

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND FIREARMS RESOURCE CENTER

David W. Keck, JD

Battered Women's Justice Project



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- This project was supported by Grant No. 2016-TA-AX-K047 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this program are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.



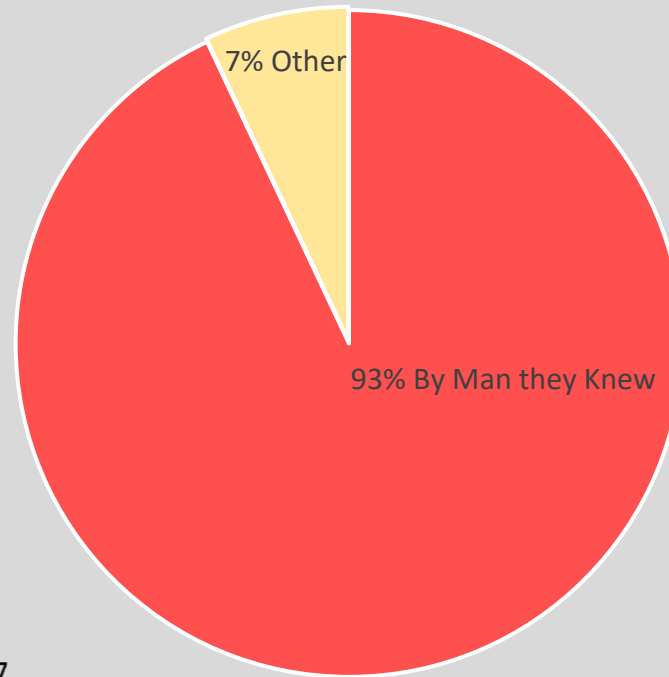
Why Firearms Restrictions in Domestic Violence Cases?

- Some Statistics Follow:



Not by Strangers

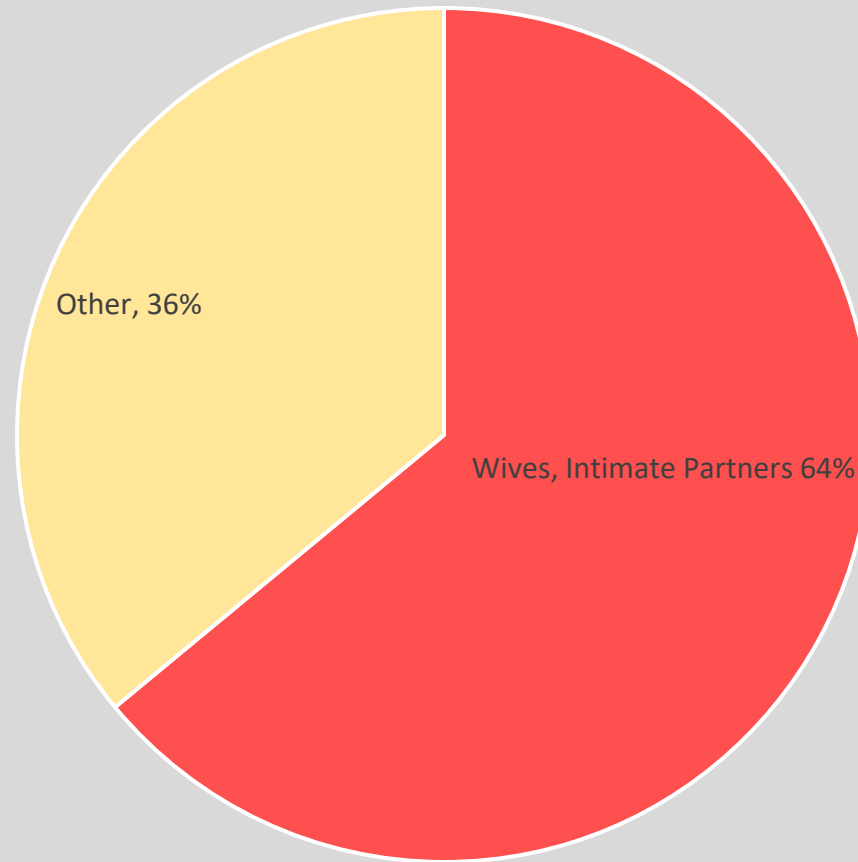
In this Country 93% of Women Murdered are Killed by a Man they Knew



When Men Murder Women, Violence Policy Center, 2017

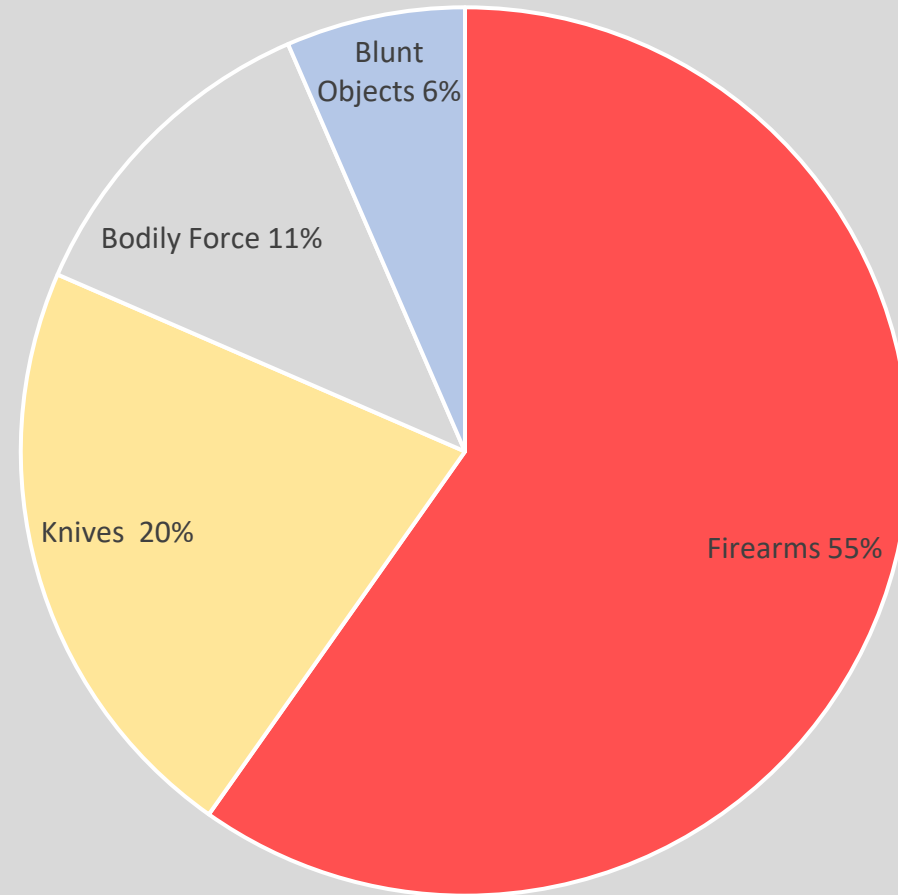


Of these, 64 percent were wives or intimate acquaintances of their killers. When Men Murder Women, Violence Policy Center, 2017



