

Our Policy

- *Effective Intervention in Domestic Violence & Child Maltreatment Cases: Guidelines for Policy and Practice* (1999), also known as the *Greenbook*, is official policy of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and sets forth principles and recommendations for improving the policies and practices of child protection services, domestic violence services, and juvenile courts.
- Fundamental to the *Greenbook's* recommendations are the guiding principles that: 1) communities should establish responses to domestic violence and child maltreatment that offer meaningful help to families, including protections for all victims from physical harm; and 2) child welfare administrators and court personnel should try to keep children affected by maltreatment and domestic violence in the care of the non-offending parent.

Our Work

- The NCJFCJ also provides focused training, technical assistance, and product development designed to advance the ability of courts, judges, and other professionals to respond to issues of co-occurrence.
- When the intersection of domestic violence and child maltreatment is overlooked, non-offending battered mothers are often blamed for the abuse of their children and children can suffer from injury in the course of violence against their mother, the harmful effects of living in a violent home, and even traumatic separations from their protective parents by child welfare systems that aren't equipped to be flexible in their responses.
- From 2000-2007, as part of a Federal initiative, six demonstration sites implemented the guidelines presented in the *Greenbook*. Supported by the NCJFCJ staff and consultants, these six sites received technical assistance, training, policy development and community-level problem-solving to implement *Greenbook* recommendations. The initiative introduced nationwide collaborative efforts between domestic violence and child welfare programs that previously did not exist and continue to be shared through lessons learned.
- The Resource Center on Domestic Violence: Child Protection and Custody (RCDV:CPC), a project of the NCJFCJ, provides training and technical assistance to professionals seeking to improve outcomes on child protection cases that involve domestic violence. The RCDV:CPC also provides support and consultation around custody and parenting time decision making, child support enforcement, and safe options for victims of domestic violence and their children in supervised visitation and exchange through the NCJFCJ's Domestic Relations Program.
- The NCJFCJ also provides education and promotes implementation on the domestic violence provisions in the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

Our Results

- In addition to funding the six communities, the Federal initiative included a national evaluation and ongoing technical assistance.
- Based in part on the strength of the NCJFCJ's leadership on the Federal initiative, the RCDV:CPC was established and is now recognized nationally for its leadership on issues of child maltreatment in the context of domestic violence.
- The NCJFCJ publications, *Reasonable Efforts Checklist for Dependency Cases Involving Domestic Violence*, *Checklist to Promote Perpetrator Accountability in Dependency Cases Involving Domestic Violence*, *Bringing the Greenbook to Life: A Resource Guide for Communities*, and *If I Knew Then What I Know Now: Project Leadership in Multi-System Change Efforts to Address the Co-Occurrence of Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment*, were natural outcomes of continued work with child welfare professionals on their response to the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment.

Our Vision for the Future

1. Nationally, child welfare agencies develop policies for domestic violence identification and intervention that are informed by promising and research-supported practices.
2. Nationally, child welfare agencies work with community partners to keep children in the care of non-abusive parents, rather than placing children in foster care.
3. Communities actively engage in collaboration as a strategy to address the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment.

The NCJFCJ recommends increased funding to broaden our national capacity to explore and disseminate information on promising and research-supported practices, and to support community level efforts to collaboratively and effectively address the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment.