PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION

FAMILY LAW SECTION

PRACTICAL PRACTICE POINTERS

DECEMBER 4, 2006
PROTECTION FROM ABUSE

From: Molly Callahan, Esquire and Lauren L. Sorrentino, Esquire

1) Remember to get out your subpoenas. If you need a police officer or other witness to testify, it is essential that you subpoena that person right away, particularly police officers. Remember to check any relevant fees or other procedures for serving the officer. If your witness fails to show, following all the rules can be crucial for ensuring any necessary continuance as a result of that person's absence. See Coda v. Coda, 666 A.2d 741 (1995).

2) Don't forget about issues raised by concurrent criminal cases. For example, if a PFA defendant has criminal charges arising out of the same incident, that person should not testify in the PFA case. Consider an agreed order or request a continuance until the criminal matter is complete.
FREE WEBSITES

From: Joni Berner, Esquire, Web Page Coordinator:

TO FIND PEOPLE

# For a directory of every lawyer in Pennsylvania, including office address and ID number, the PA Disciplinary Board's site is great: http://www.padisciplinaryboard.org/pa_attorney_search.php
(Sorry it's not shorter! You can also go to www.padisciplinaryboard.org and follow the directions for “Look Up An Attorney” to get to the same place)

# To find people or businesses (addresses, phone numbers) with the least amount of advertising and with the most data in a readable form, I stick with Superpages. The “reverse look-ups” (identifying the person or business associated with a phone number) are also easy and free: www.superpages.com

TO FIND INFORMATION HELPFUL IN SUPPORT CASES

# For the state and local income taxes for all states that have them, the National Finance Center of the US Department of Agriculture (go figure) is great: http://dab.nfc.usda.gov/pubs/docs/taxformulas/imagemap.html

# For a synopsis of child support laws in every state, the US Department of Health & Human Services has a great site: http://ocse.acf.hhs.gov/ext/irg/sps/selectastate.cfm?CFID=294780&CFTOKEN=84520241
(Sorry for another really long site, but it’s worth copying in exactly; starting from the HHS home page will frustrate you!)

# To access Pennsylvania support dockets and arrears, attorneys (not just individual payers and payees) can tap into the PACSES data base. You must register under both “Docket Search” and “Lien Search” (you can use the same user-ID and password) from the main web site. (Thanks to Julia Swain, for passing this very helpful tip to my partner, Megan Watson, a few months ago!): www.childsupport.state.pa.us

TO FIND INFORMATION HELPFUL IN E.D. CASES

# To determine monthly payment amounts on loans (or an ED settlement paid over time, subject to interest) and to prepare an amortization schedule at
lightening speed, I think HSH Associates Financial Publishers is the best. There are also several other free calculators listed on the home page. My “favorites” is pointed to the “amortization calculator” at:
http://www.hsh.com/calc-amort.html

# For instant “zestimates” of a residential real estate values, the neighboring houses’ values, and a cool satellite photograph, my partner (thanks, Margy!) turned me on to Zillow: www.zillow.com

# To find basic information about Philadelphia real estate (record owners, assessed values, last purchase date/price, tax payments), the Board of Revision of Taxes site is easy to use: http://brtweb.phila.gov/

TO FIND INFORMATION HELPFUL IN CUSTODY CASES

# To find Jewish holidays for any designated year, I like the JewishGen site the best of the several I’ve visited. This is the direct link to the holiday calculator: http://www.jewishgen.org/jos/josfest.htm

# To find American federal and secular holidays, this site isn’t pretty, but it’s easy to use and provides the formula for determining dates (“the 3rd Monday in....”) as well as actual calendars for any year. It has a link to an ecclesiastical calendar calculator for Christian holidays. http://www.smart.net/~mmontes/ushols.html

# For holidays in every other culture, try the Multicultural Calendar (but only for the current year): http://www.chester-nj.org/Bragg/ResourceCalendar/index.htm

TO FIND INFORMATION HELPFUL IN INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE

# To use any of the 37 Hague Conventions the official Hague site is a good starting point: www.hcch.net

# For helpful information and instructions for American citizens with problems in other countries, the US State Department has a comprehensive web site. This is the “Children and Family” section home page: http://travel.state.gov/family/family_1732.html

# To find a family law attorney in most countries, try the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (Click on “Find a Lawyer” on the home page): www.iaml.org
HELP WITH ALL ASPECTS OF PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

