

**Eugene Hyman – Outline
Juvenile DV Courts
1/13/10**

Why start a juvenile domestic violence and family violence court?

Recognizing that domestic violence and family violence does start occurring before the age of 18.

Goals of the Court:

Stop the violence

Protect victims and their children

Rehabilitate the offender

Collaborative partners:

The Court

Probation

Prosecution

Defense

Police

Non-profit service providers

Intervention program providers

Need for partner growth

Intervention:

Starts when the police are called. If probable cause exists, an arrest is made and an emergency protection order is obtained.

The juvenile batterer (if dating violence) must be taken to Juvenile Hall and must be detained for a detention hearing the following day.

If family violence, an arrest is made if probable cause exists. The

police and probation decide if the juvenile is to be held for a detention hearing.

During the first hearing, if dating violence, a protection order is made if appropriate. Usual order is for no contact.

Probation makes referrals to non-profit agencies to contact family violence victim and to offer services.

If the victim has a child with the offender, the services include offer for a civil restraining order, child support, visitation, and determination of paternity, if at issue.

If family violence case, probation connects family to service providers.

If the juvenile is a dating violence batterer:

Custodial detention, if appropriate

Twenty-six week intervention program

Substance abuse, if appropriate

If there is a child between the parties, parenting and “parenting without violence” classes

Must attend school or vocational activities (work)

No contact order during the period of probation (may be modified as appropriate)

Other related conditions of probation as appropriate

If the juvenile has committed family violence:

Same as above

If there is a no contact order, the juvenile will need placement out of the home.

Training

Probation, police, and deputy sheriffs receive state mandated training about domestic violence

The Court required training for all government attorneys and court personnel who practiced before the specialized court. Three hours per year.

Institutionalization of the juvenile domestic violence and family violence court

Protocols: Must be reviewed by the “team” annually for modifications as needed based upon new legislation, case law, and best practices. An opportunity to involve new members and to establish a common understanding regarding the organization and workings of the Court.

Research and its shortcomings:

Brenda will address what the study found and I could discuss that the victim information could not be collected.

- How many juvenile victims were able to leave their abuser safely as a result of services provided to them by the specialized court?
- How many victims later had healthy relationships as a result of the intervention services provided to them?
- How many children avoided removal proceedings in the dependency system as a result of the services provided by non-

profit partners of the court?

- How many children were able to have healthy relationships with a formerly abusive parent as a result of information-sharing protocols allowing the family court to make better informed decisions? (For example, the juvenile court has allowed the probation department to share victim contact information with LACY, a collaborative partner that offers free representation to help obtain a civil restraining order or establish paternity, child support, custody and visitation.)
- How many parents of juvenile batterers were able to leave abusive relationships as a result of services provided to them by non-profit partners of the court?

Most people focus on the measured successes regarding re-offending.

Personal interviews with victims would be necessary to answer most of the above questions. That would be extremely costly and therefore prohibitive.