



2012 Report DC Domestic Violence Court Watch Project

Survivors and Advocates For Empowerment (DC SAFE), Inc.
Data, Analysis and Recommendations from the 2012 DC Domestic Violence Court Watch Project



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Introduction

This report contains data, analysis and recommendations from Civil Protection Order (CPO) hearings heard at the DC Superior Court from February 2012 through January 2013. Readers will find data, analysis and recommendations distilled into three sections: demographic information, judicial behavior, and recommendations. Full data findings are reported in the appendix.

Mission:

The mission of the DC Domestic Violence Court Watch Project is to create transparency and data-driven information through court monitoring to ensure that all victims of domestic violence have equal access to a clear, fair and consistent judicial process that prioritizes victim safety and offender accountability.

History:

The DC Domestic Violence Court Watch Project is a collaborative project in which volunteers monitor certain judicial proceedings and provide feedback to the court, the bar, and the community at large about a range of issues that may impact the safety of domestic violence survivors both in and out of court. Across the country, similar programs track a variety of types of cases, ranging from drunken driving, immigrant rights, and juvenile offenses to sexual assault and domestic violence. The DC Domestic Violence Court Watch Project is intended to monitor court proceedings in the Domestic Violence Unit and Family Court in cases involving allegations of domestic violence. The data is gathered via standardized forms developed in conjunction with advocates, victims, and court personnel. The first Court Watch Report was produced by SAFE, Inc. in 2006, and SAFE's volunteers have been monitoring various issues in the DV Unit ever since. Based on these observations, SAFE has produced a Pro Se Petitioner's Guide to Civil Protection Orders, in order to provide additional assistance to survivors who are appearing in court without attorneys.

Goals:

The goals of the Court Watch Project are:

- To encourage everyone who works within the justice system of the District of Columbia to identify ways of increasing survivor safety and offender accountability in domestic violence cases.
- To improve the experience of both represented and pro se petitioners in accessing judicial relief.

Based on systematic observations, the Project will provide objective data to the court, the bar and the general public; acknowledge exemplary actions by judges and court personnel; identify patterns within the judicial system that may be helpful or harmful to survivors of abuse and their children; assist in the creation of a dialogue between the court and the public regarding the court's handling of domestic violence; and propose practical solutions to improve and standardize court responses to such cases. Although reports may sometimes criticize aspects of court procedures, Court Watch intends to also recognize the vast amounts of good work done within the Domestic Violence Unit and the Family Court and does not seek to restrict judicial independence.

Method:

This annual report is based on data collected by volunteers over a period of 12 months starting in February 2012 and ending in January 2013.

Court Watch Project volunteers are members of the DC community, diverse in age, race and gender. Many of our volunteers are law students and attorneys or have a general interest in how survivors of domestic violence access legal systems.

Volunteers collect data from individual cases for year long Civil Protection Orders (CPOs) heard by the DC Superior Court Domestic Violence Unit and record this data on a standardized form (Appendix I). The majority of the information collected are facts about each case such as the judge, attorneys present, the case's outcome, etc. However, a number of questions relied on the personal opinion of the volunteer because a) not all information is explicitly stated during a

hearing, and b) the questions specifically asked for the volunteer's opinion. For this reason, race and gender are referred to as "perceived race" and "perceived gender". While the relationship between the petitioner and the respondent is often explicitly stated (during trial, this is usually done by either the petitioner or the judge), at times this too was something the observer had to perceive. There is a series of questions regarding judicial behavior and the majority of these are subjective and based on the observer's perception. The volunteers were trained to carefully monitor these indicators.

Over the course of one year, volunteers collected statistics on 1,592 non-discrete cases. It is important to note that these cases are non-discrete because cases that were granted continuances may have been observed more than once. However, each outcome was different and therefore the specific factors observed may differ. Therefore, these cases are not removed.

Cases were observed based on volunteer availability and are therefore chosen at random throughout the day. On average, time spent collecting data was split evenly between both courtrooms. On average, time spent collecting data was split evenly between mornings, where many cases are heard quickly, and afternoons, where a few cases take more time. Due to volunteer availability, there is slightly more data from cases that took place on Thursdays and Fridays. However, because this is not a full sample, there may be estimation biases.

This project faced a number of constraints. As the project was just restarted in this format this past year, the period of observation was started a month into 2012 and continued until the end of January 2013. Because of constraints on volunteer time, there are also periods of the year that were underrepresented or overrepresented (there is significantly less data from weeks when students are on vacation). Constraints in the number of volunteers and number of hours prevented the project from observing a higher number of cases. There were also a number of cases where, because of time or other constraints, volunteers were unable to fill out all details. Also, because parties in many cases were not present in court, many factors such as gender and race could not be recorded. The questions regarding judicial behavior were only recorded in cases where there were significant interactions between the judges and the petitioner and/or respondent. Therefore, there were only 1,100 to 1,200 observations recorded for each of the factors regarding judicial behavior. Reported percentages will be based on data that has been recorded, e.g. "Of the cases where the gender of the parties was recorded...", etc.

Much of the analysis in this report is focused on parties who shared some kind of intimate relationship, and less so on parties who were related by blood, legal custody or shared a living space. Court Watch has chosen to focus on this group, in which we are including parties with children in common and survivors of stranger/acquaintance sexual assault and stalking due to the intimate nature of the crime, in order to better understand the dynamics that survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) experience when seeking protection from the court.

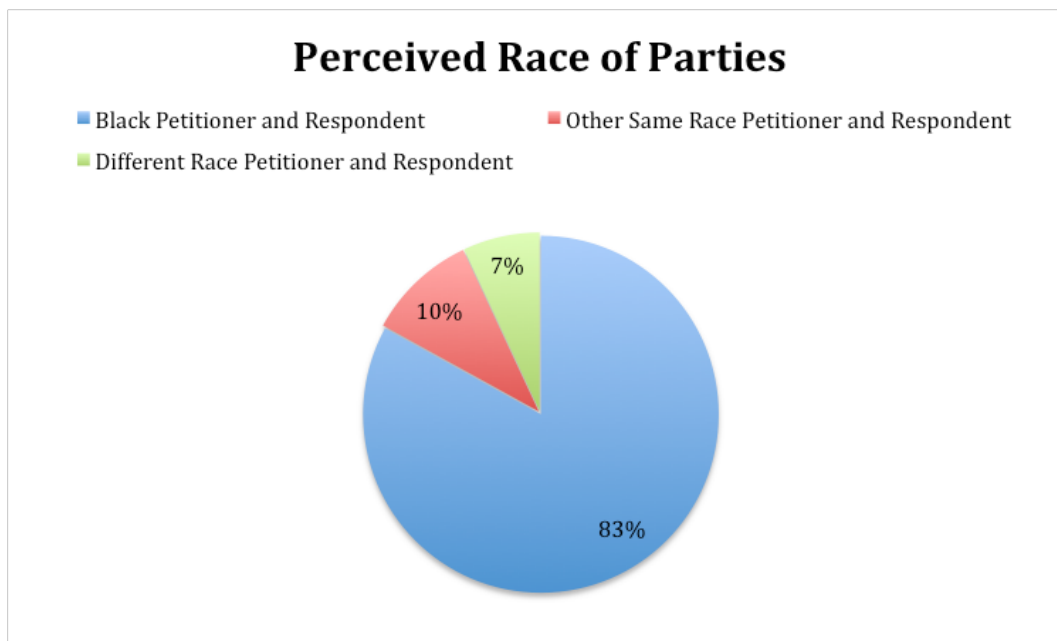
Acknowledgements:

This report would not have been possible without the cooperation and hard work of our volunteers and staff, the Court and the legal community and especially SAFE's Court Watch Project Interns who gave many hours to data collection, entry and analysis: Molly Brune, Brian Alsever, Pooja Datta, Katherine Heflin, Dominick Del Corso and George Bowerfind. Thank you to Elisabeth Olds of Dynamic Strategies for her dedication, time and expertise.