# For helpful and well-written tips about all aspects of running a law firm, I love Ellen Freedman's website and blog. You've seen Ellen's photo next to her ubiquitous articles PA Bar Association publications, all of which are neatly archived by subject on the website: www.pa-lawfirmconsulting.com (website); www.pa-lawpracticemanagement.com (blog)

# I would be derelict, if I did not include the Philadelphia Bar Association's website and, in particular, the Family Law Section page. This is an area of cyberspace we control and could make very useful to our practices with a little creativity: www.philabar.org
SUPPORT

From: Megan E. Watson, Esquire

1. Family court now has a customer service desk dedicated to signing up litigants for CHIP, LIHEAP, the school lunch program, Cash assistance, and food stamps.

2. The new bankruptcy code identifies support arrears as a top priority in payment of debts.

3. You now have 20 days to file support exceptions.

4. If you believe you will need a Master's listing longer than 45 minutes, be sure to ask at the conference level because it can be scheduled that way at that time. If you determine later that you need such a listing, requests can be made to the Marvin Williams for such a scheduling rather than filing a motion.

5. Don't waste your time or your client's time filing out and Income and Expense form unless there are unusual expenses or needs.
CUSTODY

From: Elaine Smith, Esquire

Joint Custody practice tips, and reprint of ABA Journal article, “Fathers and their children: Legal and psychological issues of joint custody”.
CUSTODY

From: Michael E. Bertin, Esquire

Don't let one of the parties leave the marital residence without a temporary custody order/agreement in place. If the parties cannot agree on a temporary order/agreement, seek the court's assistance on an expedited basis before the party leaves the house. The courts will be more likely to entertain your petition if you indicate that there is a definitive time period that one party will be vacating the residence.
CUSTODY

From: Kristine L. Calalang, Esquire

Remember in custody cases to cite Haller v. Haller, 377 Pa. Super. 330, 547 A.2d 393 (1988), to support an assertion that a final determination cannot be made by the court unless the opposing party's paramour, who has significant contact with the child(ren) at issue, has appeared before the court. As you may recall, in Haller, the Pennsylvania Superior Court reversed and remanded an award of custody to a mother on the basis that the trial court erred by not inquiring about the supervision, values and relationship that the mother's boyfriend had with the children, considering his significant contact with them. When you cite this case, it will generate another hearing so that the paramour can appear before the court. This will cause the court set forth a temporary order, or rule that the current order stays in place until the hearing (if that is what you want).
DIVORCE AND EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION

From: Meredith Brennan, Esquire

1. **Google Alerts**: Google Alerts are email updates of the latest relevant Google results (web, news, etc.) based on your choice of query or topic. Some handy uses of Google Alerts include monitoring a client's spouse's business and keeping current on transactions, projects and deals the spouse may be entering into but failing to disclose. It tracks the entire web for personalized topics and sends you new results by daily email ... and best of all, it's free.

2. **Vital Stats Forms**: Good news ... these are no longer required to be filed in Philadelphia County anymore.
CONSUMER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

From: Patricia A. Dubin, Esquire

A reminder to everyone that custody forms are available at the court’s web site: http://courts.phila.gov/common-pleas/family/dr
Many forms are available including: Complaint for Custody, Modification of Custody, Emergency Custody, Expedited Custody, Exceptions to Recommendations of Custody Master, Contempt, Custody Relocation, Protracted Custody Hearing, Petition for Home Investigation, Petition for Mental Health Assessment and Reconsideration of Custody Order. Protection From Abuse forms will be added to the web site soon. The forms were designed for easy use by pro se litigants.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

From: Terry L. Fromson, Esquire

I can offer the following tip for good resources:

1. The ABA Commission on Domestic Violence screening tool, attached hereto.

2. The NCJFCJ publications:

   
   
   Available at no cost from http://www.ncjfcj.org/content/blogcategory/256/302/

3. The ABA Commission on Domestic Violence listserve, described below from http://www.abanet.org/domviol/newlist.html

The ABA Commission on Domestic Violence Hosts a Law Listserve for Attorneys Representing Domestic Violence Victims

The ABA Commission on Domestic Violence hosts a monitored, attorneys-only CDVLAW listserv to provide a forum where attorneys who represent individual victims of domestic violence may discuss issues that arise in the process of litigation. The CDVLAW listserv is open only to those attorneys who maintain a substantial and active practice of domestic violence cases on behalf of victims. The practice must include substantial in court representation. The Commission recognizes that representation of victims of domestic violence extends far beyond family law cases. Litigation of housing, immigration and employment issues, for example, on behalf of victims of domestic violence is considered by the listserv to a domestic violence practice. Practitioners from all practice settings are encouraged to apply so long as the above-criteria are met. Attorneys employed by a governmental agency (such as prosecutors) whose work is related to crimes against domestic violence victims or civil remedies for victims, are considered to have an "active" domestic violence practice for purposes of the listserv.