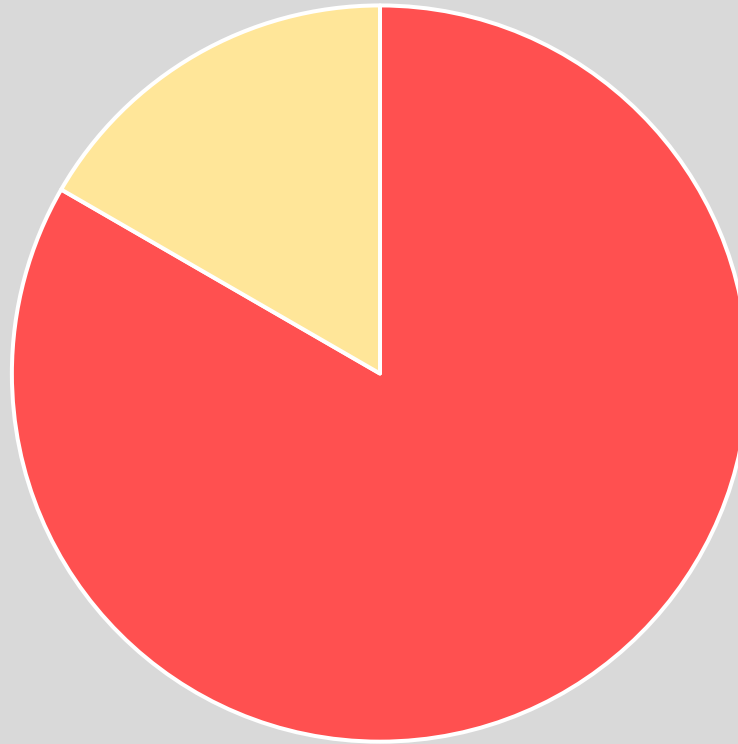
Firearms Account for Over Half

When Men Murder Women, Violence Policy Center 2017



The Presence of a Firearm Makes Domestic Violence Fives Times More Likely to be Lethal

Campbell, et al., Risk Factors for Abusive Re



Follow Through and Enforcement Lacking

- Federal law prohibits possession or acquisition of firearms by domestic abusers. 18 U.S.C. 922(g)(8) & (9)
- In addition, many states require surrender of firearms, or else authorize seizure following imposition of domestic violence injunction or conviction for Misdemeanor Crime of Domestic Violence. Giffords Law Center
- In many communities, these laws are not effectively implemented.



Enforcement of Existing Laws

- Recent research suggests that *actively enforcing* firearm surrender laws results in a reduction of female intimate partner homicides. Zeoli, et al 2017



National Domestic Violence and Firearms Resource Center

MISSION:

- Provide Technical Assistance in Development and Implementation of Firearms Prohibitions
- Provide Unified Voice on Issues Surrounding Domestic Violence and Firearms



What the Resource Center and Website Offer

- Technical Assistance
- Training
- Consultation
- Information
- Crisis Response



Technical Assistance

- In-depth and Hands-on Assistance to Local Communities Requesting Assistance in Implementing or Improving Firearm Restriction Protocols
- Individually Tailored Consultations, Including Training of Local Stakeholders
- All Aspects Surrounding the Issue, Including Planning, Collaboration, Problem-Solving, Logistics



Training

- National, Regional and Local Trainings
- Regularly Scheduled Webinars
- Focused Primarily on Implementation of Existing Laws Restricting Access to Guns by Abusers as well as Effective Strategies for Removing Guns from Abusers
- Dates, Times and Registration Information through the Safer Families, Safer Communities Website



Consultation

- Online or by phone
- Answers
- Referrals
- Suggested Best Practices



- Information

The Safer Families, Safer Communities Website offers current and archived information on emerging trends and recent news on efforts to reduce domestic firearm violence around the country through:

- Quarterly e-newsletters
- Articles
- Community spotlights
- Webinars
- Trainings
- Interactive Library (legal authorities, research, sample forms)



Crisis Response

- Safer Families, Safer Communities is Dedicated to Reducing and Ultimately Eliminating Domestic Violence Involving Firearms
- Until that Goal is Achieved, We Anticipate that more Tragedies will Occur.
- Crisis Response to Local Tragedies is Available in Two Forms:
 - Planning for Unexpected Tragedies
 - Immediate Response in the Aftermath
 - Contact Safer Families, Safer Communities for more Information



Safer Families, Safer Communities Website



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The National Domestic Violence and Firearms Resource Center

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Jul 18, 2018
WEBINAR - Extreme Risk Laws: An Overview
This webinar is hosted by the Battered Women's Justice Project and is open to the public. It is scheduled for 2:00-3:30 CDT...




Mar 1, 2018
Firearms and Teen Dating Violence
The entire country has been reflecting on the Valentine's Day shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland...




Feb 22, 2018
Children, Domestic Violence, and Guns
The negative consequences of domestic violence are not only felt by a batterer's intimate partner; they are also felt by...

Community Strategies


Building a Comprehensive Plan to Preventing Domestic Violence Firearm Homicide




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About Safer Families, Safer Communities

Safer Families, Safer Communities, a project of the new National Domestic Violence and Firearms Resource Center, supports comprehensive implementation and enforcement of domestic violence firearm prohibitions at all levels of government. By providing information, as well as community-based strategies and examples, this project seeks to prevent domestic violence-related homicide in our families and communities.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Contact Us

Please contact the National Domestic Violence and Firearms Resource Center for more information, or for technical assistance or training in this area. Please let us know if you want to join our mailing list to be informed of updates to our resource offerings for legal system professionals.

