

The Connecticut General Assembly



Domestic Violence Criminal Justice Response and Enhancement Advisory Council

Annual Report to the General Assembly

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Introduction

Pursuant to its charge under [CGS § 46b-38j](#) and in accordance with [CGS § 11-4a](#), the Domestic Violence Criminal Justice Response and Enhancement Advisory Council (“Council”) is pleased to submit its annual report and recommendations to the Judiciary Committee and the Public Safety and Security Committee.

Executive Summary

The purpose of the Council is to evaluate and advise on a variety of issues related to the criminal justice response to domestic violence. To that end, the Council makes the following recommendations:

- 1) Merge the Arrest Warrants & Orders of Protection Subcommittee with the Offender Intervention Standards Subcommittee to become the Court-Based Issues Subcommittee.
- 2) Amend C.G.S. § 46b-38j to identify a state agency that will review, approve, and monitor compliance of community domestic violence treatment providers.
- 3) Regarding the state’s Supervised Diversionary Program (C.G.S. § 54-56l)...
 - a. Coordinate, in collaboration with the Office of the Chief State’s Attorney and the Judicial Branch, a formal training session for all entities within the criminal justice system on the use of the Supervised Diversionary Program (SDP) for individuals charged with a family violence crime.
 - b. Establish a working group that will review and clarify the eligibility criteria for the Supervised Diversionary Program (C.G.S. § 54-56l) only with respect to individuals charged with a family violence crime and any necessary statutory recommendations/modifications.
- 4) Make various updates to the model law enforcement policy on family violence established pursuant to CGS § 46b-38b to address mandatory use of the Lethality Assessment Program, prioritization of domestic violence arrest warrants, officer-involved domestic violence when the suspect is a police chief or other administrative head of a police agency, and investigation of weapons compliance.
- 5) CCADV should create a working group to review and suggest recommendations pertaining to firearm seizure and compliance procedures in criminal and civil court to the Court-Based Issues and/or Police Response to Crimes of Family Violence Model Policy Subcommittee.
- 6) Add language to Connecticut General Statutes to allow use of a confidential address request form for victims in criminal court.

Council Background and Process

The Council was established pursuant to [Public Act 23-136](#). Two existing councils, the Family Violence Model Policy Governing Council and the Domestic Violence Offender Program Standards Advisory Council, were merged under the newly created council and additional criminal justice-related issues impacting domestic violence survivors were added to the Council's call.

Call of the Council:

The Council was created for the "purpose of evaluating and advising on the following matters, including, but not limited to:

- (1) Policies and procedures used by law enforcement agencies when responding to incidents of family violence, including reviewing and updating the model law enforcement policy on family violence for the state established in section 46b-38b;
- (2) the accuracy of data collected by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection under section 46b-38d, and the Court Support Services Division under section 46b-38f, and collecting and analyzing any additional data related to domestic violence and the criminal justice response available from Judicial Branch court operations, state's attorneys, public defenders, domestic violence advocates, or domestic violence offender programs;
- (3) the domestic violence offender program standards established in section 46b-38m, including reviewing and updating such standards as needed;
- (4) the pretrial family violence education program established in section 46b-38c, including eligibility criteria for such program;
- (5) dedicated domestic violence dockets established in section 51-181e, including state-wide expansion of such dockets;
- (6) the use of electronic monitoring as provided in section 46b-38c;
- (7) risk assessments used throughout a family violence case from arrest through adjudication;
- (8) arrest, prosecution, penalties and monitoring for violations of family violence restraining orders issued pursuant to section 46b-15 or criminal protective orders issued pursuant to section 46b-38c, 54-1k or 54-82r issued in family violence cases;
- (9) processing and execution of arrest warrants for incidents of family violence;
- (10) monitoring compliance, enforcement and victim notification of firearm seizure and surrender in family violence cases;
- (11) programming offered to individuals convicted of a family violence crime and currently incarcerated with the Department of Correction; and,
- (12) training and education for criminal justice stakeholders including, but not limited to, training established pursuant to sections 46b-38b, 46b-38c and 46b-38i."