Analysis and Recommendations

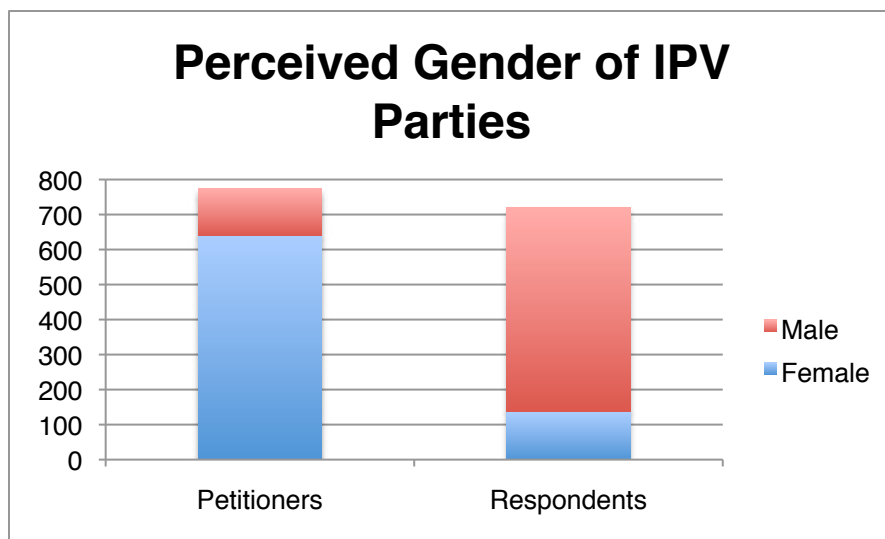
Section 1: Quick Facts - Demographics

1A. Perceived Race

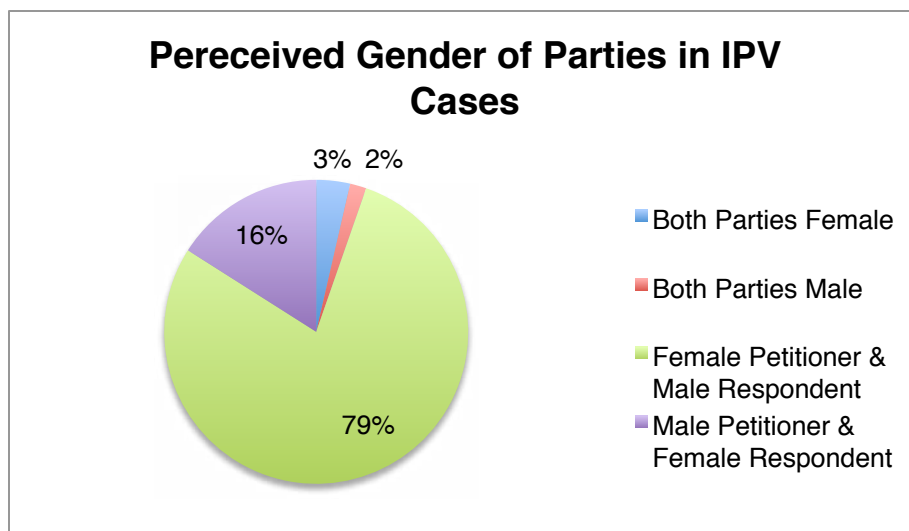


- About 86.3% of petitioners and 86.98% of respondents are black. 83.26% of cases were between a black petitioner and respondent.
- Over 90% of cases were between people of the same race. This rate remained the same for both Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) cases and non-Intimate Partner Violence (non-IPV) cases.
- Of 47 cases filed by white petitioners, 54.89% were filed against white respondents and 38.21% were filed against a black respondent. This is the highest rate of cases filed between petitioners and respondents of different races.

1B. Perceived Gender



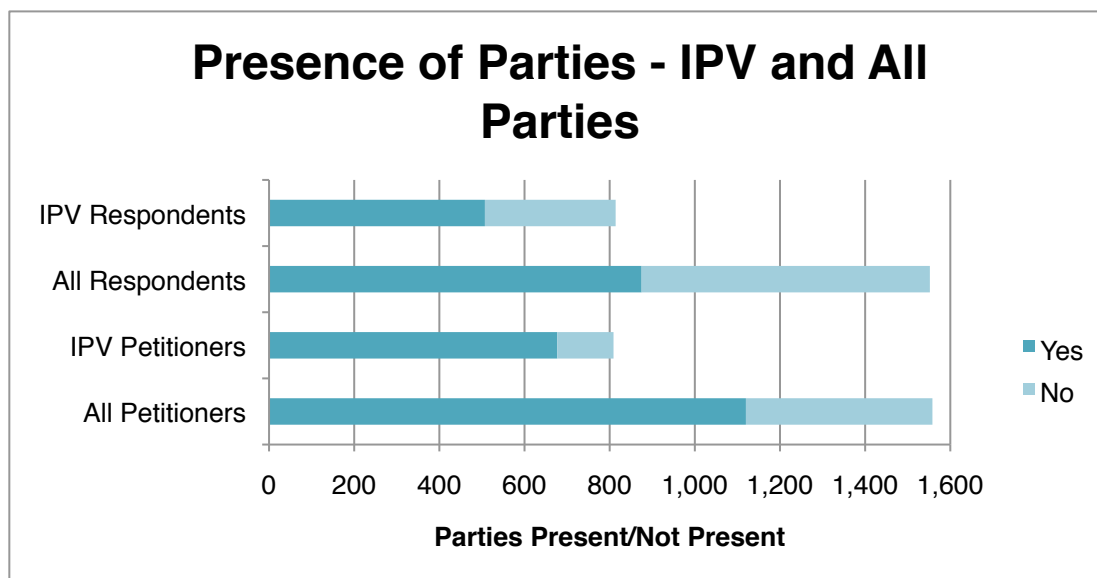
- In cases involving intimate partners 82.55% of petitioners were female, while only 19.16% of respondents were female.
- In all cases, 73.77% of respondents were male. In cases involving intimate partners, the rate of male respondents increased to 80.83%.



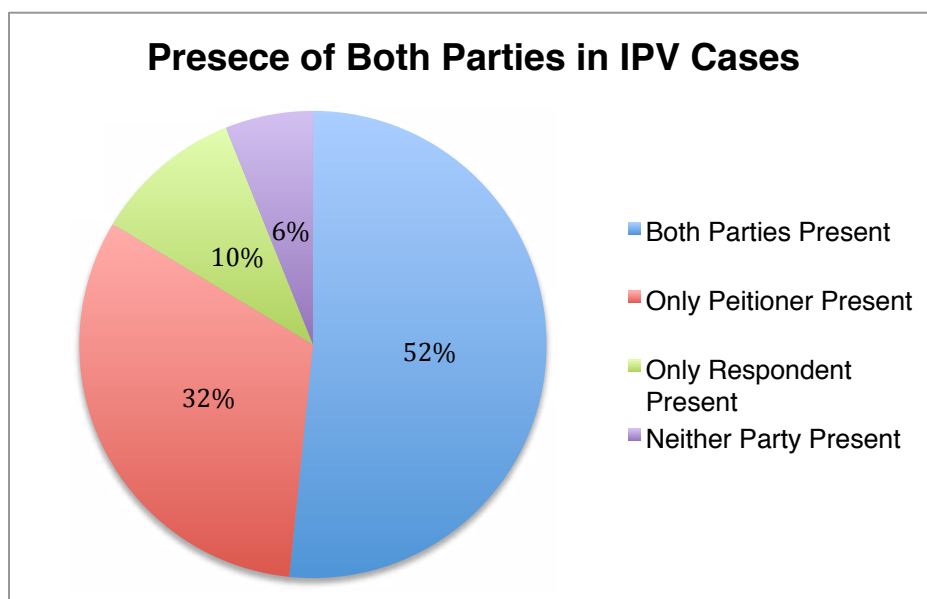
- 78.78% of IPV cases were between a female petitioner and male respondent. Only 16.01% of cases were between a male petitioner and female respondent.
- There were 24 IPV cases with both female petitioners and female respondents. There were 11 with both male petitioners and male respondents.

- Of 111 IPV cases filed by male petitioners against female respondents, at least 29.72% of them had cross petitions filed against them. This means the female respondents also filed a petition for a CPO against the male petitioner.

