



2013 Legislative Proposal (HB13- 1259) Background

The Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) initiated a multidisciplinary Domestic Violence & Domestic Relations Task Force (Task Force) in April 2011, which concluded in October 2012. The purpose of the Task Force was to identify ways Colorado's courts could better serve families affected by domestic violence who are accessing domestic relations courts for dissolution of marriage and allocation of parental responsibilities (domestic relations) cases. The goal was to identify comprehensive policy, training, and best practice recommendations for improving the response to domestic violence involved domestic relations cases.

The Task Force discussed the response to domestic relations cases in which domestic violence is at issue, identified systemic problems, reviewed relevant research and literature, and developed a set of recommendations aimed at addressing those issues. The issues to be addressed were broken down into segments based upon five parts of the domestic relations process and assigned to subcommittees: civil protection order, initial filing and status conference, court appointed professionals, permanent orders, and post decree.

The Task Force developed the conceptual policy recommendations that are reflected in HB13- 1259, but was not involved in any manner with the drafting of the legislation. The members of the DV & DR Task Force were:

- Chris Radeff, Family Law Attorney, Child & Family Investigator, & Representative from the Family Law Section of the CO Bar Association
- Angela Mackey, Program Manager for Tri-County Resource Center serving victims in Montrose
- Judge Victor Reyes with the 10th Judicial District Court
- Bob Smith, Attorney, Child & Family Investigator, Child's Legal Representative & former president of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts
- Dorothy Macias, Staff Attorney & Legislative Liaison for the Office of the Child's Representative
- Erin Gardner & Terry Lopez, Family Law Attorneys with Colorado Legal Services
- Fran Fontana, Family Law Attorney, Child & Family Investigator, and member of the Supreme Court Standing Committee on Family Issues
- Pam Gagel, then Assistant Director Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System
- Melinda Taylor, then District Administrator for the 17th Judicial District Courts
- Judge Betty Strobel with the 19th Judicial District Court
- Megan Pratt, Program Director for Project Safeguard serving victims in Metro Denver
- Jennifer Eyl, Attorney, Licensed Professional Counselor, and Child & Family Investigator
- Joan Heller, County Attorney for 1st Judicial District Courts
- Kathleen Schoen, Family Violence Program Director for the CO Bar Association
- Amanda Milner, Legal Advocacy Supervisor for Family Tree serving victims in Jefferson & Gilpin
- Marisol Rodriguez, Child & Family Investigator and Counselor with SPAN serving victims in Boulder
- Veronica Horn, Legal Advocacy Coordinator for SPAN serving victims in Boulder
- Michelle Roche, Attorney & Child & Family Investigator
- Tamara Kuennen, Professor with the DU Sturm College of Law & Director of DU Student Legal Clinic
- Jackie Cash, Director of the state Address Confidentiality Program and Attorney
- Kristi Bloodworth, Staff Attorney with Bright Future Foundation serving Victims in Eagle County
- Carol Wahlgren, retired Program Administrator, Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment at CDHS
- Amy Miller, Public Policy Director for the Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence