

Purpose of this Analysis:

The purpose of this analysis is to explore selected case files from the Delaware Family Court docket to determine how information about domestic violence is created, documented, transmitted, thought about and acted upon for purposes of child custody decision-making.

Preparation:

- Identify and gather sample case files (with distribution from all three counties)
 - 50% random sampling of cases from NCJFCJ study that went to a final custody hearing
 - 50% random sampling of all other cases NCJFCJ study
- Prepare case summaries
 - Basic facts, procedural highlights, and outcomes
 - See example, attached
- Extract relevant documentation of abuse
 - All references to domestic violence appearing anywhere in the case file
 - Include full context (copy entire document, not just a word or phrase)
- Redact identifying information
 - Names, social security numbers, addresses of all parties and children
 - Names of all practitioners, including judicial officers, mediators, lawyers, and advocates
- Assign a study number to each case
 - Numerical, 1 to ____
 - Maintain key in case of follow-up
- Assemble case packets, including:
 - Case summary
 - Extracted and redacted documents
 - Impact review worksheet
- Make full case file available for review at committee meeting

Protocol:

- 9:30 – 10:30 Training on text analysis
- 10:30 – 12:00 Large group review and debriefing of one case file
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 – 3:00 Small group review (4 groups x 4 cases/group)
- 3:00 – 4:00 Debriefing
- 4:00 – 4:30 Next steps