1C. Presence of Petitioners and Respondents

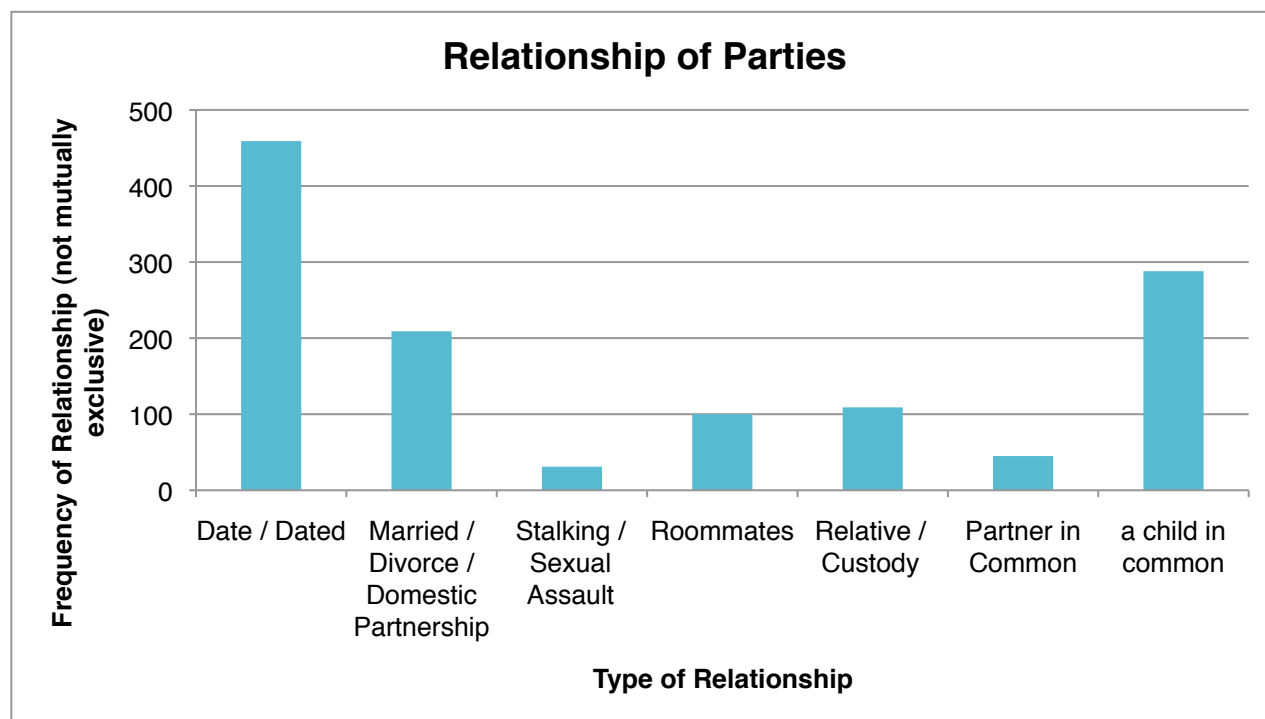


- Petitioners were present at 71.90% of all hearings and 81.98% of IPV hearings.
- Respondents were present at 56.37% of all hearings and 62.28% of IPV hearings.



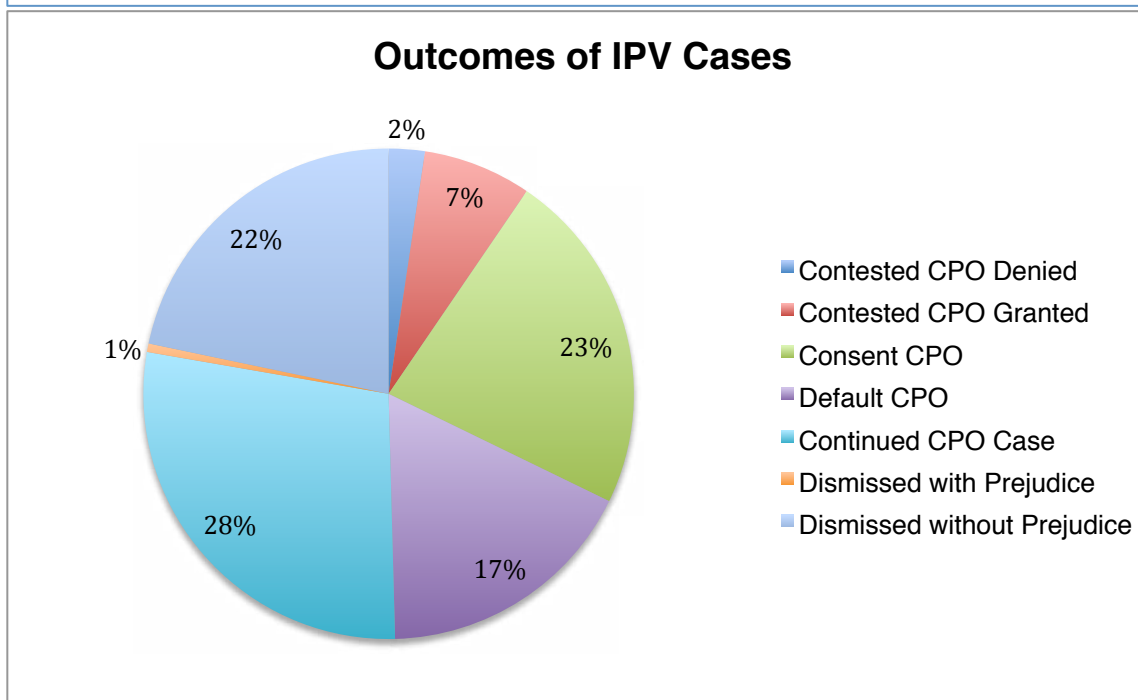
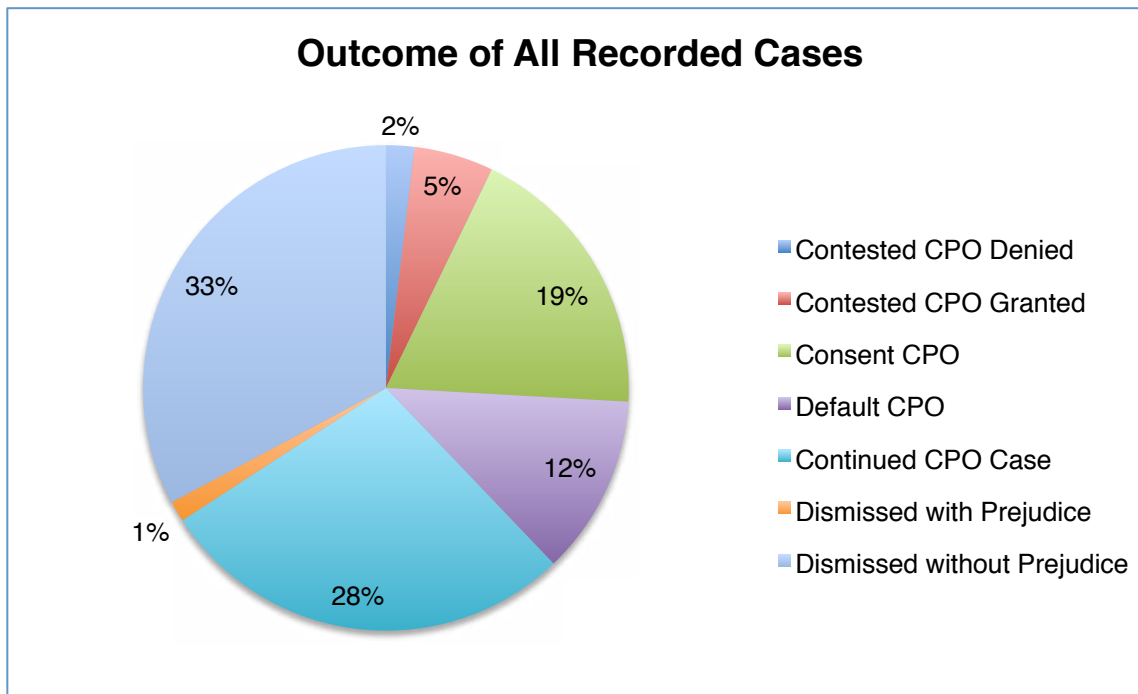
- Both parties were present in 52% of cases involving IPV. Petitioners were present more than three times as much as respondents when only one party was present.

