquiry. Study data were to be collected from two sources (1) self-report of victims during a semi-structured, retrospective

