

INTRODUCTION

The intersection between child welfare and domestic violence laws raise various issues on best practices when advocating for a child's best interest. This practice kit is intended as a guide for lawyers who are working with families affected by domestic violence.

In particular, this practice kit aims to:

- Guide practitioners on ways to interview clients, opposing parties, and professionals involved in the lives of the families affected by domestic violence.
- Provide a baseline understanding of domestic violence and the intersection with child welfare.
- Provide a list of nationwide articles that discuss recent trends in child welfare and domestic violence.
- Reference state laws that affect families affected by domestic violence.
- Provide guidance on the role of the Guardian *ad litem* in neglect proceedings that involve domestic violence.
- Reference the Child and Family Service Agency's policies that govern the agency's practices when working with families affected by domestic violence.
- Equip practitioners with lists of referrals available to families affected by domestic violence.