

Welcome to the Prosecutor's Survey on Domestic Violence Training, Guidelines and Practices!

The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence is assessing current strengths, gaps and areas for potential growth in practices, policies and protocols that promote the safety and security of domestic violence victims in our state.

Survey Purpose: This survey was designed as a component of our statewide needs assessment to examine the strengths, needs and potential areas for development within our statewide responses to domestic violence. It focuses on the following topics:

- (1) Training issues related to best practices in handling domestic violence cases**
- (2) Engagement in collaborative endeavors designed to hold domestic violence offenders accountable and promote the safety and empowerment of their victims**
- (3) Frequency of engaging in best practices in prosecuting domestic violence case**
- (4) Presence of guidelines or protocols that incorporate best practices for prosecuting domestic violence cases**

Number of Questions and Length of Time: This survey has a total of 13 questions and will take approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete. If you are unable to complete the survey in one sitting, you can save your completed responses by clicking next at the end of the page and then returning to complete the survey at another time.

Requested by: We ask that you please complete this survey by November 20th, 2016.

Follow up: Once all surveys are completed, the data will be analyzed in aggregate form and a final report will be written. The highlights from this report will be widely shared and a link to the final report will be available on the LCADV website.

If you have any questions, please email rhonda.evans@lcadv.org or call Rhonda Evans at 225-753-1296.

Thanks in advance for taking the time to complete this survey!

Domestic Violence Decision Making

* 1. Do you handle any stage of decision making in prosecuting domestic violence cases?

Yes

No

Agency Information I

*** 2. Which type of court do you work in?**

- City
- District
- Other (please specify)

Agency Information II

3. Parish where your agency is located:

4. City where your agency is located:

Training I

* 5. Have you received training on the following?

	Yes	No
DV 101 - The nature and prevalence of Domestic Violence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The ways in which children are used as part of the pattern of abuse.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Determining primary/predominate aggressor in domestic violence cases	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inappropriateness of dual arrest in domestic violence cases	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assessing for ongoing patterned abuse in domestic violence cases	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assessing for likelihood that offender poses a serious threat to the victim	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Using domestic violence specific risk assessments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assessing for self-defense in domestic violence cases	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assessing for strangulation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Firearms restriction laws	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Effective communication with domestic violence victims	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Effective communication with domestic violence offenders	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Constructing an evidence-based case that does not require victim testimony, when possible	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Yes

No

The benefits of inter-agency collaboration to ensure victim safety and decrease the frequency and lethality of domestic violence cases

The services offered by non-profit domestic violence programs and the role they can play in ensuring victim safety and offender accountability.

The importance of open communication with community advocacy programs

The possible negative or beneficial impact of aggressive pursuit of convictions and enhancement or the impact of less aggressive approaches to a domestic violence case

Desirability of charging in absence of optimal facts or evidence and requesting additional investigation when the offender presents a high risk of harm or lethality to the victim

Viewing the repeated interventions with domestic abusers as part of an ongoing process to contain the abuser's violent behavior

How to ensure that prosecution is centered on victim safety, rather than victim dependent

Yes

No

Desirability of pursuing the widest range of charges supported by probable cause as an avenue for holding offenders accountable that is not dependent on victim testimony

Desirability of requesting conditions for release that ensure victim safety in domestic violence cases

Assessing how filing multiple charges for victims of domestic violence who have used violence against their abuser may reinforce the power and control of their abuser.

*** 6. How helpful would the following training topics be in helping you make charging decisions, engage in plea negotiations, and make sentencing recommendations that hold offenders accountable and promote victim safety and empowerment in domestic violence cases?**

Not Helpful

Somewhat Helpful

Very Helpful

DV 101 - The nature and prevalence of Domestic Violence

The ways in which children are used as part of the pattern of abuse.

Determining primary/predominate aggressor in domestic violence cases

Inappropriateness of dual arrest in domestic violence cases

Assessing for ongoing patterned abuse in domestic violence cases

Assessing for likelihood that offender poses a serious threat to the victim

	Not Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Very Helpful
Using domestic violence specific risk assessments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assessing for self-defense in domestic violence cases	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assessing for strangulation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Firearms restriction laws	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Effective communication with domestic violence victims	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Effective communication with domestic violence offenders	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Constructing and evidence-based case that does not require victim testimony, when possible	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The benefits of inter-agency collaboration to ensure victim safety and decrease the frequency and lethality of domestic violence cases	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The services offered by non-profit domestic violence programs and the role they can play in ensuring victim safety and offender accountability.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The importance of open communication with community advocacy programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The possible negative or beneficial impact of aggressive pursuit of convictions and enhancement or the impact of less aggressive approaches to a domestic violence case	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Not Helpful

Somewhat Helpful

Very Helpful

Desirability of charging in absence of optimal facts or evidence and requesting additional investigation when the offender presents a high risk of harm or lethality to the victim

