The Family Court Enhancement Project

A collaborative project of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), the Battered Women's Justice Project, and the National Institute for Justice

- Research conducted by: Dr. Christine George
- The Center for Urban Research and Learning (CURL) at Loyola University Chicago

As a domestic relations judge, you are being asked to participate in a survey as a part of the planning phase of the Family Court Enhancement Project. This survey is administered by the Center for Urban Research and Learning at Loyola University Chicago.

The goal of the Family Court Enhancement Project is to improve the family court response to custody cases involving domestic violence so that resulting parenting and co-parenting arrangements protect the emotional and physical well-being of victimized parents and their children.

The data gathered from this survey will help us assess the information made available to judges managing child-related remedies in orders of protection in the Domestic Relations Division. From this survey, we ultimately hope to identify the information made available to judges hearing orders of protection, the information judges believe necessary for properly adjudicating child-related remedies, and any possible difficulties obtaining this information.

This survey should take <u>approximately 30 minutes</u>. Please make every effort to answer each question carefully and with thorough consideration. This survey is completely anonymous, and it does not record your name. There are no identifying pieces information that can be traced back to participants of this survey.

If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact Dr. Christine George, Research Associate Professor at the Center for Urban Research and Learning at Loyola University Chicago, at 773-508-8533 or cgeorg@luc.edu.

For this survey, please keep in mind the following parameters

"Always" indicates an action completed above 70% of the time

"Never" indicates an action completed below 30% of the time

Thank you!

[&]quot;Sometimes" indicates an action completed between 70% and 50% of the time

[&]quot;Rarely" indicates an action completed between 50% and 30% of the time

al	When there are allegations of domestic violence raised in pleadings or as leged in testimony what are your key considerations when making a decision bout children in common?
in cu	We are trying to determine what information is provided to you in DV case volving children in common when you hear issues related to temporary astody, support, or visitation under the IMDMA. Please indicate which mong the following are or are not provided:
•	Pending cases involving parties? Yes No 1. Do you think this information is needed? Always Usually Sometimes Never 2. Is it available to you at an emergency hearing? Always Usually Sometimes Never 3. Is it available to you at a final hearing? Always Usually Sometimes Never 4. What are the sources of this information? 1. Litigant testimony and pleadings? Yes No How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
	 Documentary evidence introduced by the parties? YesNo How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never Testimony by police officer, school personnel, other family members? YesNo How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never Information/reports or testimony provided by DCFS? YesNo How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
	 5. Court Information regarding case outcomes in pending or prior cases involving the parties? Yes No How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never 6. Testimony of the minor child? Yes No How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never 7. Other (please explain) How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
•	Prior criminal involvement of either party 1. Do you think this information is needed? Always Usually Sometimes Never 2. Is it available to you at an emergency hearing? Always Usually Sometimes Never

	Is it available to you at final hearing? Always Usually Sometimes Never What are the sources of this information?
	1. Litigant testimony and pleadings? YesNo How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
	2. Documentary evidence introduced by the parties? Yes No How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
	3. Testimony by police officer, school personnel, other family members? Yes No How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
	4. Information/reports or testimony provided by DCFS? Yes No How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
	5. Court Information regarding case outcomes in pending or prior cases involving the parties? Yes No How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
	6. Other (please explain) How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
 2. 3. 	venforcement interventions involving the parties Do you think this information is needed? Always Usually Sometimes Never Is it available to you at an emergency hearing? Always Usually Sometimes Never Is it available to you at a final hearing? Always Usually Sometimes Never What are the sources of this information? 1. Litigant testimony and pleadings? Yes No How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
	2. Documentary evidence introduced by the parties? Yes No How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
	3. Documentary Evidence/Testimony offered by police officer, school personnel, other family members? YesNo How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
	4. Information/reports or testimony provided by DCFS? Yes No How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
	5. Court Information regarding case outcomes in pending or prior cases involving the parties? YesNoHow informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
	6. Testimony of the minor child? Yes No How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never

		Other (pleaseHow inform		ys, Usually, Sometimes, Never
•	 2. 3. 	t and current involved Do you think this in Always Usua Is it available to you Always Usua Is it available to you Always Usua What are the source 1. Litigant testi	ement of DCFS information is needed? Illy Sometimes in at an emergency hearing? Illy Sometimes in at a final hearing? Illy Sometimes is of this information? Illy mony and pleadings? Yes	Never Never Never No
		2. Documentary	evidence introduced by the	vs, Usually, Sometimes, Never e parties? Yes No vs, Usually, Sometimes, Never
		3. Testimony by YesNo	police officer, school pers	onnel, other family members? s, Usually, Sometimes, Never
		4. Information/re	eports or testimony provide	
		5. Court Inform the parties? Yes_	ation regarding case outcom No	mes in pending or prior cases involving s, Usually, Sometimes, Never
		6. Testimony of	the minor child? YesN	·
		7. Other (please ex How informa		s, Usually, Sometimes, Never
	1.] 2.] 3. I	Do you think this inf Always Usuall is it available to you Always Usuall is it available to you Always Usuall What are the sources 1. Litigant testin How informat	at an emergency hearing? y Sometimes at a final hearing? y Sometimes of this information? nony and pleadings? Yes_ tive is that source? Always	Never Never Never Never No , Usually, Sometimes, Never
		2. Documentary e How informat	evidence introduced by the tive is that source? Always	parties? YesNo, , Usually, Sometimes, Never
		3. Testimony by p Yes No	police officer, school person	nnel, other family members?

	How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never						
	4. Information/reports or testimony provided by DCFS? Yes No How informative is that source? Always , Usually , Sometimes , Never						
	 5. Court Information regarding case outcomes in pending or prior cases involving the parties? Yes No How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never 6. Testimony of the minor child? Yes No How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never 						
	7. Other (please explain) How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never						
in an O	our experience as a domestic relations judge are child related remedies rder of Protection ever sought or granted as a preliminary matter in a or paternity action?						
Yes	NO						
• Pendi 5. E 6. Is 7. Is	kground information is provided to you when hearing a petition for an OP involving in common? In cases involving parties Do you think this information is needed? Always Usually Sometimes Never it available to you at an emergency hearing? Always Usually Sometimes Never it available to you at a plenary hearing? Always Usually Sometimes Never in at are the sources of this information? 1. Litigant testimony and pleadings? Yes No How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never						
	2. Documentary evidence introduced by the parties? Yes No How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never						
·	3. Testimony by police officer, school personnel, other family members? Yes No How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never						
	4. Information/reports or testimony provided by DCFS? Yes No How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never						
	5. Court Information regarding case outcomes in pending or prior cases involving the parties?						

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How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
6. Testimony of the minor child? Yes No How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
7. Other How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
Prior criminal involvement of either party 5. Do you think this information is needed? Always Usually Sometimes Never 6. Is it available to you at an emergency hearing? Always Usually Sometimes Never 7. Is it available to you at a plenary hearing? Always Usually Sometimes Never 8. What are the sources of this information?
 Litigant testimony and pleadings? Yes No How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
2. Documentary evidence introduced by the parties? Yes No How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
3. Testimony by police officer, school personnel, other family members? YesNo How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
4. Information/reports or testimony provided by DCFS? Yes No How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
5. Court Information regarding case outcomes in pending or prior cases involving the parties? YesNoHow informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
6. Other: How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
Law enforcement interventions involving the parties 4. Do you think this information is needed?
Always Usually Sometimes Never 5. Is it available to you at an emergency hearing? Always Usually Sometimes Never
 6. Is it available to you at a plenary hearing? Always Usually Sometimes Never 4. What are the sources of this information?
1. Litigant testimony and pleadings? Yes No
How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never

2. Documentary evidence introduced by the parties? YesNo How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
3. Testimony by police officer, school personnel, other family members? YesNo How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
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6. Testimony of the minor child? Yes No How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
7. Other (please explain) How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
Past and current involvement of DCFS 4. Do you think this information is needed? Always Usually Sometimes Never 5. Is it available to you at an emergency hearing? Always Usually Sometimes Never 6. Is it available to you at a plenary hearing? Always Usually Sometimes Never 4. What are the sources of this information? 2. Litigant testimony and pleadings? Yes No How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
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3. Testimony by police officer, school personnel, other family members? YesNo How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
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6. Testimony of the minor child? Yes No How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never
7. Other (please explain) How informative is that source? Always, Usually, Sometimes, Never

• Existence of past or o			lving parties
-	s information is need		NT.
	sually Som you at an emergency	etimes	Never
		etimes	Never
	you at a plenary hear		Heyel
		etimes	Never
	rces of this informati		
	estimony and pleading		No
How info	ormative is that source	e? Always,	Usually, Sometimes, Never
2. Document	ary evidence introdu	ced by the r	parties? Yes No
			Usually, Sometimes, Never
	·		
Yes No	by police officer, sc	nool person	inel, other family members?
	— ormative is that source	e? Alwavs.	Usually, Sometimes, Never
			by DCFS? YesNo Usually, Sometimes, Never
5. Court Info	rmation regarding ca	se outcome	s in pending or prior cases involving
the parties?		0.13	
How info	rmative is that source	e? Always,	Usually, Sometimes, Never
6. Other			
	mative is that source	Always I	Jsually, Sometimes, Never
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4 XXII.1.1 10 07			
4. Which, if any, of t	he following thin	gs repres	ents a primary concern that
may limit your abilit	y to make a decis	sion on ch	aild related issues on a case?
• One parent is represe	nted while the other	is not	
 Lack of witnesses 			
• Lack of sufficient do	cumentary evidence t	o meet the	burden of proof
			luding all aspects of care
• Other (please explain			
•			
5. Do you know if an	order of protecti	on from t	the Domestic Violence Division
originated from a cri			
Always Usually	Sometimes	Never	
If yes, how are you made	aware of that fact?		

6. When addressing or ultimately crafting child related remedies, what would help you when OPs are transferred to you from the DVD?

•	Having temp modification	orary child rel from domesti	ated remedies grant c relations judge	ed with designation of p	oossible
	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Never	
•			nedies reserved		
	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Never	
•	Having child	ren named as j	protected parties wi	th physical care and pos	session awarded
	Always	Visitation and Usually	custody reserved Sometimes	Never	
•	•	list)		Never	
	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Never	
restri	ctive provis	visits or acc sion of your	order might yo	epresent a threat o u include if that thr	f harm, what eat is:
 To	the petitioner				
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		-			
То	both petitione	r and child			
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or visi	its? Yes	_No		vho is supervising c	hild exchang
f yes, v	what must/sho	uld it address?	•		
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). Fee	l free to off	er anv addi	tional insights o	r comments below i	including but
10t lin	nited to an i	ndication o	f what other inf	ormation you would	meiuumg vut 1 lika ta hava
		ted decision			a iine to nave

Domestic Relations Court Judges Survey								