1D. Relationship

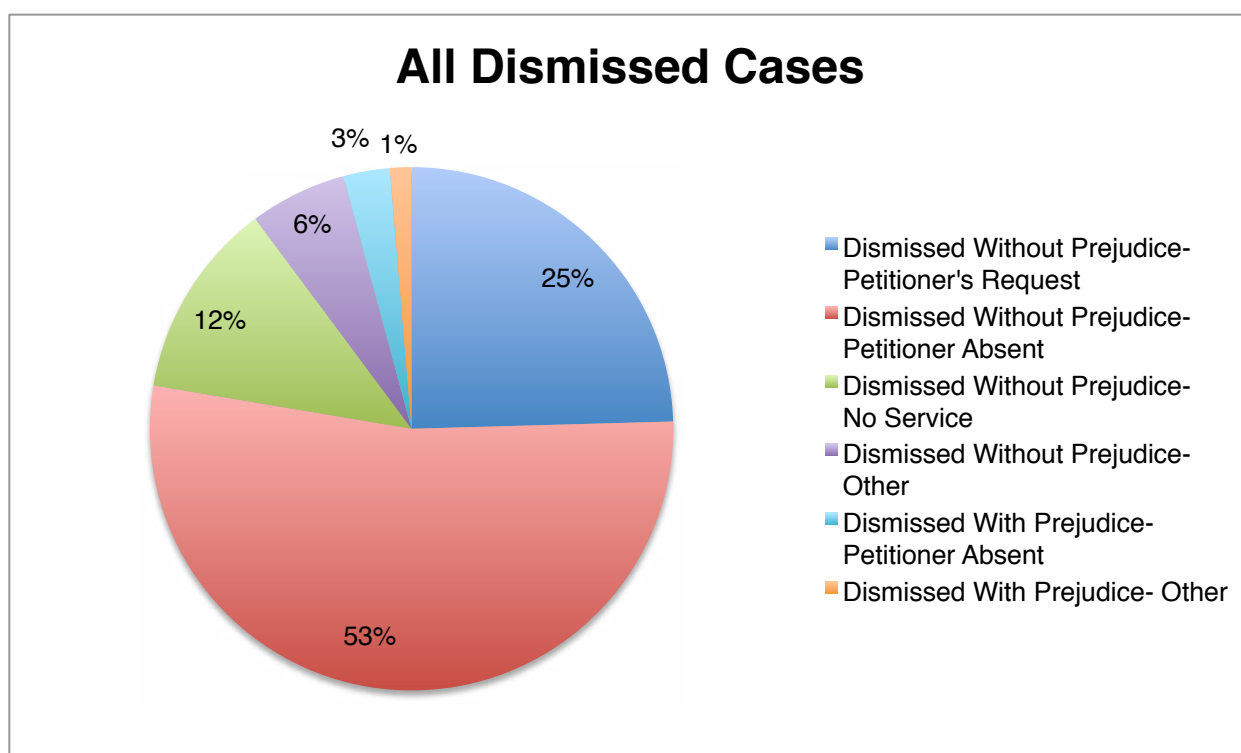


- Of 1,027 cases where the relationship of parties was observed, 816 (79.45%) involved intimate partners.
- Where relationship of parties was recorded, 44.69% of cases were between people currently dating or who had dated in the past. 20.35% were between people who had a domestic partnership, are married, or are divorced.
- Where relationship of parties was recorded, 28.04% of all cases were between people who have a child in common. In half of these cases, having a child in common was the only relationship specified by the court observer. Thus, the true rate of cases between people who have had some type of intimate relationship is higher than was explicitly stated in court.

1E. Outcome



- A Civil Protection Order (CPO) was denied in a contested hearing in 1.88% of all cases and 2.38% of cases involving intimate partners.
- CPOs were granted in 35.99% of all cases and 47.19% of cases involving intimate partners.
- Almost all cases that were dismissed were dismissed without prejudice. Almost 1 in 3 of all cases were dismissed. The rate of dismissals was less for cases involving intimate partners, about 1 in 5, or 21.70%.
- 52.01% of all granted CPOs were reached through a consent agreement and 33.26% were reached through a default hearing. In IPV cases, 48.7% of granted CPOs were reached through consent and 36.79% reached through a default hearing.



- The majority of cases dismissed were dismissed without prejudice because the petitioner was absent.
- In 55 cases, or 12.17% of dismissed cases, the case was dismissed because the petitioner was unable to serve the respondent. However the true rate is likely higher due to petitioners who do not return to court because they are unable to serve the respondent.

1F. Legal Representation

- In 51.7% of IPV cases, neither the petitioner nor the respondent was represented where parties' representation was recorded. This number is as high as 67.33% in Non-IPV cases.
- 60.21% of petitioners in IPV cases do not have attorneys; all petitioners, inclusive of IPV cases, are *less likely* to have attorneys by approximately 3% at a rate of 63.42% unrepresented.
- 79.76% of IPV respondents do not have attorneys; all respondents, inclusive of IPV cases, are *more likely* to have attorneys by approximately 2% at a rate of 77.83% unrepresented.
- Both petitioner and respondent are represented in 13.69% of IPV cases, where information for both parties is recorded. Only the petitioner is represented in 27.69% of cases, which is over twice as many cases. There were 186 cases where volunteers recorded petitioners having/not having attorneys, but the same data for respondents was unknown, unclear or not recorded; therefore, it is likely that the true rate of petitioners with attorneys and respondents without attorneys is greater than 27.69%.
- Female petitioners are represented in 42.53% of IPV cases while male petitioners are represented in 20.21% of IPV cases.
- White male petitioners were twice as likely as other male petitioners to be represented.
- Only 23.28% of female respondents and 21.23% of male respondents had representation. In IPV cases where representation was recorded, only 20.14% of female respondents and 20.87% of male respondents had representation.
- White male respondents, White female respondents, and Hispanic female respondents were all nearly twice as likely as other respondents to be represented. Hispanic male respondents were also 5% more likely than other men to be represented. (It should be noted that there is a small sample size for female respondents).

| Outcome of IPV based on Pro-se v. Represented | % of Represented Petitioners | % of Pro-se Petitioners | Difference |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| DWP | 0 | .25% (1) | -.25% |
| DWOP | 11.11% (28) | 23.39% (91) | -12.18% |
| Continuance | 35.17% (89) | 24.93% (97) | 10.24% |
| Contested-Denied | 2.38% (6) | 2.82% (11) | -0.44% |
| Contested – Granted | 6.74% (17) | 8.48% (33) | -1.74% |
| Consent | 28.98% (73) | 20.56% (80) | 8.42% |
| Default (Granted) | 15.47% (39) | 19.53% (76) | -4.06% |
| Total (Where outcomes and representation were both recorded) | 252 | 389 | |

Note: The highlighted areas indicate those where the proportion of represented petitioners is more than 1% different than unrepresented petitioners.

- With an attorney, cases were less likely to be dropped and more likely to be continued. Reaching a consent agreement was also much more likely. It appears those unrepresented were more likely to win a contested hearing. However, there are many reasons that this conclusion may or may not be true. The success of unrepresented petitioners as compared to those with attorneys may be in part because of the success that attorneys have in reaching consent agreements. If more represented cases reach consent agreements then the cases that go to trial with an attorney are presumably more complicated or difficult. Similarly, one goal in the referral process to pro bono attorneys is to ensure that more complicated, high lethality cases receive representation. This fact will automatically skew the data towards unrepresented clients having more success as compared to represented cases because they may not be evenly split in terms of the variables the cases present that would impact the outcomes.

- An additional factor in this data set is self-selection among petitioners themselves regarding who requested an attorney and who declined representation. The majority of survivors of domestic violence coming to the Domestic Violence Intake Center decline representation for reasons related to the cycle of violence itself. Therefore, those who fully intend to return to court for their CPO hearing may request an attorney, while those who are unsure about returning to court or have no intention of doing so may decline. There are many reasons that someone may decline an attorney or not return for their court date in fourteen days: petitioners may be intimidated by the abuser; a TPO may resolve their problem sufficiently; they may foresee reconciling with the abuser, or they may be concerned about overtly antagonizing the abuser by obtaining an attorney. Hiring an attorney or obtaining one pro bono indicates many things on the petitioner's part, but most importantly it sends a message to the respondent that the petitioner is serious and is challenging his or her desire for power and control directly. Therefore we need to view the data presented above with these qualitative variables in mind.

Section 2: Quick Facts - Judicial Behavior

2A. Successes

These were areas where the Judges' behavior promoted an accessible and safe environment for survivors seeking protection orders, promoting the notion that survivors will not be blamed or disregarded.

- Judges rarely discussed factors outside of the case at hand.
- Judges rarely reprimanded the parties during a court case.
- Judges were patient with both parties over 80% of the time.
- Judges answered questions fully over 80% of the time.
- Judges almost never asked about public benefits awarded to the petitioner as a result of filing (0.0015%). Doing so could have been perceived by petitioners to be invalidating.
- Judges were familiar with facts of the case about 65% of the time. Judges were 5% more likely to be familiar with the facts of an IPV case than any other case.

2B. Key CPO Outcome Information

The following information about Civil Protection Order hearing outcomes could indicate the Judges' ability to understand the cycle of violence present in relationships where there is Intimate Partner Violence (IPV).