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Jul 13, 2018
WEBINAR - Extreme Risk Laws: An Overview
 This webinar is hosted by the Battered Women's Justice Project and is open to the public. It is scheduled for 2:00-3:30 CDT...




Mar 1, 2018
Firmaments and Teen Dating Violence
 The entire country has been reflecting on the Valentine's Day shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland...



Feb 22, 2018
Children, Domestic Violence, and Guns
 The negative consequences of domestic violence are not only felt by a batterer's intimate partner; they are also felt by the...




Jan 10, 2018
Study Suggests Greater Reductions in IPH Possible
 A recent study offers further promise to reduce the incidence of intimate partner homicide through firearms restrictions.




WEBINAR


Dec 6, 2017
WEBINAR - Overcoming the "Buts": Improving your Community's Response to Firearms and Domestic Violence Despite the Obstacles
 Communities across the country face a variety of obstacles to removing firearms from individuals who are prohibited from...




Dec 1, 2017
Georgia Commission on Family Violence Presents Jennifer Weinde with 2017 Gender Justice Award
 Jennifer Weinde, an investigator with the DeKalb County District Attorney, recently won the Georgia Commission on Family...




Nov 27, 2017
Preventing Gun Violence Against Native Women
 Six in ten Native women will be physically assaulted at some point in their lives and, on some reservations, the murder rate...




Nov 27, 2017
Reporting Domestic Offenses to Background Check Systems: Does it Really Matter?
 Background check systems, such as the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), were created to work like a...




Nov 27, 2017
Firearms and Ammunition Prohibitions in the Military
 Several studies estimate the rate of intimate partner violence (IPV) perpetration in the military from 13.3 percent to 47...




Nov 7, 2017
The Texas Church Massacre and Preventing Domestic Violence-Related Gun Violence
 On Sunday, November 5, a mass shot and killed 26 people and injured 20 others at a church service in Suberland Springs, TX.




Oct 11, 2017
Firearms Background Check Compliance Shows Signs of Improvement
 Domestic violence perpetrators are banned from acquisition or possession of firearms under federal and some state laws.



Oct 11, 2017
Armed Intimate Partners, Not Strangers, Present the Greatest Threat to Women's Safety
 A woman's intimate partner with a gun is statistically a much greater threat to her than is a total stranger.



Oct 5, 2017
State Intimate Partner Violence-Related Firearm Laws and Intimate Partner Homicide Rates in the United States, 1991 to 2015
 Every year in the United States, more than 1800 people are killed by their intimate partners, and approximately 50% of these.



Sep 28, 2017
Non-Fatal Firearm Uses in Domestic Violence
 Batterers use firearms in nonfatal domestic violence to control their partners.

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A Coastal Community Leads the Way With Strong Laws and Effective Enforcement.

BWJP | Jan. 1, 2018

California leads the nation with some of the strictest laws on guns. Since 2004, anyone served with a temporary protective order is given only 24 hours to turn over any weapons to local law enforcement or sell them to a licensed gun dealer. Even with some of the toughest gun surrender laws on the books, enforcement of the legislation was uneven.

A Kentucky Community Races to Provide Safety.

BWJP | Jan. 1, 2018

Lexington, Kentucky is a community that understands that time is often critical in keeping domestic violence victims safe. Two initiatives launched by the Fayette County Sheriff and Fayette County Circuit Court, electronic Emergency Protective Orders and domestic violence order hope cards, aim to save lives when minutes matter.

A Metro Atlanta County Creates an Effective Surrender Protocol Utilizing the Federal Surrender Laws.

BWJP | Jan. 1, 2018

DeKalb County Georgia criminal justice partners set out to save lives with a firearm reduction initiative.

A Midwest State Uses a Model Protocol, Legislation and Ingenuity to Gain Compliance With Firearm Surrender.

BWJP | Jan. 1, 2018

Wisconsin had legislated firearm prohibitions similar to the federal law, however, enforcement of the prohibitions remained challenging. In 2009, a subcommittee of the Governor's Council on Domestic Violence completed a model firearm surrender protocol to improve compliance with firearm surrender laws. In 2010, the protocol was piloted in four counties.

An Overview of Federal and State Law Related to Domestic Violence and Firearms

BWJP | Jan. 1, 2018

Under the Federal Gun Control Act of 1968 and passage of the Lautenberg Amendment, individuals who have been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence in state or federal court are generally prohibited from possessing firearms. The enacted statute defines a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence as any state, federal, or tribal misdemeanor that involves "the use or attempted use of physical force, or the threatened use of a deadly weapon."

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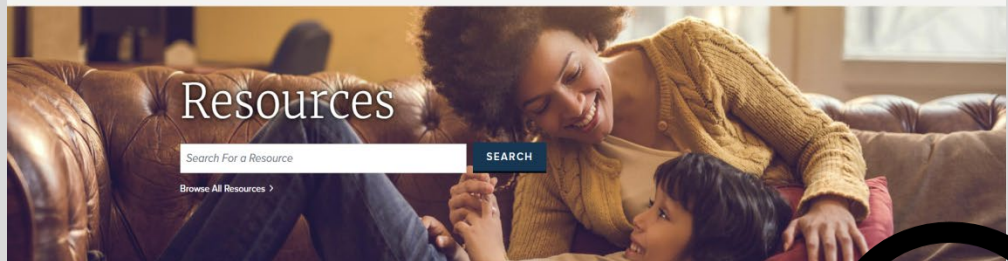
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Strategy

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Applied Filters: Legal Civil Legal and Policy Analysis

Differences in State Laws

BWJP | Jan. 1, 2018

Many states have enacted differing laws that relate to domestic violence and the restriction of firearms and ammunition. As such, understanding the coverage and limitations offered by each state is vital to identifying the strengths and areas for improvement in state laws. To read more, click here.

Limitations of Federal, State, and Tribal Law

BWJP | Jan. 1, 2018

Current law undoubtedly protects victims of domestic violence and prevents their offenders from possessing firearms in many cases, however, there are limitations to the federal, state, and tribal prohibitions in place that affect their ability to faultlessly prevent offenders from purchasing and possessing firearms.

