



Together we can end relationship abuse

Please SUPPORT HB23-1108 Judicial Training *Sponsors: Majority Leader Duran and Representative Evans*

Why the bill is necessary

- Research shows that Colorado court personnel have little to no satisfactory training in domestic violence, childhood trauma, or sexual abuse.
- This results in significant negative outcomes for families, particularly children, in which custody is often awarded to the abuser.
- More than half of rape victims report contact with the legal system as harmful.
- For victims of childhood sexual abuse, participating in the criminal case was linked to long-term negative outcomes affecting mental health and legal attitudes.
- 81% of mental health professionals who treat sexual assault survivors reported that the legal system's treatment of rape victims is psychologically detrimental.

What the Bill Does

- The bill creates a task force to study best practices and training requirements for judicial personnel on the topics of domestic violence, sexual violence, trauma and methods to minimize retraumatization of victims and survivors.
- The taskforce will evaluate:
 - current judicial training on topics of sexual assault, stalking, and domestic violence;
 - the gaps in judicial training in Colorado;
 - best practices to promote trauma-informed practices and approaches in courts;
 - effective training on the impact of crime, domestic violence, and sexual assault have on victims and survivors;
 - methods to minimize retraumatization of victims and survivors;
 - best practices on training regarding gender-based violence and issues affecting marginalized communities;
 - amount of training judicial personnel currently receive on the rights of victims and implement training to emphasize the rights of victims are protected as vigorously as rights of defendants.

Do Other States Require Judicial Training?

- Thirty one states and the District of Columbia have legislation, executive orders, or court rules that include provisions relating to judicial training on domestic violence.
- Fifteen states and the District of Columbia mandate domestic violence training for at least some judges.
- Domestic violence training must be offered or developed in thirteen states and the District of Columbia.
- In five states, new judge orientation trainings must include domestic violence training.
- Eleven states mandate what topics should be covered in domestic violence trainings.
- Mandatory topics that some states require include: procedures to promote victim safety; lethality and risk factors; uniqueness of DV crimes; dynamics of DV; effects of DV on adults, children, and families; education on culturally responsive approaches to serve DV victims; and community resources and programs.
- Minnesota has developed useful resources such as the National Judicial Education Program's web- course (customized to Minnesota) and a domestic abuse/harassment resource sheet with information for judges about DV community resources and programs.

- North Carolina has developed an extensive Domestic Violence Best Practices Guide for District Court Judges.
- West Virginia requires a minimum of 3 hours of DV training annually for family court judges and has developed some of the most specific training requirements in the country.

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