Discussants are encouraged to post questions regarding case law, strategies, and requests for issue-specific expertise. The purpose of the list serve is to enable attorneys who represent victims of domestic violence in court to share and benefit from each other's experiences. Examples of topics for discussion include
interpreting and applying state and federal law, proving specific allegations, new case law or articles regarding aspects of representing domestic violence victims and upcoming conferences or trainings.

American Bar Association membership is not a prerequisite for membership in the listserv, nor does ABA membership on its own qualify one for admission to the listserv. Membership is open to victims' lawyers only. The listserv is not open to those who represent perpetrators of abuse or who are otherwise involved in litigation on behalf of abusers.

The Commission reserves the exclusive right to determine membership in the listserv. Listserv members are monitored for appropriateness of postings, including civility as well as appropriate subject matter given the purposes and policies of the Commission.

Those who are members of the listserv agree to have their contact information announced to the entire listserv at the time that the membership is accepted.

Those who are existing members periodically may have their membership disclosed to members of the listserv. It is the policy of the listserv that each member, when making a posting, include his or her professional contact information as part of the posting and each member agrees as part of listserv membership not to forward any posting unless specific permission to do so is obtained from the listserv monitor.
ADOPTION

From: Bernard D. Faigenbaum, Esquire

1. Bring a check payable to "Phila. Prothy." to the final adoption hearing (current amount is $37.80) representing the fee for the certified copy of the Adoption Decree. As soon as the Decree is signed and docketed, it will then be certified by the Adoption Unit and mailed out to you promptly;

2. If you are filing a second parent adoption, kinship adoption, or step-parent adoption and there is more than one child involved, you can include all of the children in one Petition for Adoption, as long as Petitioners are the same;

3. If you are filing a Petition for Involuntary Termination and the present whereabouts of the other parent are unknown, prepare a detailed Affidavit of Service, including exhibits, outlining your attempts to serve the Petition for Adoption and Petition for Involuntary Termination, including copies of the Return Receipt cards that have been returned by the Post Office as unclaimed, confirmation of e-mails that have been sent to the last known e-mail address, and any other supporting documentation. Bring all of the original service documents to the Hearing as the Judge often needs to review the originals.
CIVIL UNIONS

From: Margaret Klaw, Esquire

Be ready to make new law! If you represent a person who entered into a civil union in Vermont (or, soon, probably New Jersey) and now resides in Pennsylvania, be prepared to file an action for dissolution of that union in a Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas and ask that Vermont (or New Jersey) law be applied.
DEPENDENCY

From: Kathy Gomez, Esquire


Administrative Judge Kevin M. Dougherty has announced that there will be a training session on the New Dependency Rules on January 10, 2007, from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the waiting room of Courtroom "A" and "B." This training is for all Dependency Judges, all attorneys on the Dependent Court Appointment List and Court Staff.
MEDIATION

From: Cheryl Cutrona, Esquire and Judy Drasin, Esquire

1) Summary of Status of Program, and

2) Agreement to Mediate.
GET INVOLVED and GIVE BACK! Pick a professional project or cause, and get involved! It will strengthen your contacts with colleagues, open doors for opportunities, expand your professional knowledge and awareness, and increase your enjoyment and gratification. The time spent will be far outweighed by the enormous benefits you will reap in return.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The Family Passages Initiative (FPI) has successfully completed its second year of service to the Philadelphia community. To date, FPI has served 391 individuals (251 at the Domestic Relations Court Custody Masters Unit and 142 at Good Shepherd Mediation Center). The Custody Mediations at Domestic Relations Court have a 96% settlement rate and the in-house mediations held at Good Shepherd Mediation Center (mostly divorce cases) have a 56% settlement rate.