Viewing the repeated interventions with domestic abusers as part of an ongoing process to contain the abuser's violent behavior

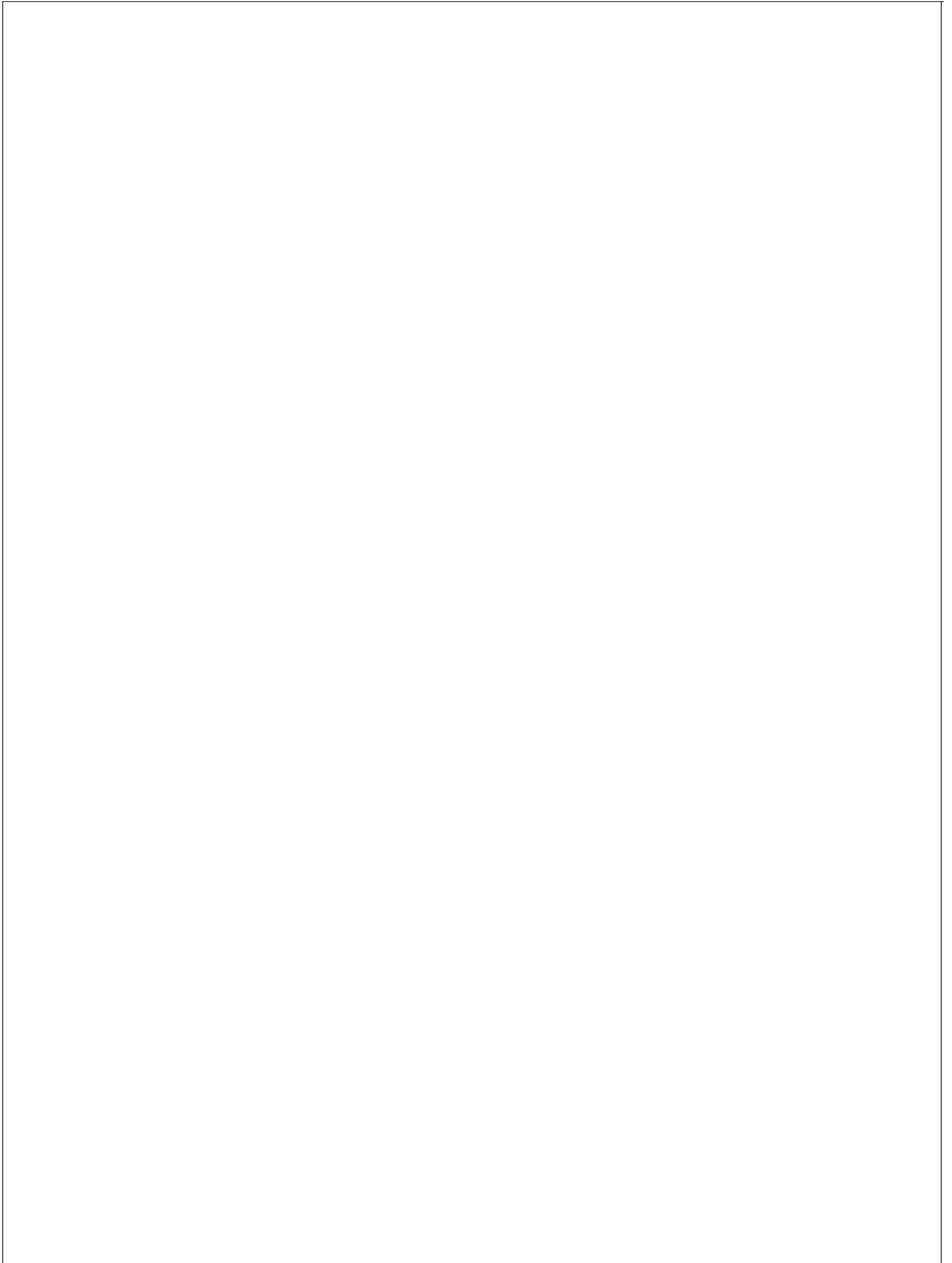
How to ensure that prosecution is centered on victim safety, rather than victim dependent

Desirability of pursuing the widest range of charges supported by probable cause as an avenue for holding offenders accountable that is not dependent on victim testimony

Desirability of requesting conditions for release that ensure victim safety in domestic violence cases

Assessing how filing multiple charges for victims of domestic violence who have used violence against their abuser might reinforce the power and control of their abuser.