- Only 21.70% of IPV cases were dropped without prejudice. 44.93% of Non-IPV cases were dropped without prejudice.
- Of 1,359 cases where the outcome was observed, only 19 were dropped with prejudice, meaning that the petition could not re-file based on the same incidents. Only 4 of these cases were IPV cases.
- Consent agreements were reached in about 22.68% of cases involving intimate partner violence, however they were reached in only 16.21% of Non-IPV cases. This could be indicative of differing reasons that parties in IPV cases and parties in Non-IPV cases seek protection orders.
- Of 68 contested IPV cases, 75% of CPOs were granted.
- In the 49 IPV cases that reached a contested hearing where females were petitioning males, CPOs were granted 81.63% of the time. When males were petitioning females, CPOs hearings reached a contested hearing in 16 cases, where 62.5% of CPOs were granted.

- Of the 111 IPV cases where males were filing against females, 33 had cross petitions. Of those 33, at least 26 of the female respondents (who were also petitioners) were SAFE clients, and at least 15 of them were high lethality.¹ National statistics indicate that women make up 85% of victims of intimate partner violence, and men are between 92%-99% the perpetrators of intimate partner violence.² For these reasons and others, the difference in CPO outcome by gender is not surprising.

2C. Room to Improve

- Judges asked about reconciliation in 29.21% of cases where the petitioner and respondent had a child in common. This is more than three times as often as judges asked about reconciliation in cases where there was not a child in common but parties had an intimate relationship (8.33% of cases).
- Judges established jurisdiction in only 32.65% of cases where this information was recorded by volunteers. This is not including consent cases, where parties proceed without the establishment of jurisdiction, necessarily, though the rates of establishing jurisdiction in consent cases was very similar (1 in 3).
- In IPV cases that were not consent hearings, Judges asked if there was a history of domestic violence only 24.13% of the time. This statistic excludes consent cases, where judges might not feel the need to probe further if parties are agreeing to an order. However, if a petitioner was possibly being pressured into certain terms of the order, it might still be appropriate for judges to ask about the nature and context of past incidents, for example in cases involving child custody where the children were being used in tactics of abuse.
- Fifty-five cases were dropped without prejudice because the respondent was not served. (This encompassed 13% of cases dropped without prejudice.)
- Judges lost patience 5% more frequently in IPV cases than in other family court cases.
- There was a US Marshall present in only 39.78% of cases. In many of these cases, the US Marshall entered the courtroom temporarily.
- An instruction was given about where parties should sit in 60% of observed cases.

¹ Based on answers given to questions that determines a victim's potential risk for homicide and/or serious re-assault. <http://dcsafe.org/safe-programs-services/lethality-assessment-project/>

² http://www.americanbar.org/groups/domestic_violence/resources/statistics.html

Section 3: Recommendations

3A. Court Safety

Having to encounter their abuser and talk about violent incidents can be very difficult and traumatizing for victims. Abusers, trying to gain and maintain power and control, will do things to intimidate the victim at the entrance of the courthouse, waiting in the hallway, and even in the courtroom. Family and friends of abusers also pose a safety risk to victims. Therefore there are several things that the court can do to better ensure not only the physical safety of the victim in the courtroom, but also promote a safe environment, where the victim feels more supported in a public, pro se court setting.

1. Presence of US Marshals

Court Watch data reflects that there was a US Marshal present in only 39.78% of cases. Further still, in many of these cases, the US Marshal only entered the courtroom temporarily. Court Watch strongly recommends that the US Department of Justice ensures that there is a US Marshal present in the courtroom at all times while court is in session.

2. Court Instruction for Parties

While instruction was given, either by the Judge or a video recording, of where parties should sit 60% of the time, 40% of the time there was no instruction. It is Court Watch's recommendation that instruction of where parties should sit should occur consistently, so that abusers are not so easily able to torment and intimidate victims during court proceedings and while waiting for cases to be heard.

3B. Judicial Demeanor

The demeanor of judges hearing domestic violence cases can have extreme impacts not only on the victim, but also on the community's perception of how effective and accessible the system is. When victims are treated with respect and understanding by judges, they are much more likely to engage in the system and use it to keep themselves safe. Conversely, when judges use victim-blaming language, assert that they are only pursuing a protection order to get access to social services, or make light of the situation, survivors could be made to feel that the system is not acknowledging their victimization and is invalidating their experience, which could result in victims being less inclined to utilize any part of the system.

1. Knowing the Context

In 75.87% of cases excluding consent hearings, Judges failed to ask victims if there was a history of domestic violence. While victims do include incidents of domestic violence in their petitions for protection orders and discuss these incidents in front of the judge, it is an accepted notion that domestic violence is a cycle of power and control that exists beyond individual incidents. Knowing the totality and extent of a situation is imperative for the judge to understand the context in which a domestic violence incident occurred so that they can award appropriate relief that will truly protect the victim. Although it is a due process issue for judges to ask for or

hear information outside of the evidence attested to in the petition when deciding whether an offense was committed, case law has established that it is permissible to ask about the entire context of domestic violence when deciding appropriate relief or whether to extend an order.³ Therefore, while our statistic excludes consent hearings, asking about the entire context could still be appropriate during consent hearings.

2. Dismissed With Prejudice

Court Watch recommends that cases not be dismissed with prejudice. Domestic violence is a pattern that occurs in cycles, with serious consequences that could be affecting a victim's demeanor or ability to serve a respondent.⁴ It could be very dangerous for a victim to not have the option of pursuing a protection order based on previous incidents of abuse.

3. Asking about Reconciliation

Judges should never ask about or recommend reconciliation. The subject was broached in only 8.33% of cases where the parties were intimate partner but did not have a child in common. However, when the parties had a child in common, the Judge asked about the parties reconciling 29.21% of the time. This is problematic for several reasons. In almost every domestic violence situation, there is one predominant aggressor who is using tactics to have power and control over their victim⁵ and these roles do not switch. Therefore, the idea of reconciliation (“can’t you both just behave like adults”, “shouldn’t you allow this person access to your home because you share a child”, etc.) is inappropriate because the onus is placed on the victim to “behave” just as much as on the perpetrator, when it is solely due to the perpetrator’s actions and choices that the victim is even seeking legal remedies. Additionally, perpetrators rarely discontinue abusing their victims unless there is some legal, criminal, or other kind of intervention; the rate and severity of domestic violence usually escalates over time. It is especially worrisome that there is an increase of questioning around reconciliation when children are involved, again, as though victims should “behave” or worse, put up with the abuse, for the sake of their child getting to live with both parents under the same roof. Domestic violence can have serious emotional and physical repercussions on children,⁶ and its occurrence in the home can even be cause for intervention from Child and Family Services Agency.

³ See Cruz-. Foster v. Foster, 597 A.2d 927, 930 (D.C. 1991) and Tyree v. Evans, 728 A.2d 101, 106 (D.C. 1999)

⁴ Department of Justice

http://www.doj.state.or.us/victims/pdf/traumatic_brain_injury_and_domestic_violence.pdf

⁵ Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services

<http://ric-zai-inc.com/Publications/cops-p123-pub.pdf>

⁶ Unicef <http://www.unicef.org/protection/files/BehindClosedDoors.pdf>

3. Training

Court Watch recommends that all judges who preside in the Domestic Violence Unit complete mandatory training about trauma, the cycle of domestic violence, and victims' experiences in the courtroom prior to taking the bench. While there is no data explicitly stating that specialized judges improve the overall outcome of the courts response to domestic violence, specialized training is nationally accepted as a best practice for judges.⁷

3C. Service of Process

Cases were dismissed (without prejudice) in 33% of hearings. Of those cases, 12% were dismissed because failure of service was explicitly stated, 53% because the petitioner was absent, which one can assume was at least partially due to failure of service, and 25% of the time a petitioner requested the dismissal, with a range of reasons that could have included failure of service that was not explicitly stated. This data suggests that service of process, or the lack thereof, is a frequent and serious impediment to getting a Civil Protection Order.

1. Expanded Resources

Court Watch recommends that The Metropolitan Police Department increase their capacity for serving protection orders, and that other judicial and public service agencies involved in the Civil Protection Order process continue to recognize this impediment and work with MPD and petitioners to remedy it.

⁷ Emily Sack, *Creating a Domestic Violence Court: Guidelines and Best Practices* (San Francisco, CA: Family Violence Prevention Fund, 2002), 13.