Background
The Family Passages Initiative was launched in January 2005 to meet the escalating need for custody and divorce mediation services for low-income Philadelphians. Family Passages is a comprehensive package of sliding-scale family mediation services, including screening and orientation, mediation of divorce and child custody matters, preparation of mediated memoranda of understanding, access to external legal review of the mediated settlements by cooperating counsel who have agreed to provide pro bono or reduced-rate services, and appropriate referrals for additional community-based supports. Individuals receiving public assistance are eligible for free family mediation services through Good Shepherd Mediation Program.

Steering Committee
The FPI Steering Committee meets quarterly to advise on matters of law, psychology, and ethics. The law firm of Cozen O’Connor generously provides space and refreshments for the Steering Committee meetings. The family law experts who sit on the FPI Steering Committee are:

- Frank Cervone, Esq., Executive Director of the Support Center for Child Advocates
- Jill Friedman, Esq., Director of Donor and Volunteer Services, Philadelphia Futures
- Theresa Glennon, Esq., Professor, Temple University Beasley School of Law
- Cynthia Mason, Esq., Supervisor of Domestic Relations Unit, Philadelphia Legal Assistance
- Ourania “Rainy” Papademetriou, Esq., Co-Managing Attorney, Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent
- Dr. Rose Marino, Focus Psychological Associates
- Matthew Siegel, Esq., Cozen O’Connor

On June 6, 2006, FPI began providing free custody mediation at the Domestic Relations Court Custody Masters Unit (46 S. 11th Street, second floor). An FPI mediator and a law student intern are on site every day that the Temple and University of Pennsylvania law school custody clinical programs are not there (currently, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and all week during school breaks). Between June 6 and October 30, 2006, FPI received 124 requests for mediation. During the Intake Interview, 29 percent (36) of the 124 requests were found to be inappropriate (e.g., domestic violence, Department of Human Services involvement, not all of the parties were present, Protection from Abuse Order within last 24 months) and sent back to court. Of the 88 appropriate cases, 71 percent (74) were mediated and 71 (96%) settled.
Every participant (whether they reach agreement or not) fills out an evaluation after the mediation session. The information below was gleaned from the evaluations completed between June 6 and September 30, 2006.

**Participant Demographics**
- 86% of the custody mediation participants who participate in FPI custody mediations at Domestic Relations Court are not represented by an attorney.
- 92% of the people served at Domestic Relations Court have an annual family income of under $50,000, 75% of which earn less than $35,000 per year.
- 55% of the participants are African American; 21% are Caucasian; 19% are Hispanic; 1% are Asian; and 4% listed themselves as “other.”
- 37% of the participants are between the ages of 31-40; 35% are between the ages of 21-30; 14% are 41-50; 9% are over 50; and 4% are under 20 years of age.
- 13% of the participants have not graduated from high school; 28% have a GED; 35% have a high school diploma; 8% have had some college; 9% are college graduates; and 6% have had some post-graduate education.

**Participant Satisfaction**
Ninety-four percent (94%) of the custody mediation participants report that they are very satisfied with the mediation process and 82% report that they believe that their children will be much better off because the parents chose to mediate. Here are some of their comments taken from the evaluation forms:

- [The mediators] made things much less stressful
- The process was fast and simple
- We were able to see things we didn’t see before
- I was able to explain things that I would not be able to in court
- It allowed us to come up with an agreement for custody under our own terms
- I was able to voice my expectations in a civilized manner
- We did not argue or fight. We were able to express ourselves with the tears and joy that we shared
- This mediation process helped us sort everything out and just have everything organized
- We took our time to discuss the situation
- I do believe that we made the best choice for our daughter
- I think it is a great way to come to an agreement if both parties agree on what is in the best interest of the child
- I think it’s a wonderful program that allows a comfort zone for all the parties
- Thanks for the great help!

**Funding**
The Family Passages Initiative is currently funded through grants from private foundations and individual contributions. Funding is being sought to continue the program beyond December. Unfortunately, FPI is not eligible for a grant from the Philadelphia Bar Foundation because mediation is not the practice of law.
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF/DEFENDANT

AGREEMENT TO MEDIATE

__________________________, hereinafter "_________'/Caretaker"

and ________________________, hereinafter "_________'/Caretaker" are

the parents/caretakers of the following minor child(ren):

(name of child and date of birth)

1. Plaintiff, ________________________, has filed for custody of the

minor child(ren).

2. Defendant, ________________________, has been duly served with the

Petition filed by the Plaintiff.

