

# The Connecticut General Assembly



Domestic Violence Criminal Justice  
Response and Enhancement Advisory Council  
Police Response to Crimes of Family Violence Model Policy Subcommittee  
Meeting Minutes  
November 5, 2025  
11:00AM via Zoom and YouTube Live

**ATTENDANCE: Chief Alaric Fox (Enfield PD), Co-Chair Karen Foley O'Connor (The Network Against Domestic Abuse), Andrea O'Connor (Family Violence Victim Advocate Program Manager, Umbrella Center – New Haven/Derby/Milford courts), Shauna Harrington (Director of Legal Advocacy, CCADV), Jessica Sadlowski (Community Coordinator, CCADV), Gary Wallace (VP of Programs, CCADV), Rosario Terron (Director of Safe Connect, CCADV), John Dilbar (Assistant Legal Counselor for the Office of the Chief Public Defender), Ryan Maynard (Connecticut State Police), Nancy Tyler (Attorney and Survivor Representative, CCADV), Merit LaJoie (Complaint Officer, Office of the Victim Advocate)**

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting called to order by Chief Alaric Fox of the Enfield Police Department at 11:00 am.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Welcoming remarks and members introduced themselves

III. MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

- Prior minutes: August 19, 2025
  - A. Motion to approve: Ryan Maynard
  - B. Second: Karen Foley O'Connor

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Approved by show of hands, no nays, two abstentions (not in attendance).

## IV. GPS MONITORING PRESENTATION

- PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

- A. Introduction by Chief Alaric Fox of Enfield Police Department

- B. Chief Fox explains that the committee has been challenged to do more with policy and improve law enforcement response *proactively*. This means how LE receives, reacts to, and uses GPS with awareness of legalities

- FAMILY RELATIONS

- A. Joe DiTunno from family relations presents an overview of the role of Family Relations regarding GPS monitoring.

- B. 311 defendants on GPS statewide, usually housed in 5 major courts, 313 victims are currently participating, 244 carrying with full participation

- C. 6 points of contact from family relations

- i. Pre-arraignment

- ii. Installation

- iii. Case management (compliance reports)

- iv. Reporting non-compliance

- v. Termination (Case disposed, victim requested to be taken off program)

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- D. Family relations counselors → assess statutory criteria → make recommendations → find offender → serious DV charges/multiple violations of a protective order → do an assessment on the case → contact victim to see if they want to participate → let court know yes or no to participating
- E. Sometimes prosecutors can request GPS for a victim
- F. Alerts are triaged by family relations (confirms if there was non-compliance)
  - i. Sentinel texts victim/calls to make contact
  - ii. Calls dispatch and inform law enforcement whether it was a false alert
- G. Shauna Harrington, Director of Legal Advocacy with CCADV, and Andrea O'Connor, Family Violence Victim Advocate Program Manager, provide further context
- H. No promises are made to victims that they will get GPS even if they meet all statutory requirements to receive the device
- I. 3 requirements/criteria: (\*\*very conditional)
  - i. Violation of POs
  - ii. Risk assessment = high
  - iii. Victim willingness to participate
    - Screening for GPS is ended if contact can't be made with victim before pre-arraignment

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- J. Safety planning:
  - i. Keeping device charged
  - ii. Ensuring confidentiality
  - iii. Address confidential  mobile alerts only
  - iv. Victims can change their mind on participating and can even get suppressed notifications
  - v. Warn clients that there will be many alerts/GPS is very thorough
    - Travel can trigger false alerts
    - Lots of calls from PD/Family relation advocates
  
- LAW ENFORCEMENT
  - A. Captain Ryan Maynard of the Connecticut State Police explains law enforcement involvement with GPS alerts
  - B. Law enforcement sees any alert call as an immediate response on scene
    - i. Making sure the scene safe is priority/preliminary assessment
    - ii. GPS alert response = attending to victim
  - C. How law enforcement approaches GPS alerts
    - i. Safety/preliminary assessment
    - ii. Contact the offender – was there truly a violation of GPS
      - If yes – arrest is made, and a safety plan

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- If no – safety plan
- D. Strap/Device tampers
  - i. Someone is messing with the device, or the device is dead (SERIOUS)
- E. Stationary zone violation
  - i. Stationary zone is usually victims' home/workplace (somewhere they are for long periods of time most days)
  - ii. Defendant gets a map, covers 2,500 ft
- F. Mobile Zone
  - i. Lots of alerts come from this, victims and defendants passing one another on the highway for example
  - ii. 1,000 ft bubble around device that victim is holding
  - iii. Mostly used in cases of monitoring stalking
- VICTIM ADVOCATE
  - A. Rosario Terron, Director of Safe Connect, provides some insight to GPS from the perspective of a 24/7 hotline advocate
  - B. Purpose of safety planning and connecting victims to services
  - C. There is a script hotline advocates use for new callers
    - i. Ask if victim wants resources
    - ii. Safety planning

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- iii. Housing assistance
- D. Safe Connect texts/emails/calls to contact victim whenever there is a GPS alert
  - i. Let FVVA know about communication with clients
  - ii. Lots of communication between FVVA, safe connect, and victim
- E. Lots of clients withdraw participation due to the high volume of alerts/calls
- F. Adding Safe Connect to GPS has been a positive change
- G. Joe DiTunno also mentioned that the mobile device is where displeasure often stems from  clients will return mobile device yet keep the stationary GPS
- H. Mobile/Buffer = ~1 mile radius covered – because of the radius there a lot of alerts/follow ups
- OTHER BUSINESS
  - A. Objectives for 2026
    - i. Adjustments must be made to GPS policy regarding law enforcement, clarity
    - ii. Could need policy updates
    - iii. Decide whether we could/should consider an expansion of GPS
      - Would we need statutory change?

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- Are there constitutional/legal concerns regarding the expansion of GPS?
  
- SCHEDULING
  - A. HOLD for December 16, 2025
  
  - B. Full committee meets on December 17, 2025

MEETING END: 12:10 pm