Please list any additional training topics that would be beneficial to promoting offender accountability and victim safety and empowerment in domestic violence cases:



Training II

7. How likely would you be to attend the following types of training on domestic violence?

	Not likely at all	Somewhat likely	Very likely
Face-to-face, in a central location, with other agencies in your city	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Face-to-face, in a central location, with other agencies in your parish	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Face-to-face, in a central location, with other agencies from across the state	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Online trainings that can be completed at your convenience	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Webinars - online trainings at specific times and dates that allow you to interact with trainers and other trainees	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Collaborative Endeavors I

* 8. Do you engage in any of the following?

	Yes	No
Serving on domestic violence task forces in your service area.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Working with other criminal justice agencies to develop inter-agency policies and/or procedures for handling domestic violence cases.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Working with non-profit domestic violence agencies in your service area to develop inter-agency policies and procedures for handling domestic violence cases.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Working regularly with other criminal justice agency representatives to address areas of concern that undermine the safety and empowerment of domestic violence victims.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Working regularly with non-profit domestic violence programs in your service area to address areas of concern that undermine the safety and empowerment of domestic violence victims.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Working regularly with other criminal justice agencies on domestic violence case management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Yes

No

Working regularly with non-profit domestic violence programs in your service area on domestic violence case management.

9. Are any coordinated community response teams operating in your district to ensure that inter-agency policies, procedures, and practices hold domestic violence offenders accountable, while promoting the safety and empowerment of domestic violence victims?

Yes

No

10. Evidence confirms that the most effective way to ensure offender accountability and victim safety, is to develop coordinated community response teams that promote best practices in managing domestic violence cases. If a coordinated community response team were being formed in your service area, would you or a representative of your organization be willing and able to take part?

Yes

Maybe

No

If you are interested, please list your name and contact information:

Practices in Prosecuting Domestic Violence Cases

11. How frequently do you engage in the following when making charging decisions, engaging in plea bargaining, and/or making sentencing recommendations in domestic violence cases?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently	Always
Determine primary/predominate aggressor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assess for ongoing patterned abuse	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assess for likelihood that offender poses a serious threat to the victim	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Using domestic violence specific risk assessments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assess for self-defense	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assess for strangulation in domestic violence case	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Effectively communicate with and engage victims in the process	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Effectively communicate with offenders in a manner that consistently demonstrates to that they will be held accountable.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Construct an evidence-based case that does not require victim testimony , when possible	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assess for ongoing, patterned abuse	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assess for possible negative or beneficial impact of aggressive pursuit of convictions and enhancement or the impact of less aggressive approaches	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently	Always
Assess for ability to charge in absence of optimal facts or evidence and request additional investigation when the offender presents a high risk of harm or lethality to the victim	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
View the repeated interventions with domestic abusers as part of an ongoing process to contain the abuser's violent behavior	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensure that prosecution is centered on victim safety, rather than victim dependent	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assess for appropriateness of pursuing the widest range of charges supported by probable cause as an avenue for holding offenders accountable that is not dependent on victim testimony	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Request conditions for release that ensure victim safety in domestic violence cases	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Agency Protocols/Guidelines I

* 12. Does your organization have any domestic violence specific guidelines/protocols to help prosecutors make charging decisions, engage an plea negotiations, request special conditions for release, and/or make decisions on sentencing requests/recommendations?

Yes

No

Agency Protocols/Guidelines II

13. Does your organization have written guidelines/protocols that incorporate the following best practices in charging decisions, plea negotiations and sentencing recommendations?

	Yes	No
Determining primary/predominate aggressor in domestic violence cases	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assessing for ongoing patterned abuse in domestic violence cases	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assessing for likelihood that offender poses a serious threat to the victim	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Using domestic violence specific risk assessments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assessing for self-defense in domestic violence cases	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assessing for strangulation in domestic violence case	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Engaging domestic violence victims throughout the processing of the case	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Effectively communicating with domestic violence offenders in a manner that consistently demonstrates to domestic violence offenders that they will be held accountable.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Constructing an evidence-based case that does not require victim testimony in domestic violence cases, when possible	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Yes

No

Assessing for ongoing, patterned abuse in domestic violence cases

Assessing for possible negative or beneficial impact of aggressive pursuit of convictions and enhancement or the impact of less aggressive approaches in domestic violence cases

Assessing for ability to charge in absence of optimal facts or evidence and request additional investigation when the offender presents a high risk of harm or lethality to the victim

Viewing the repeated interventions with domestic abusers as part of an ongoing process to contain the abuser's violent behavior

How to ensure that prosecution is centered on victim safety, rather than victim dependent

Assessing for appropriateness of pursuing the widest range of charges supported by probable cause as an avenue for holding offenders accountable that is not dependent on victim testimony

Options for requesting conditions for release that ensure victim safety in domestic violence cases

Yes

No

Assessing whether filing multiple charges for victims of domestic violence who have used violence against their abuser might reinforce the power and control of their abuser.

Thank you for completing this survey. Your responses are very important and help us identify our strengths and gaps in training, policies and practices for ensuring victim safety and offender accountability!