Conclusion

In comparison with findings from earlier Court Watch Project reports, several gaps appear to have closed in last seven years. A CWP report from 2006 recommends that Judges should do a better job of explaining the terms of the order, findings should be more clearly articulated, child visitation should be more clearly outlined and occur at a neutral place, etc.⁸ Based on data from this report, it appears that the Court has made great improvements in these regards. This speaks to the dynamism and willingness to work with the community that is unique to the DC Superior Court. However, the majority of the recommendations made in this report were also a part of previous findings, suggesting that there are still significant improvements to be made on problems that have persisted over the past decade.

⁸ Court Watch Annual Report, 2006. Survivors and Advocates For Empowerment p. 23

Appendices

Appendix I: Complete Data

Basic Court Data

1. Frequency of Marshalls Present in the Courtroom

| | Yes | No | Total |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| Marshall Present | 39.78% (592) | 60.22% (896) | 1,488 |

2. Judges

| Judge | Number of Cases Observed | Percent of Cases Observed |
|----------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lopez | 726 | 45.92% |
| Saddler | 707 | 44.72% |
| Turner | 39 | 2.47% |
| Edelman | 31 | 1.96% |
| Anderson | 24 | 1.52% |
| Bayly | 23 | 1.45% |
| Retchin | 22 | 1.39% |
| Abrecht | 8 | 0.51% |
| Holeman | 1 | 0.06% |
| Total | 1581 | |

3. Cross petitions

There were (139) cases that CWP collected data for where there was a cross-petition.

| | Yes | No | N/A or not recorded |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------|
| Was the cross petition granted? | 63.8% (37) | 24.1% (14) | 12.1% (7) |
| At the same hearing? | 87.9% (51) | 12.1% (7) | 0% (0) |

Demographics

1. Perceived Gender

| Party | All Petitioners | IPV Petitioners | All Respondents | IPV Respondents | Total |
|--------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Female | 82.21% of Petitioners (1,114) | 82.55% of Petitioners (639) | 26.23% of Respondents (335) | 19.16% of Respondents (138) | 55% of all parties (1449) |
| Male | 17.64% (239) | 17.44% (135) | 73.77% (942) | 80.83% (582) | 44.9% (1182) |
| Total | 1355 | 774 | 1277 | 720 | 2632 |

2. Perceived Race

| Race | Petitioner | Respondent | Total |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Asian | .94% (11) | .61% (6) | .78% (17) |
| Black | 86.3% (1014) | 86.98% (855) | 86.6% (1869) |
| White | 5.45% (64) | 4.07% (40) | 4.8% (104) |
| Hispanic/Latino | 5.36% (63) | 6.1% (60) | 5.7% (123) |
| Other | 1.96% (23) | 2.24% (22) | 2.1% (45) |
| Total | 1175 | 983 | 2158 |

Cross-table of Perceived Race in Petitioners (left) and Respondents (Top)

| Race – petitioner below | Asian | Black | Hispanic | White | Other | Total |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Asian | 0.23% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.11% | 0.00% | 2 |
| Black | 0.00% | 75.65% | 0.79% | 0.91% | 0.23% | 77.58% |
| Hispanic | 0.00% | 0.79% | 4.19% | 0.11% | 0.23% | 5.32% |
| White | 0.00% | 2.15% | 0.11% | 2.94% | 0.11% | 5.32% |
| Other | 0.00% | 0.34% | 0.11% | 0.11% | 1.59% | 2.15% |
| Total | 0.23% | 79.61% | 5.21% | 4.19% | 2.15% | 100.00% |

3. Frequency of Present Parties

Volunteers recorded the presence of the 3,111 parties.

| Present | All Petitioners (Including IPV) | IPV Petitioners | All Respondents (Including IPV) | IPV Respondents |
|---------|------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Yes | 71.90% (1,120) | 83.68% (677) | 56.37% (875) | 62.28% (507) |
| No | 28.09% (438) | 16.31% (132) | 43.62% (677) | 37.71% (307) |
| Total | 1558 | 809 | 1552 | 814 |

4. Frequency of Parties with Legal Representation

Volunteers recorded the frequency of attorneys for 2,343 parties.

| Representation | All Petitioners (Including IPV) | IPV Petitioners | All Respondents (Including IPV) | IPV Respondents |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Has legal representation | 36.58% (466) | 39.78% (296) | 22.17% (237) | 21.42% (126) |
| Pro se | 63.42% (808) | 60.21% (448) | 77.83% (832) | 79.76% (469) |
| Total | 1274 | 744 | 1069 | 588 |

5. Respondents in Custody

CWP Volunteers recorded that the respondent was in custody at the time of the hearing in 2.9% (31) of cases.

6. Frequency of Interpreter Services Used

| Interpretation Services Used | Petitioner | Respondent |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|
| American Sign Language | 6 | 6 |
| Spanish | 24 | 19 |
| French | 0 | 3 |
| Amharic | 2 | 1 |
| Vietnamese | 2 | 2 |
| Other / Unmarked | 10 | 6 |
| Total | 44 | 37 |

7. Relationship of Parties

1259 relationships were recorded for 1,027 cases. Some parties may be related to each other in more than one way. For example, the majority of people who have children in common have also dated or been married.

| Relationship | Frequency (not exclusive) | Percent of 1,027 Cases with Relationship Stated |
|--|---------------------------|---|
| Date / Dated | 459 | 44.69% |
| Married / Divorce / Domestic Partnership | 209 | 20.35% |
| Stalking / Sexual Assault | 31 | 3.39% |
| Roommates | 100 | 9.73% |
| Relative / Custody | 109 | 10.61% |
| Partner in Common | 45 | 4.38% |
| a child in common | 288 | 28.04% |

CPO Outcomes

1.CWP Volunteers recorded clear CPO outcomes for 1359 non-discrete cases. 233 cases recorded were for other motions such as CPO modifications, extensions, vacates and enforcing violations, or had inadequately recorded outcomes.

| Outcome | All Recorded Cases | IPV Cases |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Contested CPO Denied | 1.88% (26) | 2.38% (17) |
| Contested CPO Granted | 5.29% (73) | 7.14% (51) |
| Consent CPO | 18.72% (258) | 22.68% (162) |
| Default CPO | 11.97% (165) | 17.36% (124) |
| Continued CPO Case | 27.93% (385) | 28.15% (201) |
| Dismissed with Prejudice | 1.37%(19) | 0.56% (4) |
| Dismissed without Prejudice | 32.80% (452) | 21.70% (155) |
| Total CPO Outcomes | 1378 | 714 |

2. Dismissed Cases

| Reason for Dismissal | Recorded Dismissed Cases |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| DWOP Petitioner's Request | 24.55% (111) |
| DWOP Petitioner Absent | 53.09% (240) |
| DWOP No Service | 12.17%(55) |
| DWOP Other | 5.97% (27) |
| DWP Petitioner Absent | 2.87% (13) |
| DWP Other | 1.33% (6) |
| Total | 452 |

3. Continuances

CWP Volunteers recorded data for 385 cases that were continued.

| Reason for Continuance | Recorded Cases |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Trailing a Criminal Case | 14.4% (56) |
| Petitioner's Request | 19.4% (74) |
| No Service | 34.3% (133) |
| Other | 31.8% (122) |
| Total | 385 |

4. Outcomes: Broken Down by Judge

Where a CPO outcome was recorded, volunteers noted the presiding Judge in 1,346 cases.

| Outcome | Judge Saddler | Judge Lopez | Other |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| DWOP | 33.44% of Saddler's outcomes (200) | 32% of Lopez's outcomes (200) | 26.82% (33) |
| DWP | .33% (2) | .64% (4) | 0.81% (1) |
| Continuance | 29.43% (176) | 28.96% (181) | 22.76% (28) |
| Default CPO | 12.87% (77) | 11.04% (69) | 15.44% (19) |
| Consent CPO | 17.55% (105) | 20.96% (131) | 17.88% (22) |
| Contested CPO granted | 5.01% (30) | 4.96% (31) | 8.94% (11) |
| Contested CPO denied | 1.33% (8) | 1.44%(9) | 7.31% (9) |
| Total | 598 | 625 | 123 |

5. Outcomes: Representation and Pro-se

Where CPO outcomes were recorded, Volunteers noted whether petitioners had attorneys or were pro-se in 1,068 cases.

| Outcomes | Attorneys | Pro-se |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| DWOP | 11.92% of attorney outcomes (44) | 28.6% of pro se outcomes (200) |
| DWP | 0.27% (1) | .42% (3) |
| Continued | 43.6% (161) | 24.8% (174) |
| Default CPO | 12.46% (46) | 15% (105) |
| Consent CPO | 23.03% (85) | 22.03% (154) |
| Contested CPO granted | 6.23% (23) | 6.58% (46) |
| Contested CPO denied | 2.4% (9) | 2.4% (17) |
| Total | 369 | 699 |