3. The parties hereby agree to submit the matter to the Philadelphia

Family Court Custody Mediation Program.

4. Kindly schedule the matter as soon as possible.
5. We understand that any written agreement reached by the parties in mediation shall be reviewed by their attorneys, if any, prior to submission to the Court.

6. We understand that in the event our matter does not settle with Mediation that our matter will proceed in the Court.

7. We understand that except for the Memorandum of Understanding, all mediation communications and documents are privileged and that disclosure of mediation communications and mediation documents may not be required or compelled through discovery or any other process. We understand that mediation communications and mediation documents shall not be admissible as evidence in any action or proceeding, including, but not limited to, a judicial, administrative or arbitration action or proceeding. [Section 1, Title 42 § 5949 (a)] We, therefore, agree not to call the mediators as a witness(es) in any future proceeding pertaining to this case.

AGREED TO BY AND BETWEEN:

__________________________________________  DATE  ______________________________
PLAINTIFF  ATTORNEY

__________________________________________  DATE  ______________________________
DEFENDANT  ATTORNEY
What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior in which one intimate partner uses physical violence, coercion, threats, intimidation, isolation or emotional, sexual or economic abuse to control the other partner in the relationship. Domestic violence does not necessarily involve physical violence and it equally affects all aspects of our society, rich or poor, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion or national origin.

“Domestic violence is an epidemic.”

Domestic violence is an epidemic. One out of nearly every three women will be the victim of domestic violence in her lifetime. Between three and ten million children are exposed to domestic violence every year and that exposure has a negative impact on their development. Moreover, studies indicate that forty to sixty percent of men who abuse women also abuse children.

How to Screen Your Clients for Domestic Violence—Examples and Suggestions:

Many law firms have established a critical incident team, and your firm's CIT is well aware of the signs and symptoms of domestic violence. The critical incident team can provide you with the tools needed to identify the signs of domestic violence and make plans to minimize the stigma and encourage disclosure.

Here are some examples of questions to integrate into your standard interview for any new client:

1. Has your intimate partner ever pushed, grabbed, hit or hurt you in some way?
2. Has your intimate partner ever hurt or intimidated your children?
3. Has your intimate partner ever forced you to do something you did not want to do?
4. Is there anything that goes on at home that makes you feel afraid?
5. Does your intimate partner prevent you from eating, sleeping, or endangering your health in other ways?
6. Has your intimate partner ever hurt you or destroyed your clothing, objects in your home, or something you especically cared about?
7. Has your intimate partner taken the children with or without your permission, threatened to remove them, seen you again, or otherwise harmed them?
Why Should I Screen My Clients to Determine if they are Victims of Domestic Violence?

Given the prevalence of domestic violence in our society, it is likely that some of your clients are in, or have been in, violent relationships that impact the legal advice you will provide. For example, your client may be seeking advice in a personal injury case and the prospective defendant is the perpetrator of domestic violence. Similarly, in a sexual harassment case, the harasser may have also been in a violent relationship with her and his behavior may also be a violation of an existing protection order. However, your client may not disclose this information to you because she may not think it is related to the advice sought or she is embarrassed or ashamed.

"To make sure you are ethically representing your client and to avoid malpractice..."

To ensure that you are ethically representing your client and to avoid malpractice, it is critical that you learn if she is a survivor and consider how this information affects your representation. Moreover, if their safety is at risk while you are representing them, your safety may be at risk as well.

How Do I Screen My Clients to Determine if they Are Survivors of Domestic Violence?

Interview your client alone. Let your client know that you ask a series of standard questions of all of your clients when you embark on representation.

Explain why you are asking about domestic violence:

It is an epidemic.

It impacts how you provide representation.

You care and can provide referrals and support.

Include direct questions about domestic violence in your standard set of questions such as "Do you feel safe at home?"

What Should I Do If My Client Discloses That She is a Victim of Domestic Violence?

Let her know that your conversation with her about the violence is confidential and that it is not her fault. You do not and should not provide her with counseling or tell her what you think she should do about the situation. Instead, provide information about resources in your community for herself and her children such as a hotline, shelter, or domestic violence legal services.

For advocacy, counseling and referrals 24 hours a day provide her information about how to contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY).

Explain that she will reach an advocate who can talk with her about her situation, her safety, and the options available to her. All conversations with advocates at the National Hotline are strictly confidential.

What if I Suspect That My Client is a Victim of Domestic Violence but She Has Not Disclosed?

Remain supportive and let her know that if, at any time, she needs resources about domestic violence she should feel comfortable asking you. Remind her that if she is a victim, that information is important for you to know so that you may best represent her.

Should I Be Concerned for My Client’s Safety and Mine If She Discloses That She Is Currently Being Threatened by Her Batterer?

The danger of violence, including the risk of death, escalates when a domestic violence survivor attempts to leave a batterer. Seeking legal assistance is a step towards independence, which threaten a batterer’s sense of power and control and may lead to increased violence. If you represent a client who is planning to leave or to take any legal or financial steps to separate from a batterer, alert her to the increased likelihood of violence.
Your safety may also be at risk. Please review the Safety Checklist for Attorneys below for ways to increase your safety.

**Safety Checklist For Attorneys Representing Victims of Domestic Violence**

- For your safety and that of your client and your staff, safety planning is crucial. Be aware of your own safety. Most batterers seek to control their former or current partners, rather than their lawyers, and many batterers appear to be well behaved in court.

- Nevertheless, lawyers for victims of domestic violence may be threatened by batterers and their family members. Take precautions if a problem arises. Carefully review your office security procedures.

- If the batterer is representing himself and is coming to your office, do not hesitate to ask a law enforcement officer to sit outside your office or seek similar precautions. You may wish to obtain a protection order that includes the batterer staying away from you and your office.

- Instruct your staff as to how much interaction they should have with a batterer who represents himself and calls your office. All staff should be particularly careful not to reveal last names or personal contact information.

- Find out the safest way to contact your client and the names of other individuals who will know how to reach her.

- Ask for your client when you call and speak only to your client about the case. Do not leave messages with other family members or on an answering machine or voice-mail unless your client has told you this is safe.

- If questioned by family members, do not indicate that you are a lawyer; rather, give an innocuous reason for the call, such as taking a survey. **Avoid leaving your last name if you do leave a message.**

- Always ask your client first if it is safe to talk. The batterer may be present, even if the batterer no longer lives with your client. Develop a system of coded messages to signal danger or the batterer’s presence, or if you should call the police.

- Block identification of your number when calling your client. **Suggest that your client block hers.**

- Keep your client’s whereabouts confidential, including during discovery.

- If your client fails to respond to your calls, make extensive (but confidential) efforts to confirm that your client is safe. If your client has decided to drop the case, try to verify that your client has not been threatened or coerced. Let your client know that she should not be embarrassed to call you in the future.

- If your client wants you to, or if it may be a life/death matter, call the police if your client is in danger, and, where possible, confirm that a non-responsive client is safe.

- Talk to your client in advance about what to do if she disappears – does she want you to try and locate her?

> **“...call the police if your client is in danger...”**

**Resources For Attorneys Screening For Domestic Violence**

Check your local telephone directory or search online for information about local resources in your community for victims of domestic violence. These include: the local police department, victim witness program, local domestic violence hotline, domestic violence shelter, and counseling program. Request information pamphlets and other outreach materials from these organizations. By making these materials available in your waiting room, you will increase the safety and security of your clients as well as increase the likelihood of her disclosure to you.
Each state has at least one statewide coalition on domestic violence that may be a resource such as the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence or the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Most state domestic violence coalition websites provide information on local programs and resources for victims of domestic violence.

Information about state coalitions and other national domestic violence organizations may be found on the website of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence at www.ncadv.org.

The American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence provides resources for attorneys nationwide on domestic violence including, publications, a listserv, and technical assistance and training for attorneys representing victims of domestic violence. Information about these resources may be found on our website: www.abanet.org/domviol.

If your client requests information for her own safety planning, you may wish to provide information from one of these resources:


For information on Technology safety, see this site of the National Network to End Domestic Violence: www.nnedv.org

The Bureau of Justice Statistics reported that 85% of victimizations by intimate partners in 2001 were against women.

The use of gender specific language, however, should not be construed to mean that domestic violence perpetrators are all male, nor should it be construed to mean that domestic violence exists only in heterosexual relationships. The screening attorney should be sensitive that domestic violence can be present in all intimate relationships.

The views expressed herein have not been approved by the House of Delegates or the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association except where otherwise indicated, and accordingly, should not be construed as representing the policy of the American Bar Association.