Police Seizure of Firearms at Scenes of Domestic Violence

BWJP | Jan. 1, 2018

This table summarizes protocols by state for police seizure of firearms at scenes of domestic violence.



Community Strategies

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Eliminating Domestic Violence Offenses


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Community Strategies

Building a Comprehensive Plan to Preventing Domestic Violence Firearm Homicide


Preventing domestic violence-related firearm homicides and injuries requires a multi-faceted, interdisciplinary approach by professionals implementing and enforcing laws at the local, state, Tribal and federal levels. The Safer Families, Safer Communities project has identified 5 key areas or Community Strategies where civil and criminal legal systems can collaborate to save lives by adopting proactive and improved responses to gun-related domestic violence and reducing violent offenders' access to guns and ammunition.



Criminal Strategies

The criminal legal system provides a forum for determining criminal liability for allegations of domestic violence. The court is in a position to determine the defendant's eligibility to possess firearms, and to order surrender of firearms if appropriate.


[Learn More >](#)



Civil Strategies

The civil legal system determines the need for orders protecting domestic violence survivors. The court is therefore in a position to order surrender of guns as a consequence of this determination. The civil legal system thereby affords the offender due process of law.


[Learn More >](#)



Federal Strategies

All levels of local/state/Tribal/federal governments work jointly to make sure that federal firearm prohibitions are enforced to disarm and prosecute abusers, especially where state or Tribal laws are lacking.

[Learn More >](#)



Purchase Prevention

All systems work together to prevent purchase of firearms by perpetrators who are legally prohibited from possessing firearms by making sure that information about criminal history and protection orders is readily available to those responsible for conducting criminal background checks.

[Learn More >](#)

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Steps for Advocates

This Step in Action



Advocate

Disclosure of the existence of firearms in respondent's possession may expose petitioner to greater danger. The primary consideration should be the petitioner's safety, and her subjective viewpoint of what makes her safest should be paramount.

Step Checklist

- ✓ Determine existence of firearms
- ✓ Inform the court of issues related to weapons.
- ✓ Object to conflicting provisions either within the existing order or with another existing court order.
- ✓ Seek enforcement through civil contempt or criminal charges for violations



Civil Attorney

[Learn More >](#)



Community Spotlights

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Community Spotlights

Communities Blaze New Trails to Prevent Firearm-Involved Domestic Violence


Across the country numerous communities are effectively disarming domestic violence offenders by implementing and enforcing firearm prohibitions in domestic violence cases. Leaders and innovators in these communities have developed pragmatic and responsible policies, protocols and practices directed at all aspects of firearm surrender and seizure.




Dallas County, Texas
Dallas County, Texas, is known for being one of the most populated counties in Texas and a statewide leader on combating domestic violence. However, the county lagged behind in its efforts to confiscate firearms from domestic violence offenders. Developing a comprehensive solution to a problem that put domestic violence victims and the...




State of Wisconsin
Wisconsin had legislated firearm prohibitions similar to the federal law, however, enforcement of the prohibitions remained challenging. In 2009, a subcommittee of the Governor's Council on Domestic Violence completed a model firearm surrender protocol to improve compliance with firearm surrender laws. In 2010, the protocol was piloted...




Baltimore, Maryland
In 2009, Maryland enacted a law requiring a judge to order firearms confiscated from people who have final protective orders filed against them. Judges also had discretion to order firearms confiscation on temporary protective orders. Despite tough laws, enforcement was difficult in Baltimore where temporary protective orders were only being...




Atlanta, Georgia
DeKalb County Georgia criminal justice partners set out to save lives with a firearm reduction initiative. Though initially met with reluctance, committed individuals stayed the course until they created an effective protocol for removing guns from the hands of domestic violence offenders.



King County, Washington
King County, Washington is home to the city of Seattle and roughly 2.1 million people. It is known for its great coffee, the Space needle and unfortunately, a significant amount of gun violence. 130 people die each year in King County as a result of firearm use. That is greater than...



Lexington, Kentucky
Lexington, Kentucky is a community that understands that time is often critical in keeping domestic violence victims safe. Two initiatives launched by the Fayette County Sheriff and Fayette County Circuit Court, electronic Emergency Protective Orders (e-EPDs) and domestic violence order hope cards, aim to save lives when...



San Mateo, CA
California leads the nation with some of the strictest laws on guns. Since 2004, anyone served with a temporary protective order is given only 24 hours to turn over any weapons to local law enforcement or sell them to a licensed gun dealer. Even with some of the...

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Disarming Domestic Violence Offenders

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I Have a General Question

For general questions about Safer Families, Safer Communities, please click below.

[CONTACT US >](#)

I Need Technical Assistance

Contact Safer Families, Safer Communities for further information on related topics or the services we provide.

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I Would Like to Get Involved

If you are interested in collaborating with Safer Families, Safer Communities, please let us know.

[LET US KNOW HOW >](#)

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Contact

- preventdvgunviolence.org
- David W. Keck
- (920) 602-3109
- dkeck@bwjp.org



The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges: Technical Assistance and Training on Civil Protection Orders and Addressing Firearms in DV Cases

Presenter:

Darren Mitchell, Consultant

National Council of Juvenile and Family
Court Judges

NCJFCJ: Technical Assistance and Training

Civil Protection Orders

- Technical assistance to courts, judges, and other professionals on the **issuance, service, and enforcement** of protection orders.
- Webinars and workshops on CPO topics, including **custody and visitation, victim autonomy, compliance review, and firearms surrender**.
- Based on the principles, practices, and strategies in the **CPO Guide**.

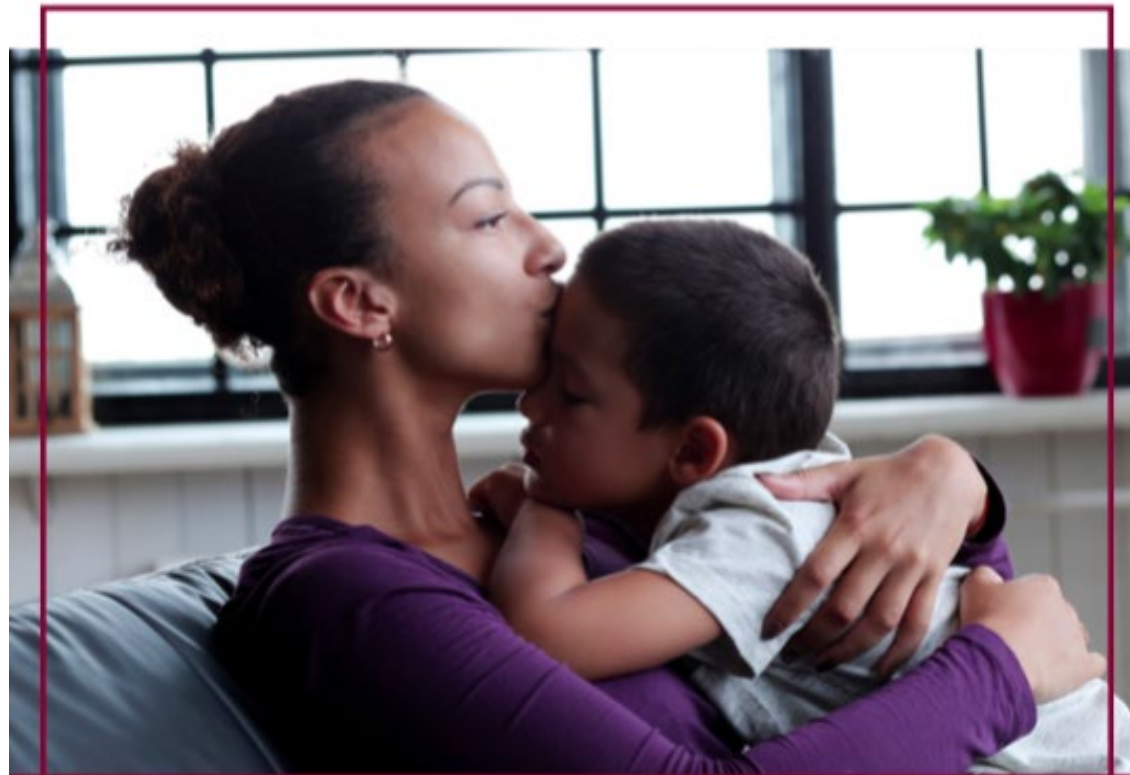


CIVIL PROTECTION ORDERS:

A Guide for Improving Practice

Civil Protection Orders

- **On-site multi-disciplinary training** based on an interactive curriculum that is designed to help communities assist victims with a unified, cohesive, and reliable response.
- **Roundtables and other structured discussions** with judges and justice system professionals to explore challenging issues.
- These discussions often lead to the development of new **resources** for judges and other professionals.
 - In 2017, the NCJFCJ adopted the principles and practices in **Custody and Visitation in Civil Protection Orders: Guiding Principles and Suggested Practices for Courts and Communities**, the outgrowth of a roundtable on the topic held in 2016.



Custody and Visitation in Civil Protection Orders: Guiding Principles and Suggested Practices for Courts and Communities

NCJFCJ
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES
www.ncjfcj.org



Firearms and Domestic Violence

- **Training and technical assistance** for courts and communities to help them identify gaps and resolve problems with the enforcement of firearms prohibitions
- **Firearms Technical Assistance Project (FTAP)**

FTAP Objectives

- Provide intensive technical assistance to seven diverse project sites working to improve their response to firearms in criminal and civil domestic violence cases
- Obtain and disseminate information about effective strategies and lessons learned
- Identify approaches that protect victims, children, and others while promoting victim autonomy and safeguarding offenders' due process rights
- Facilitate peer-to-peer mentoring and other vehicles to promote idea-sharing and problem-solving among communities

FTAP Structure

- Seven project sites (at least two tribal communities):
Currently conducting site-selection visits to ten sites
- Diversity: geographic, demographic, legal framework, leadership, challenges to be addressed
- Focus on both civil and criminal domestic violence cases
- Evaluation component: quantitative and qualitative measures of project success
- Intensive TA and training, peer-to-peer mentoring and idea-sharing

**Why is this work so
challenging?
What type of resistance do
you encounter?**

Why is this work so challenging?

1. Please think by yourself about resistance you've encountered when trying to improve your community's response to firearms in DV cases—or that you anticipate encountering when you begin this work (3 mins)
2. Discuss your most significant challenge with your neighbor (5 mins)
3. Report out

Overcoming the “Buts”: Forms of resistance

General resistance and concern

- **“But we don’t have the resources (personnel, money) to do anything new”**
- **“But we have a really strong gun culture”**
- **“But I’ll never get re-elected”**
- **“But our [judge, police chief, sheriff, prosecutors, etc.] will never buy in to this”**

General resistance and concern

- **“But he’ll just use another weapon”**
- **“But he’ll just give it to his friend, brother, dad, etc.”**
- **“But we don’t have anywhere to store the guns”**
- **“But he can get a gun illegally no matter what we do”**
- **“But this is just another intervention that will disproportionately affect communities of color”**

Resistance to specific strategies

- Courts should issue orders to surrender firearms in conjunction with criminal orders (conditions of release, etc.) and civil protection orders
 - **“But our courts don’t have the authority to prohibit possession and/or order surrender of firearms”**
- Law enforcement officers should seize firearms at the scene of a domestic violence incident and upon service of protection orders requiring surrender
 - **“But our law enforcement officers don’t have the authority to take firearms”**

Resistance to specific strategies

- Local and state/tribal agencies should collaborate with their federal counterparts to provide a coordinated response to firearms in domestic violence cases
 - **“But the feds never return our call”**
- Communities should ensure that information about misdemeanor domestic violence convictions and civil and criminal protection orders that meet the requirements of the federal firearm prohibitions are made accessible to the National Instant Criminal Background Check (NICS) system through the available national databases
 - **“But our tribe can’t get access to the federal databases”**

Overcoming the “buts”

“We have a strong gun culture”

“I’ll never get re-elected”