Judicial Behavior: Looking at Perceived Gender and Relationship

Q1: Did the judge establish jurisdiction?

| | Female v. female | Female v. male | Male v. female | Male v. male | Total |
|-------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|--------|
| No | 55.04% | 64.19% | 72.66% | 52% | 66.44% |
| Yes | 44.96% | 35.82% | 27.34% | 48% | 33.56% |
| Total | 129 | 631 | 128 | 50 | 1177 |

| | Intimate partner violence | Other | Female v. Male | Male v. Female |
|-------|----------------------------------|-------|----------------|----------------|
| No | 65% | 69% | 64% | 70% |
| Yes | 35% | 31% | 36% | 30% |
| Total | 710 | 467 | 471 | 98 |

Q2: Was the judge familiar with the facts of the case?

| | Female v. female | Female v. male | Male v. female | Male v. male | Total |
|-------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|--------|
| No | 28.79% | 30.33% | 33.33% | 40% | 35.01% |
| Yes | 71.21% | 69.67% | 66.67% | 60% | 64.99% |
| Total | 132 | 643 | 129 | 50 | 1197 |

| | IPV | Other | Female vs. Male | Male vs. Female |
|-------|-----|-------|-----------------|-----------------|
| No | 33% | 38% | 30% | 31.31% |
| Yes | 67% | 62% | 70% | 68.68% |
| Total | 714 | 483 | 474 | 99 |

Q3: Did the judge ask if there was a history of domestic violence in all cases?

| | Female v. female | Female v. male | Male v. female | Male v. male | Total |
|-------|------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------|
| No | 85.71% | 80.42% | 76.19% | 91.67% | 83.87% |
| Yes | 14.29% | 19.58% | 23.81% | 8.33% | 16.13% |
| Total | 126 | 623 | 126 | 48 | 1159 |

| | IPV | Other | Female v. Male | Male v. Female |
|-------|-----|-------|----------------|----------------|
| No | 80% | 90% | 77.5% | 76% |
| Yes | 20% | 10% | 22.5% | 2% |
| Total | 591 | 457 | 466 | 96 |

Q4: Was the judge patient with both parties?

| | Female v. Female | Female v. Male | Male v. Female | Male v. Male | Total |
|-------|------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------|
| No | 12.5% | 18.48% | 26.19% | 12.5% | 16.94% |
| Yes | 87.5% | 81.52% | 73.81% | 87.5% | 83.06% |
| Total | 128 | 633 | 126 | 48 | 1169 |

| | IPV | Other | Female v. Male | Male v. Female |
|-------|-----|-------|----------------|----------------|
| No | 19% | 13.5% | 20% | 26% |
| Yes | 81% | 86.5% | 80% | 74% |
| Total | 709 | 460 | 472 | 97 |

Q5: Did the judge interrupt the parties?

| | Female v. Female | Female v. Male | Male v. Female | Male v. Male | Total |
|-------|------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|-------|
| No | 96.06% | 97.75% | 98.44% | 84% | 97.5% |
| Yes | 3.94% | 2.25% | 1.66% | 16% | 2.5% |
| Total | 127 | 621 | 128 | 50 | 1160 |

| | IPV | Other |
|-------|-----|-------|
| No | 98% | 97% |
| Yes | 2% | 3% |
| Total | 705 | 455 |

| | Female v. Male | Male v. Female |
|-------|----------------|----------------|
| No | 97.5% | 98% |
| Yes | 2.5% | 2% |
| Total | 467 | 98 |

Q6: Did the judge reprimand the parties?

| | Female v. female | Female v. male | Male v. female | Male v. male | Total |
|-------|------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------|
| No | 89.84% | 95.01% | 92.86% | 81.63% | 94.23% |
| Yes | 10.16% | 4.99% | 7.14% | 18.37% | 5.77% |
| Total | 128 | 621 | 126 | 49 | 1162 |

| | IPV | Other | Female v. male | Male v. female |
|-------|-----|-------|----------------|----------------|
| No | 95% | 94% | 95% | 91% |
| Yes | 5% | 6% | 5% | 9% |
| Total | 705 | 457 | 465 | 97 |

Q7: Did the judge answer questions fully?

| | Female v. female | Female v. male | Male v. female | Male v. male | Total |
|-------|------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------|
| No | 11.02% | 18.71% | 28% | 8.33% | 17.47% |
| Yes | 88.98% | 82.29% | 72% | 91.67% | 82.53% |
| Total | 127 | 620 | 125 | 48 | 1156 |

| | IPV | Other | Female v. male | Male v. female |
|-------|-----|-------|----------------|----------------|
| No | 19% | 14.5% | 20% | 27% |
| Yes | 81% | 85.5% | 80% | 73% |
| Total | 458 | 698 | 462 | 96 |

Q8: Did the judge ask about reconciliation?

| | Female v. female | Female v. male | Male v. female | Male v. male | Total |
|-------|------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------|
| No | 89.43% | 83.55% | 78.13% | 89.36% | 86.61% |
| Yes | 10.57% | 16.45% | 11.87% | 10.54% | 13.39% |
| Total | 129 | 631 | 128 | 50 | 1143 |

| | IPV | Other | Child in Common | Female v. male | Male v. female. |
|-------|-----|-------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| No | 84% | 90% | 71% | 81.5% | 80% |
| Yes | 16% | 10% | 29% | 18.5% | 20% |
| Total | 696 | 447 | 243 | 459 | 96 |

Q9: Did the judge ask about public benefits that petitioners received?

| | Female v. female | Female v. male | Male v. female | Male v. male | Total |
|-------|------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------|
| No | 124 | 606 | 125 | 45 | 99.39% |
| Yes | 0 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0.61% |
| Total | 124 | 611 | 126 | 46 | 1143 |

| | IPV | Other | Female v. male | Male v. female |
|-------|-----|-------|----------------|----------------|
| No | 99% | 100% | 99% | 99% |
| Yes | 1% | 0.0% | 1% | 1% |
| Total | 694 | 449 | 460 | 96 |

Q10: Did the judge discuss other factors?

| | Female v. female | Female v. male | Male v. female | Male v. male | Total |
|-------|------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------|
| No | 120 | 592 | 124 | 45 | 98.67% |
| Yes | 5 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 1.33% |
| Total | 125 | 600 | 125 | 45 | 1130 |

| | IPV | Other |
|-------|-------|-------|
| No | 98.6% | 98.7% |
| Yes | 1.4% | 1.3% |
| Total | 577 | 552 |

Looking at Outcomes

1. Outcomes and Perceived Gender

Volunteers recorded outcomes and the gender of both parties in 1179 cases.

| Relationship | Female P v. Female R | Female P v. Male R | Male P v. Female R | Male P v. Male R |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Contested – granted | 26.83% | 30.18% | 28.95% | 32.84% |
| Contested – denied | 7.32% | 5.68% | 8.55% | 0.00% |
| Continued – no service | 3.05% | 1.26% | 3.95% | 4.48% |
| Continued – petitioner’s request | 4.27% | 7.20% | 7.89% | 11.94% |
| Continued – criminal hearing | 3.05% | 4.92% | 7.89% | 1.49% |
| Continued – other | 2.44% | 3.54% | 4.61% | 7.46% |
| Consent Granted | 6.71% | 10.35% | 8.55% | 7.46% |
| DWOP – petitioner absent | 7.93% | 6.82% | 7.89% | 11.94% |
| DWOP – petitioner’s request | 5.49% | 3.91% | 2.63% | 2.99% |
| DWOP – other | 1.22% | 1.01% | 1.97% | 1.49% |
| DWP – | 0.00% | 0.38% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| petitioner absent | | | | |
| DWP – other | 0.61% | 0.13% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Default – no respondent | 1.22% | 2.15% | 2.63% | 0.00% |
| Default – other | 29.88% | 22.85% | 15.13% | 17.91% |
| Continued | 26.83% | 30.18% | 28.95% | 32.84% |
| Total | 164 | 795 | 153 | 67 |

2. Intimate Partner Violence Outcomes and Perceived Gender

Volunteers recorded outcomes and gender of both parties for 606 intimate partner violence cases.

| | Female P v. Female R | Female P v. Male R | Male P v. Female R | Male P v. Male R |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Contested – granted | 9.5% (2) | 8.34% (40) | 10.41% (10) | 0% (0) |
| Continued | 23.8% (5) | 26.67% (128) | 31.25% (30) | 44.44% (4) |
| DWOP | 14.28% (3) | 18.95% (91) | 20.83% (20) | 44.44% (4) |
| DWP | 0% (0) | 0.41%(2) | 0% (0) | 0% |
| Default | 9.5% (2) | 17.08% (82) | 10.41% (10) | 11.11% (1) |
| Consent | 33.33% (7) | 26.67% (128) | 20.83% (20) | 0% (0) |
| Contested – denied | 9.5% (2) | 1.8% (9) | 6.25%(6) | 0% (0) |
| Total | 21 | 480 | 96 | 9 |

Appendix II: 2012 Court Watch Form

The following is the form used by volunteers to collect all data in this report.