"Each state has at least one statewide coalition on domestic violence"
I. Introduction

Cynthia C. Siebel

Psychological Issues of Joint Custody

Fathers and Their Children: Legal and
Over the past few decades, the world has witnessed a significant change in the way people think and act. Many factors have contributed to this transformation, including technological advancements, globalization, and changing societal norms. These changes have had a profound impact on various aspects of life, including family structure, education, and social interactions.

One of the most noticeable changes has been the increase in the number of single-parent households. This trend is particularly evident in developed countries, where the rate of single-parent families has been on the rise. This phenomenon has led to a redefinition of traditional family roles and responsibilities.

The changing dynamics of family life have also been influenced by the rise of women in the workforce. In many societies, women are now more likely to seek education and pursue careers, which has led to a shift in gender roles. This change has been accompanied by a reevaluation of the role of men in the household, with a greater emphasis on sharing responsibilities.

Another significant change has been the decline in the birth rate in many countries. This trend is attributed to a variety of factors, including increased education levels, changes in marriage patterns, and economic factors. The impact of this change is being felt in various aspects of society, including healthcare and education.

In conclusion, the changing dynamics of family life are a reflection of broader societal changes. These changes have led to a redefinition of family roles and responsibilities, and have had a significant impact on various aspects of life. As we continue to evolve, it is important to recognize and adapt to these changes to ensure a better future for all.
B. Today’s Painter

The need for a comprehensive, collaborative, and child-centered approach to the development and education of children is evident from the beginning. The traditional methods of teaching and learning have been surpassed by the need for an integrated approach that considers the whole child. This approach acknowledges the importance of family and community involvement in the education process, emphasizing the role of the teacher as a facilitator, rather than a transmitter of knowledge. The focus is on the development of skills and abilities that are necessary for lifelong learning and success. This approach also recognizes the importance of the role of the family, not only as providers and protectors, but also as teachers and companions in the learning process. The role of the family is crucial in shaping the child’s understanding of the world and her place in it.
The decision to restrain women's mobility, even in the context of everyday life, is a form of domestic violence. It is important to recognize and address this form of violence, which can have significant consequences for the well-being and autonomy of women. The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) has highlighted the importance of addressing this issue, emphasizing the need for legal measures to prevent and address domestic violence.

In recent years, there has been growing awareness of the impact of domestic violence on women's lives. Many countries have implemented laws and policies aimed at protecting women from violence, and there have been significant efforts to increase awareness and support for victims. However, the challenges of implementing these measures are significant, and there is a need for continued efforts to ensure that women are protected from violence.

The importance of addressing domestic violence is further emphasized by its impact on the well-being of children. Children who witness or experience violence are at risk of developing long-term psychological and emotional problems. It is crucial to provide support and resources to help children heal from these experiences and to prevent the transmission of violence from one generation to the next.

In conclusion, the decision to restrain women's mobility is a form of violence that must be addressed. Legal, social, and educational interventions are needed to support women affected by domestic violence and to promote a safer and more equitable society for all.
A. The Legal Perspective

III. Exceptions of Joint Custody

Suggest the possibility of other types of suits and legislative actions at the same time. The Court’s total and rapid resolution of claims adopted for the Indian Affairs Council of one or more groups. Will the Indian Affairs Council be able to keep the record of cases and determine if possible the record of cases?

At the second level, the presumption of joint custody.

Williams and Their Children's Legal and Procedural Basis of Joint Custody

Disclaimer: This content is for educational and informational purposes only. It does not constitute legal advice or substitute for professional legal advice. Readers are encouraged to seek independent legal advice for any specific situation.
Fathers and Their Children: Legal and Psychological Issues of John Cassidy
Although legal information in these [contextual] cases may be justified by

positive developmental experiences, that does not mean that the child has a right to

The child's interests, needs, and best interests are. The child's needs, however, are not those of

Secondary measures are to be taken in the ways and means of other

4. Child and Parental Contacts

Parental Contact

Parental Contact

Parents and Their Children: Legal and Psychological Issues of Joint Custody
Patrick Parkinson

Family Law and the Impossibility

Regulation of Gender Conflict

I. Parenting after Separation and the

Reconciliation of Gender Conflict

There can be few areas of public policy where there is as much
discussion can be found
due to the means, however, contestants in court of domicile, in the interests of
the well-being of the child, not in the name of psychology, to prevent
differences in application.

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