



Legal Access Newsletter

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December 2015

Dear Elissa,

As this is my inaugural newsletter as the new Legal Access Coordinator, I would like to introduce myself and thank you for your continued support of JCADA clients. The *Legal Access* program educates and empowers victims in the legal process to be actively engaged in their attorney-client relationship and to support attorneys in understanding how to work productively with clients who have experienced domestic abuse and trauma. I am available to provide clients with legal information and then refer them to members of the Attorney Network for continued assistance. To that end, I will be sending bi-monthly newsletters with practice tips, new developments in the law, relevant news stories, training opportunities, and updates regarding our *Legal Access* program.

Thank you for your commitment to JCADA's Attorney Network and for your continued dedication to ending domestic abuse.

Best,
Spencer Cantrell



Practice Tips:

Dos and Don'ts for Working with Survivors of Trauma

Each month we will feature practical tips and strategies to support your work with victims of trauma and domestic abuse. If you have any questions, need any additional support, or have a tip to share, please feel free to contact spencer@jcada.org.



[CourtWatch Montgomery](#) recently released a [new report](#) which indicated that only 1 in 126 domestic violence offenders in Montgomery County were told by a judge that they must surrender their firearms. **Attorneys play an important role in requesting that judges order firearms away from those convicted of certain crimes or those who have had a protective order entered against them.** At the end of a protective order case,

attorneys should request that the respondent have any guns removed as required by law (even if there is an accompanying criminal case) to ensure that during this risky period firearms are not available to escalate a situation.

JCADA by the Numbers in November

Currently Active JCADA Clients: 105
Legal Access Consults leading to Attorney Referrals: 80%
Legal Access Consultations with Clinicians: 19

Emerging Issues & Training Opportunities

As a part of our attorney network, we will provide you with local training opportunities. We encourage all attorneys to participate in trainings designed to provide best practices for working with victims of domestic abuse, and we will notify you as training programs become available.

Elder Abuse and Domestic Violence

Clinicians frequently see clients presenting with both elder abuse and domestic abuse. This can include ongoing domestic violence against a spouse or abuse by adult children, caregivers, or other family members. Resources are available for attorneys assisting older victims of domestic abuse or those suffering from cognitive impairment in conjunction with domestic violence. Training is available through the [Department of Justice's Elder Justice Program](#).

Additionally, Montgomery County has resources available for victims of elder abuse. [Elder SAFE](#) is available to provide temporary shelter and other services to survivors of abuse aged 60 or older. Attorneys may also be interested in an [ABA Report on Elder Abuse initiatives](#) around the country. [Adult Protective Services](#) of Montgomery County is also available to investigate suspected cases of elder abuse, including financial abuse.

Developments in the Law

Settlement in New York for Domestic Violence Victims in Employment Law

In a [recent case](#), an employee of Bon-Ton stores was sent home from work by a lower level manager when she did not have a protection order against her abusive husband who had threatened her the day before. The survivor contacted the Attorney General of New York who reached a settlement with Bon-Ton. The settlement "requires the company to educate all employees of its New York stores that victims of domestic violence are protected by state law against retaliation and harassment relating to their abuse." This settlement will allow the woman to continue working and determine what legal remedies she wants to use to address the domestic abuse.

Updated DHS Resource Guide

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently updated its [Resource Guide](#) for Judges and Law Enforcement, regarding certification of T and U visas for victims of trafficking and other crimes. This Guide can provide helpful information to its intended audience, as well as attorneys and advocates assisting survivors of domestic abuse or other criminal activities who might also be eligible for immigration relief.



JCADA, PO Box 2266, Rockville, MD 20847

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