

Child Dependency Courts

Many families experiencing domestic violence also come to the attention of the child welfare system. Exposure to both domestic violence and child maltreatment can have immediate and, often, long-term impacts on children, families, and communities.

Between 30% and 60 % of families with child welfare involvement also experience intimate partner violence



National CASA Association (2018) Domestic Violence and Child Welfare Involvement. *Advocacy in Action: Resources to Improve Safety, Permanency and Well-Being*

Trauma-Informed Practices Lead to Better Experiences for Survivors & Families

Trauma-Informed Courtrooms

Environment

Environments that promote safety and limit unnecessary sensory arousal.

Comfortable in temperature, light and noise level.

Safety

Victims need a place to sit where they will feel and be safe from the perpetrator.

Create your court process to **LIMIT STRESS** for the family

Proper Signage

- Inside & outside the courthouse
- Multiple languages
- Clear Directions
- Large Fonts; High Contrast

Tips & Tools for Judicial Officers



Take time to understand context



Collaborate with system partners



Focus must always be on safety



Develop a shared system definition of trauma



Prioritize secondary traumatic stress



NCJFCJ Reasonable Efforts Checklist for Dependency Cases Involving Domestic Violence