Council Membership:

The Council consists of 26 members appointed by legislative leaders and state agency Commissioners. The [current list of members can be found on the Judiciary Committee's webpage](#). State Senator Mae Flexer (D-Windham) and Meghan Scanlon, President & CEO of Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, were elected by the full Council to serve as co-chairs.

Council Process:

During the Council's initial meetings in the fall of 2023, members established three subcommittees:

- Offender Intervention Standards
- Police Response to Crimes of Family Violence Model Policy
- Arrest Warrants & Orders of Protection – Compliance Enforcement & Outcomes

The goal was to focus on the following priority areas from the call of the Council:

- (1) Policies and procedures used by law enforcement agencies when responding to incidents of family violence, including reviewing and updating the model law enforcement policy on family violence for the state established in section 46b-38b,
- (3) the domestic violence offender program standards established in section 46b-38m, including reviewing and updating such standards as needed;
- (8) arrest, prosecution, penalties and monitoring for violations of family violence restraining orders issued pursuant to section 46b-15 or criminal protective orders issued pursuant to section 46b-38c, 54-1k or 54-82r issued in family violence cases;
- (9) processing and execution of arrest warrants for incidents of family violence; and,
- (10) monitoring compliance, enforcement and victim notification of firearm seizure and surrender in family violence cases.

Council members agreed that other staff from agencies represented by the Council membership who have expertise related to the priority issue areas would be permitted to serve on the Council subcommittees.

Council members agreed that the full Council will meet at least quarterly, with the subcommittees meeting more frequently. All Council meeting materials including agendas, minutes, and presentations can be found on the [Council's page within the Judiciary Committee's webpage](#).

The full Council met a total of five times between January 2025 and December 2025. The Council received presentations on the following topics:

- The Nature of Explicit and Implicit Firearm Threat by Intimate Partners Across the Life Course Among Women Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence – Tami P. Sullivan, Ph.D., Yale School of Medicine (May 28, 2025); and,
- Review of updated Division of Criminal Justice Policies regarding processing of arrest warrants and confirmation of successful completion of programs that meet the major

tenets of the Domestic Violence Offender Program Standards – Lisa M. D’Angelo, Deputy Chief State’s Attorney (July 30, 2025).

The Offender Intervention Standards Subcommittee met four times and once jointly with the Arrest Warrants & Orders of Protection – Compliance, Enforcement & Outcomes Subcommittee for a total of five meetings during 2025 and discussed the following topics:

- Role and involvement of Chief State’s Attorney’s Office to include treatment as part of a disposition in Family Violence cases under standard process;
- Merging with the Arrest Warrants & Orders of Protection subcommittee;
- A presentation from Robert LaPlant of the Judicial Branch Office of Adult Probation on an overview of adult probation and the Supervised Diversionary Program procedures;
- Review of data provided by Office of Adult Probation regarding Family Violence Education Program (FVEP) implementation and completion rates;
- Bill language regarding Supervised Diversionary Program submitted during the 2025 legislative session; and
- The report issued by the CT Auditors of Public Accounts regarding the Division of Criminal Justice’s Prosecutor-led Diversion Practices for Family Violence Offenders

The Police Response to Crimes of Family Violence Model Policy Subcommittee met a total of four times during 2025 and discussed the following topics:

- Handling of domestic violence/intimate partner violence (IPV) incidents involving chiefs of police and other administrative head of a police agency.
- Expediting of domestic violence/IPV related warrants approved by the court
- Handling of weapons and ammunition needing to be turned over or seized during domestic violence/IPV incidents
- Updates to the Alert Notification/GPS Statewide Expansion Program

The Arrest Warrants & Orders of Protection – Compliance Enforcement & Outcomes Subcommittee met a total of five times during 2025 and discussed/assisted in facilitating the following topics:

- Bringing National Technical Assistance Provider, Darren Mitchell of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, to Connecticut to complete a Firearm Seizure & Compliance Mapping Workshop with criminal justice stakeholders, which included several pre-meetings with the subcommittee co-chairs.
- Updating the Division of Criminal Justice’s case management system to include domestic violence arrest warrants so they can be more easily tracked, including: when they are received, who is reviewing them, the date it came in, the date it was forwarded to a judge, and the date it went back to the police department.
- Review of the Police Response to Crimes of Family Violence Model Policy Subcommittee’s recommended updates to the Model Policy as they pertain to the service of arrest warrants.
- Potential solutions to a safety issue stemming from a specific incident brought to the attention of the subcommittee involving a restraining order affidavit that was collected by a non-party and used against the victim in a separate court proceeding.
- Statutory language drafted by the Judicial Branch for the confidential address form for victims in criminal court.
- Bringing in Darren Mitchell and Brianna Maurice of the Connecticut State Police Special Licensing and Firearms Unit to discuss current firearm seizure & compliance procedures

in Connecticut and to gather information additional information needed to facilitate a mapping workshop.

- Presentation by Johanna Greenfield, Judicial Branch Court Operations, regarding procedures around public information and accessibility of files in the clerk's office.
- A small group of representatives from Judicial, the Division of Criminal Justice, the Chief Public Defender's Office, the Office of the Victim Advocate, the Special Licensing and Firearms Unit, and CCADV met to discuss current challenges and procedures surrounding firearm seizure and compliance practices in Connecticut.

Progress on January 2025 Council Recommendations

Offender Intervention Standards Subcommittee:

- 1) **Develop a standardized process and procedure, including a form, to verify a successful completion of treatment provided to a defendant by a mental health provider or a therapist that comports with certain topic areas that need to be covered under the domestic violence offender program standards established pursuant to C.G.S. § 46b-38m in order for the defendant to receive a favorable disposition.**

The Subcommittee provided recommendations to the Chief State's Attorney's Office (CSAO) with the intent to allow offenders more opportunities to secure treatment providers beyond those provided on a list of approved providers. CSAO subsequently introduced a new compliance form – DCJ Form 520-03 - for use across all courts as of July 2025 (see appendices).

- 2) **Consider amending C.G.S. § 54-56l to give the court discretion to add a family violence component requirement to the pretrial supervised diversionary program for individuals charged with a family violence crime.**

Language was submitted during the 2025 legislative session, passing both the Judiciary & Appropriations Committee, but final consensus could not be achieved among all relevant stakeholders, and the matter was held. The Subcommittee continued discussions as to whether concerns should be addressed through training, a statutory change, or both.

Police Response to Crimes of Family Violence Model Policy Subcommittee:

- 1) **The subcommittee made several recommended changes to the model law enforcement policy on family violence established pursuant to CGS § 46b-38b, which were unanimously accepted by the full Council at its January 31, 2024 meeting.**

The statewide model policy, the minimum standards that all law enforcement agencies in Connecticut must meet relative to their response to family violence, was subsequently issued to all law enforcement agencies through Police Officer Standards and Training Council General Notice 24-01.

- 2) Consider inclusion of Connecticut's Lethality Assessment Program in the model law enforcement policy on family violence established pursuant to CGS § 46b-38b as a best practice.

The Subcommittee included this recommended change in updates to the model law enforcement policy on family violence, which were approved by the full Council on May 28, 2025.

- 3) Work in coordination with the Arrest Warrants & Orders of Protection – Compliance Enforcement & Outcomes Subcommittee to research and develop best practices related to prioritization of domestic violence arrest warrants for inclusion in the model law enforcement policy on family violence established pursuant to CGS § 46b-38b.

An update was made to the Division of Criminal Justice's policy (DCJ Policy Number 520, issued July 10, 2025) to update their case management system. This new policy asks for clear dates from prosecutors to better track domestic violence arrest warrants, including: when they are received, who is reviewing them, the date it came in, the date it was forwarded to a judge, and the date it went back to the police department.