- Frame discussion as public-health problem
 - Know the data and statistics
 - Draw from national and local data (are there fatality reviews? Does your state coalition compile data re: DV homicides?)
- Focus on fact that prohibitions and surrender orders only apply to those convicted or subject to protection orders, with due process protections
- Emphasize support among other key stakeholders, especially prominent law enforcement and prosecution officials
 - Provide a united front

“We have a strong gun culture”

“I’ll never get re-elected”

- Responsible and concerned gun owners are terrific allies
- Gun rights groups have supported (or at least not opposed) legislation addressing firearms and DV in states around the country
 - Recognition that the laws and implementation efforts target people who have been court-adjudicated as abusive and dangerous
- Others jurisdictions with a strong “gun culture” have done it
 - Examples include KY, TX, VT, WV, and others
 - Lessons learned can be shared

“We don’t have the resources (personnel, money)”

- Many sources of funding may be tapped
 - FPSI
 - Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Grant Program
 - STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program
 - National Criminal History Improvement Program
- Some strategies pay for themselves
 - Storage fees, to be discussed
- Existing personnel may be leveraged
 - Court resource coordinators (can facilitate monitoring)
- Efficient forms and processes can reduce time demands
 - Example: Require return receipt for gun surrender; hearing cancelled if received by court

“But our [judge, police chief, sheriff, prosecutors, etc.] will never buy in to this”

- Lack of buy-in and collaboration can be overcome by convening frank conversations that lead to a **shared purpose** for doing the work and a **shared understanding** of the challenges
 - Bringing in an outsider to facilitate can be helpful
- Obtaining buy in by each stakeholder group can require different strategies:
 - Law enforcement: Officer safety, prevention of crime, clarity for officers re: roles and responses
 - Courts: Judges want to know what happens after orders issued and desire enforcement; collaboration alleviates some of the court’s burden to monitor compliance; greater information means more protective orders
 - Sheriffs: Officer safety, especially during service of process

“But he’ll just use another weapon”

- Several studies establish that “access to” (not strictly ownership of) firearms is correlated to increase in likelihood of homicide and increased severity of violence
- Research indicates lack of a “substitution effect”—abusers do not use alternative weapons to kill when they do not have access to a gun

“But he’ll just give it to his friend, brother, dad, etc.”

- Although this is permissible, protocols and forms can make it safer:
 - Certification/affidavit signed by both parties, with acknowledgement of federal and state criminal liability for allowing access
 - Background check
 - Transfer at federally-licensed firearm dealer
 - Some courts require third-party to appear before the judge

“But we don’t have anywhere to store the guns”

Creative solutions exist:

- Use of licensed dealers, with fees passed on to owners (explicit authority in some states)
- Dallas, TX: gun range

“But he can get a gun illegally no matter what we do”

- Imperative for us to use all means at our disposal to make abusers' acquisition of a firearm as difficult as possible
- Obtaining a gun on the illegal market is not as easy as most people perceive

“But he can get a gun illegally no matter what we do”

“Yes, some criminals will be able to steal or purchase guns already in circulation. But many of the estimated 300 million guns in civilian hands can’t be easily acquired by criminals. Lots of gun owners lock their guns in safes or have other ways to secure their firearms, practices that can be increased by laws and educational campaigns. ...

“But he can get a gun illegally no matter what we do”

And it's not as easy or risk free for criminals to buy guns in the underground market as is commonly believed. Duke economist Philip Cook has studied Chicago's underground gun market and said, 'there may be a lot of guns, but there is a shortage of trusted sellers.' With greater accountability measures and choking the supply of new guns into the underground market, street prices will rise and fewer dangerous people will have guns.”

Daniel Webster
Professor, School of Public Health
Johns Hopkins University

“But this is just another intervention that will disproportionately affect communities of color”

- Recognize that firearms violence disproportionately affects communities of color, and especially women of color
- Any interventions should be developed in collaboration with the affected communities
 - Don't impose, collaborate

“But this is just another intervention that will disproportionately affect communities of color”

- Interventions targeting domestic violence should be a part of strategies to address firearms generally in underserved communities of color
 - For a description of effective strategies, see *Engaging Communities in Reducing Gun Violence: A Road Map for Safer Communities*

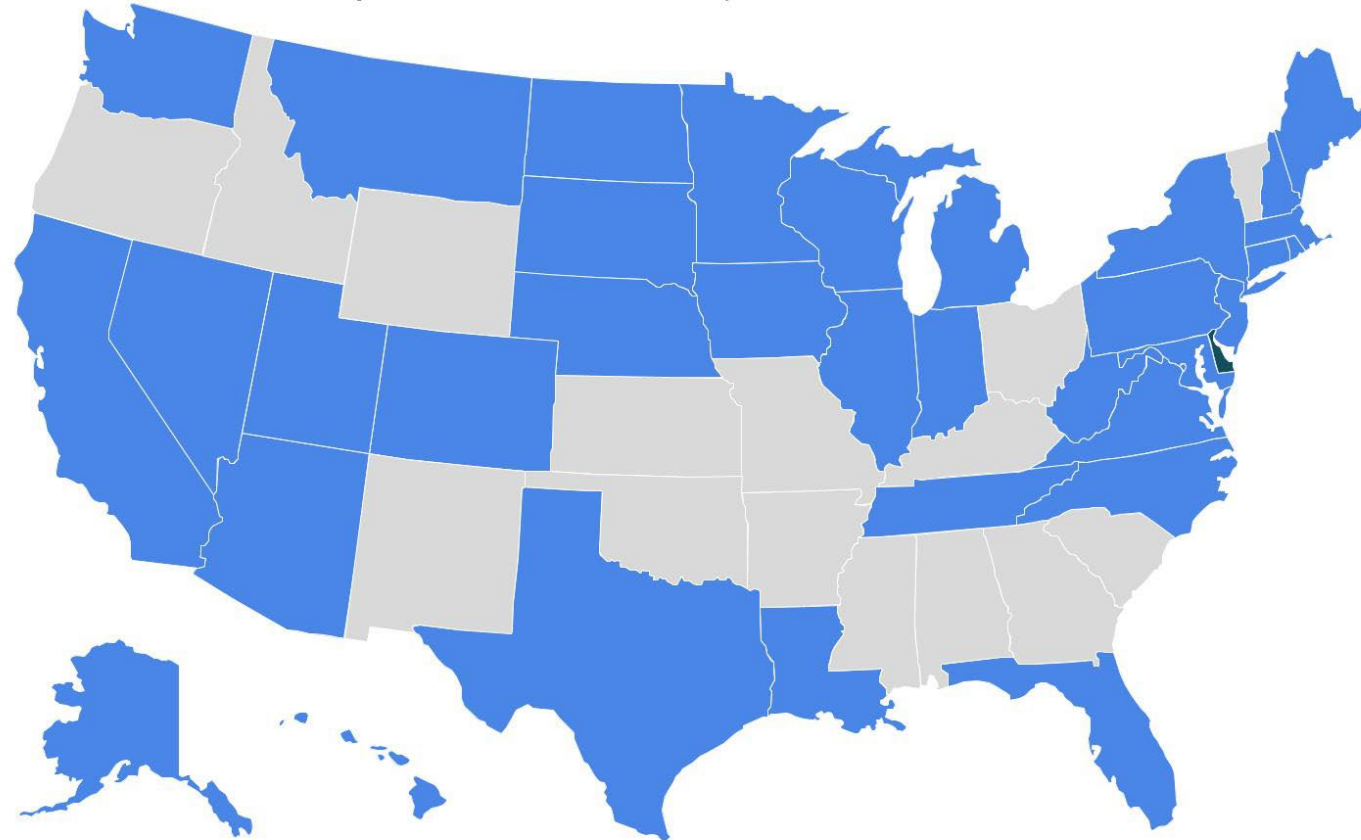
(Urban Institute, Joyce Foundation, and Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies 2016)

<https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/80061/2000760-engaging-communities-in-reducing-gun-violence-a-road-map-for-safer-communities.pdf>

“But our courts don’t have the authority to prohibit possession and/or order surrender of firearms”

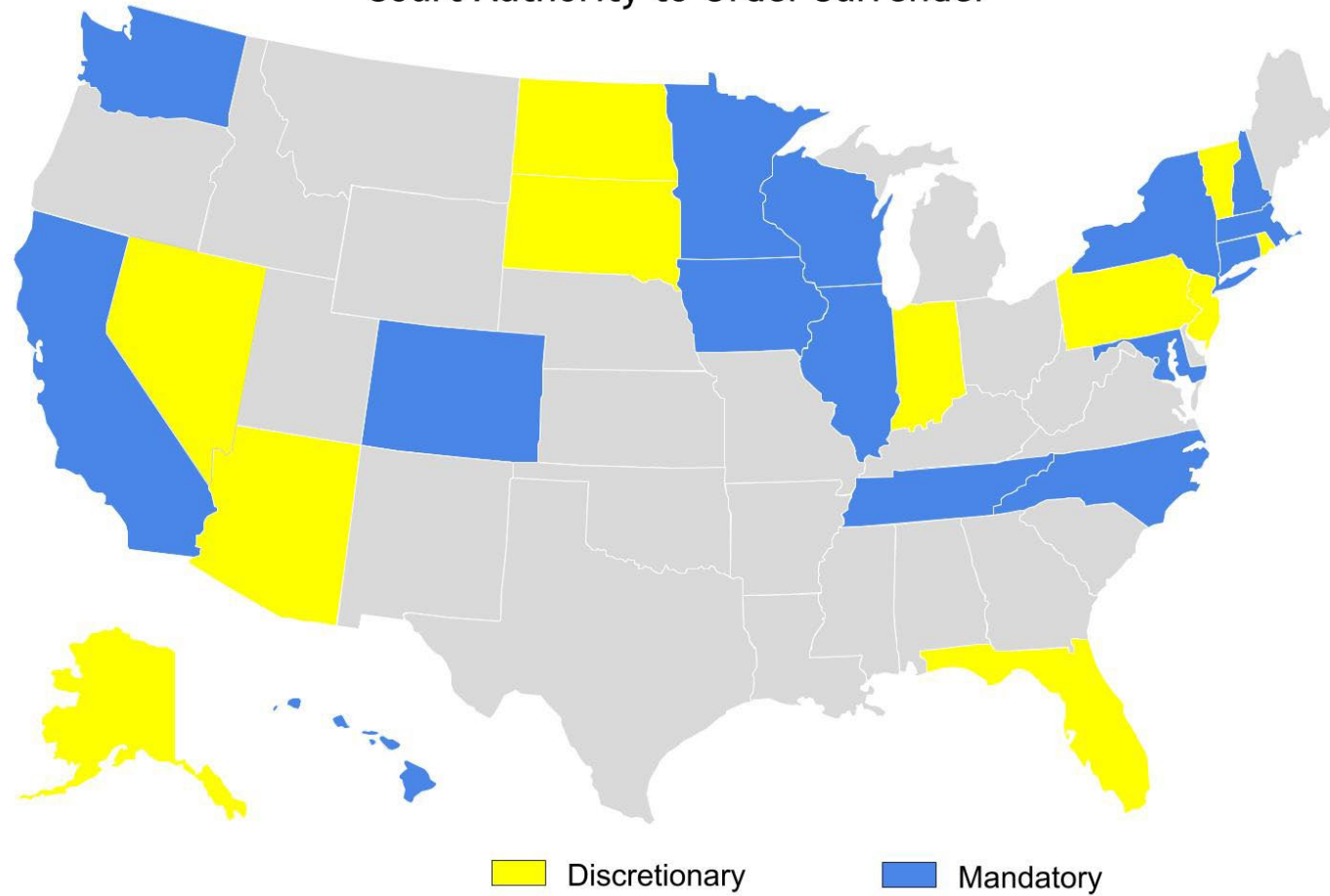
Civil Protection Orders

Explicit Court Authority to Prohibit Possession/Purchase



Civil Protection Orders

Court Authority to Order Surrender



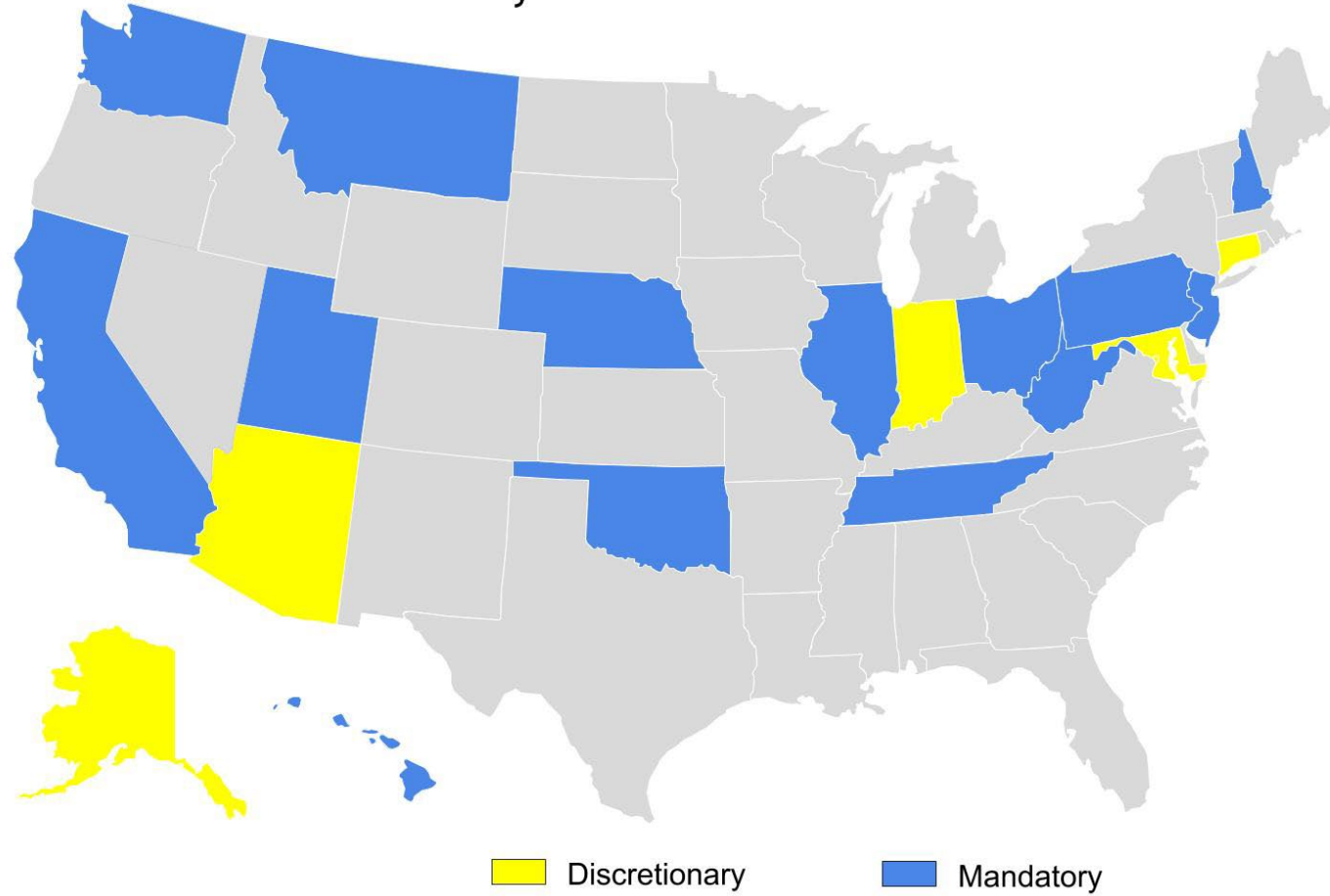
“But our courts don’t have the authority to prohibit possession and/or order surrender of firearms”

- First, be sure that is the case
 - Sometimes prohibitions exist outside the protection order code, for example
- Even if there is no **explicit** authority, you can use **implicit** authority
 - “Catch-all” provisions; e.g., “other relief deemed necessary to provide for the safety and welfare of the plaintiff or any children”
 - Some jurisdictions have developed robust surrender procedures based upon implicit authority (Louisville, KY; Miami, FL)

**“But our law enforcement officers
don’t have the authority to take
firearms”**

Law Enforcement Response

Authority to Remove Firearms at the Scene



“But our law enforcement officers don’t have the authority to take firearms”

Even where laws do not explicitly authorize officers to seize or seek surrender of firearms at the scene of a DV incident, other sources of authority may permit officers to take firearms:

- Safekeeping
- Voluntary surrender (marital property issue)
- Incident to arrest
- As contraband (e.g., if the gun is “illegal”)
- In some circumstances: for violation of federal law

“But the feds never return our call”

Possible strategies include:

- Reach out to the Violence Against Women Act point of contact in the relevant U.S. Attorney’s Office
- Enlist the federal Office of Tribal Justice in brokering relationships
- Explore cross-designation of prosecutors and/or law enforcement officers