Arrest Warrants & Orders of Public Protection – Compliance, Enforcement & Outcomes Subcommittee:

- 1) Invite Darren Mitchell (National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges) to work with the subcommittee on improving Connecticut's response to domestic violence as it relates to orders of protection and an abuser's access to firearms.

The subcommittee hosted Darren Mitchell on November 17, 2025, where he conducted his mapping workshop with a group of criminal justice stakeholders, including: CCADV, the Chief State's Attorney's Office, the Chief Public Defender's Office, the Office of the Victim Advocate, Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch, Court Operations, the Special Licensing and Firearms Unit, private defense attorneys, Family Violence Victim Advocates, Law Enforcement, the Office of Victim Services, and a team of prevention specialists.

- 2) Establish a protocol within each Judicial District for the review, execution, and tracking of domestic violence arrest warrants.

An update was made to the Division of Criminal Justice's policy (DCJ Policy Number 520, issued July 10, 2025; see appendices) to update their case management system. This new policy asks for clear dates from prosecutors to better track domestic violence arrest warrants, including: when they are received, who is reviewing them, the date it came in, the date it was forwarded to a judge, and the date it went back to the police department.

- 3) Establish a consistent practice statewide for domestic violence victims to request that their addresses be protected from defendants in criminal cases.

The Judicial Branch's legal team drafted statutory language for this issue to be reviewed by the subcommittee.

Current Council Recommendations

The Council makes the following recommendations:

Offender Intervention Standards Subcommittee:

- 1) Merge the Arrest Warrants & Orders of Protection Subcommittee with the Offender Intervention Standards Subcommittee to become the Court-Based Issues Subcommittee.**

The Subcommittee noted that due to subject matter overlay and an overlap of members between the Offender Program Standards and the Arrest Warrants & Orders of Protection Subcommittees, it would be prudent to merge the subcommittees into a unified subcommittee focused on court-based procedures. The Subcommittee agreed that merging the subcommittees would be most efficient, time-conscious, and best further shared goals.

- 2) Amend C.G.S. § 46b-38j to identify a state agency that will review, approve, and monitor compliance of community domestic violence treatment providers.**

Based upon the findings and recommendations of the CT Auditors of Public Accounts performance audit of the Division of Criminal Justice's Prosecutor-led Diversion Practices for Family Violence Offenders, the Subcommittee noted that the Council is acting beyond its legal authority in implementing standards regarding community-based offender intervention programs. No legal mechanism nor statutory authorization was located granting such directive nor providing a system for ensuring treatment providers are meeting offender program standards.

In line with the recommendations of the CT Auditors of Public Accounts, the Subcommittee recommends that the CT General Assembly identify and grant authority to an appropriate state agency to review, approve, and monitor compliance of community domestic violence treatment providers, including any necessary funding to carry out such duties.

The Subcommittee has reviewed oversight of similar programs, identifying use of the Department of Public Health to monitor such programming in Massachusetts, and did reach out to the CT Department of Public Health to share information regarding the report from the CT Auditors of Public Accounts and current oversight of Connecticut's offender intervention standards. The Council stands ready to assist legislators in this task.

- 3) Supervised Diversionary Program**

- a. Coordinate, in collaboration with the Office of the Chief State's Attorney and the Judicial Branch, a formal training session for all entities within the criminal justice system on the use of the Supervised Diversionary Program (SDP) for individuals charged with a family violence crime.**

Based upon data reviewed and information provided to the Subcommittee, it became clear that the pretrial supervised diversionary program established under C.G.S. § 54-56l is not utilized in a consistent manner in courts across the state. Due to issues from inconsistent usage and concerns regarding recent new-hire data, members of the Subcommittee believe the institution of a state-wide

training session regarding practice and use of C.G.S. § 54-56l would create consistency and provide the foundation for appropriate use in cases of domestic violence/intimate partner violence.