- Learn about past and existing successful collaborations
 - Some through Project Safe Neighborhoods

“But our tribe can’t get access to the federal databases”

Access to federal databases is critical

Challenges:

- Tribal participation in national criminal justice information sharing depends upon state regulations, statutes, and policies in which tribal land is located
- Tribes may face barriers to accessing and entering information into national crime information databases via state networks
- Results:
 - Tribal records are unavailable to other jurisdictions
 - Responding officers, victims, and entire communities are at risk
- Source: U.S. Dept. of Justice Tribal Access Program

“But our tribe can’t get access to the federal databases”

A potential Solution: **Tribal Access Program (TAP)**

- Kiosk workstations, training, and support to enable Tribes to access the federal National Crime Information Center (NCIC) databases
- DOJ serves as Criminal Justice Information Service (CJIS) Service Agency (CSA)
- Civil (including protection order) and criminal cases



TRIBAL ACCESS PROGRAM

TAP Tribes



KEY

- TAP-FULL tribe (receive a kiosk workstation for whole-of-government needs)
- ◆ TAP-LIGHT tribe (receive software for criminal justice agencies)

Funded by:



For more information about TAP

Web: www.justice.gov/tribal/tap

e-mail: tribalaccess@usdoj.gov

**What “buts” have you
encountered that we
haven’t discussed?**

Resources

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
Family Violence and Domestic Relations Program

(800) 527-3223

www.ncjfcj.org

nhart@ncjfcj.org

The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and
Firearms, Battered Women's Justice Center

www.preventdvgunviolence.org

Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy & Research, Johns
Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-gun-policy-and-research/

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