- b. Establish a working group that will review and clarify the eligibility criteria for the Supervised Diversionary Program (C.G.S. § 54-56l) only with respect to individuals charged with a family violence crime and any necessary statutory recommendations/modifications.**

The Subcommittee agreed that the approved language from the 2025 Council report (see above – page 6, Progress on January 2025 Council Recommendations, Offender Intervention Standards Subcommittee, Recommendation #2) should, in conjunction with Council members' legislative liaisons and other staff who oversee the Supervised Diversionary Program, continue to be reviewed with the intent to revise and restructure statutory language that was included in Senate Bill 1505 from the 2025 session of the General Assembly for workability and passage. The Subcommittee recognized that the statute currently does not clearly define eligibility criteria and agreed to recommend language that clearly defines eligibility only with respect to individuals charged with family violence crimes.

Police Response to Crimes of Family Violence Model Policy Subcommittee:

- 1) The subcommittee made the following recommended changes to the model law enforcement policy on family violence established pursuant to CGS § 46b-38b, which were unanimously accepted by the full Council at its December 18, 2024, May 28, 2025, and July 30, 2025 meetings:**

Page 7 - removed voluntary participation in the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP)
Page 7- added new language outlining LAP protocols for domestic violence program referrals outside of high danger situations

Page 9 – added “as soon as possible” when supervising the execution of arrest warrants
Page 12 and 13 – added language regarding expediting completion and execution of arrest warrants & notification procedures

Page 16 and 17 – added language pertaining to policies when a police chief, or other administrative head of police agency is a suspected domestic violence offender

Page 22 – added language to provide clearer protocols for investigation of weapons compliance by those ineligible to possess due to an order of protection

Page 23 - added language regarding convictions under conditions for failing to account for weapons and ammunition

*Page numbers denote location of language in [model law enforcement policy on family violence dated July 2025](#) and noticed to all Connecticut law enforcement agencies through Police Officer Standards and Training Council General Notice 25-18.

Arrest Warrants & Orders of Protection – Compliance, Enforcement, & Outcomes Subcommittee:

- 1) CCADV should create a working group to review and suggest recommendations pertaining to firearm seizure and compliance procedures in criminal and civil court to the Court-Based Issues and/or Police Response to Crimes of Family Violence Model Policy Subcommittee.**

This recommendation stems from the Firearms Seizure and Compliance Mapping Workshop facilitated by Darren Mitchell in November 2025. Present for the workshop were representatives from the defense bar, the prosecution, the private family bar, Office of Emergency Medical Services, victim advocacy agencies, the CT State Police, municipal police departments, and court operations. Together, the group mapped the criminal and civil restraining order processes and identified gaps in the system that need to be addressed. There were approximately 28 gaps identified that could benefit from further review. Due to the volume of gaps and potential recommendations that could come from them, the group decided that creating a working group to focus specifically on developing such recommendations to be presented to the Council subcommittees for consideration would be the most expedient way to move forward.

2) Add language to Connecticut General Statutes to allow use of a confidential address request form for victims in criminal court.

Following the subcommittee's recommendation last year to develop a statewide, uniform practice for victims to request that their addresses be protected from defendants in criminal cases, the Judicial Branch legal department drafted the following statutory language for review by the subcommittee:

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 54-86e, if the victim of a family violence crime for whom a protective order may issue pursuant to subsection (e) of section 46b-38c alleges, on a form prescribed by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, that the health, safety, or liberty of the victim would be jeopardized by disclosure of location information on the protective order and asks the court not to include such information on the protective order, the court shall not include the victim's location information on the protective order. Any such form shall contain the victim's address for the purposes of entering that information into the registry of protective orders pursuant to section 51-5c, be filed under seal, and not be disclosed to the defendant or the public unless the court, after a hearing, determines that it is in the interest of justice that such disclosure be made. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, if a protective order is issued pursuant to subsection (e) of section 46b-38c, the name and address of the victim shall be entered in the registry of protective orders pursuant to section 51-5c.

The subcommittee would also like to include Standing Criminal Protective Orders under C.G.S. § 53a-40e and other protective orders to cover sexual assault and risk of injury victims under C.G.S. § 54-1k so that all victims would be eligible to access and use this form.