Survivors and Advocates for Empowerment (SAFE) and DC Volunteer Lawyers Project (DCLVP) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT COURT WATCH PROJECT

Please fill out every item in this box.

Volunteer's Name: _____ Date: _____

Case Name: _____ Docket Number: _____

Was a U.S. Marshall in the courtroom? Y / N
Was an instruction given about where the parties should sit? Y / N Judge: _____

Was there a cross-petition? Y / N
If yes, please fill out a separate form with that docket number, so each party is both a Petitioner and a Respondent on different forms.
If yes, was the cross petition granted? Yes No
If yes, was the cross petition addressed at the same hearing? Yes No

Please try to answer all questions on this sheet for every case you observe. For example: if you do not hear the relationship stated, try to assume what the judge would assume, and if someone does show and does not appear to be represented, check "Unrepresented."

PETITIONER:

| | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F | <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Present | <input type="checkbox"/> Absent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Represented: <input type="checkbox"/> Unrepresented | <input type="checkbox"/> By OAG <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interpreter: _____ | |

RESPONDENT:

| | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F | <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Present | <input type="checkbox"/> Absent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Represented <input type="checkbox"/> Unrepresented | <input type="checkbox"/> In Custody |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interpreter: _____ | |

RELATIONSHIP: Check all that apply

| | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Married | <input type="checkbox"/> Separated | <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced | <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Partnership | <input type="checkbox"/> Currently Dating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Previously Date | <input type="checkbox"/> Relative | <input type="checkbox"/> Child in Common | <input type="checkbox"/> Partner in Common | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Custody | <input type="checkbox"/> Stalking | <input type="checkbox"/> Roommates | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | |

RESOLUTION: Choose one and only one of the following

Case Dismissed W/O Prejudice → Reason: Petitioner's Request Petitioner Absent No Service of Process Other: _____
 W/ Prejudice → Reason: Petitioner Absent Other: _____

Case Continued: Granted → Reason: Trailing a Criminal Case Petitioner's Request No Service of Process Other: _____
 Denied → Reason: _____

Default Result: CPO Granted → Reason: Respondent was served but did not appear Other: _____
 CPO Denied → Reason: _____

Consent Order: CPO Granted
Was a Consent Agreement reached prior to the hearing? Yes No
If granted, did the judge explain the terms of the order? Yes No

Contested Hearing: CPO Granted
 CPO Denied
If granted, did the judge explain the terms of the order? Yes No
If denied, did the judge explain why? Yes No

Note to volunteers: please try to always check yes or no; ideally, all answers except those starting with "If" will be filled out.

RELATED CASES:

- Are there other issues pending in this case? Yes No
 If yes, what other issues are involved? Criminal Child Support
 Visitation Custody

CHILDREN

- Were there allegations of child abuse? Yes No
 Was child custody addressed in the CPO? Yes No
 If yes, who has custody of the children? Petitioner Respondent

- If visitation rights were granted, does the Order include visitation arrangements? Yes No
 If yes, where is visitation to occur? Court Supervised Visitation Center Other

ALLEGATIONS:

- Were there allegations of drug or alcohol abuse? Yes No
 Did the Petitioner allege that weapons were involved? Yes No
 Were there allegations of parental kidnapping? Yes No

Please try to answer each one. Even if you are unsure, please try to give the best answer based on what you have seen.

| JUDICIAL BEHAVIOR | Yes | No |
|--|------------|-----------|
| Did the Judge establish jurisdiction? | | |
| Was the judge familiar with the facts of the case? | | |
| Did the judge ask if there was a history of domestic violence? | | |
| Was the judge patient with the Petitioner/Respondent? | | |
| Did the judge interrupt the Petitioner/Respondent? | | |
| Did the judge reprimand or show visible signs of disapproval? | | |
| Did the judge answer questions fully? | | |
| Did the judge ask questions about reconciliation? | | |
| Did the judge ask about public benefits given to the Petitioner as a result of filing of petition? | | |
| Did the judge discuss factors not related to the case? | | |
| If yes, please describe: | | |
| | | |

COMMENTS: There are a few lines here to comment only if something particularly important or interesting happened. The results of this Court Watch project are almost universally going to be focused on the statistics from your answers on the questions above.

Thank you for your help!

Appendix II. 2013 Court Watch Form

For 2013 data collection, CWP made several changes to the form. Most notably more questions about the parties identities, further breakdown of allegations, more space for qualitative data, and finally the addition of a risk assessment. No data collected using this form is contained in this report.

DC Domestic Violence Court Watch Project - Civil Protection Order Hearings

Survivors and Advocates For Empowerment (DC SAFE)

Volunteer Name: _____ Date: _____

CASE INFORMATION: Please fill out every item in this box.

Case Name: _____ Docket Number: 2013 CPO _____

Was a U.S. Marshall in the courtroom? Y / N
 Was an instruction given about where the parties should sit? Y / N Judge: _____

Was there a cross-petition? Y / N
 If yes, please fill out a separate form with that docket number, so each party is both a Petitioner and a Respondent on different forms.

If yes, was the cross petition granted? Yes No
 If yes, was the cross petition addressed at the same hearing? Yes No

DEMOGRAPHICS: Please try to answer all questions on this sheet for every case you observe by making an educated guess. For example: if you do not hear the relationship stated, try to assume what the judge would assume, etc.

| PETITIONER | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F | <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Other | Age Group: <input type="checkbox"/> 25 yo and under <input type="checkbox"/> 40 to 50 yo <input type="checkbox"/> 26 to 39 yo <input type="checkbox"/> 51 yo and older |
| Legal Representation: <input type="checkbox"/> Represented <input type="checkbox"/> OAG <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Unrepresented | <input type="checkbox"/> Interpreter needed <input type="checkbox"/> Interpreter used Language: _____ |

| RESPONDENT | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F | <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent <input type="checkbox"/> In Custody |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Other | Age Group: <input type="checkbox"/> 25 yo and under <input type="checkbox"/> 40 to 50 yo <input type="checkbox"/> 26 to 39 yo <input type="checkbox"/> 51 yo and older |
| Legal Representation: <input type="checkbox"/> Represented <input type="checkbox"/> Unrepresented | <input type="checkbox"/> Interpreter needed <input type="checkbox"/> Interpreter used Language: _____ |

RELATIONSHIP: Check all that apply. N/A or Relationship not Stated

Married Separated Divorced Domestic Partnership Currently Dating Previously Date
 Blood Relative Legal Custody Child in Common Partner in Common Roommates
 Stalking (no relationship necc.) Sexual Assault (no relationship necc.) Other: _____

RESOLUTION: Choose one and only one of the following.

Case Dismissed: W/O Prejudice → Reason: Petitioner's Request Petitioner Absent
 No Service of Process Other: _____
 W/ Prejudice → Reason: Petitioner Absent Other: _____

Continuance: Granted → Reason: Trailing Criminal Case Petitioner's Request
 No Service of Process Other: _____
 Denied → Reason: _____

Default Result: CPO Granted → Reason: Respondent was served but did not appear Other: _____
 CPO Denied → Reason: _____

Consent Order: CPO Granted → Consent with Admissions or Consent without Admissions
 Was a Consent Agreement reached prior to the hearing? Yes No
 If granted, did the judge explain the terms of the order? Yes No

Contested Hearing: CPO Granted
 If granted, did the judge explain the terms of the order? Yes No
 CPO Denied
 If denied, did the judge explain why? Yes No

Note to volunteers: please try to always check yes or no; ideally, all answers except those starting with "If" will be filled out.

RELATED CASES:

Are there other issues pending in this case? Yes No
 If yes, what other issues are involved? Criminal Child Support
 Visitation Custody Other: _____

CHILDREN:

Were there allegations of child abuse? Against the Petitioner Against the Respondent
 Was child custody addressed in the CPO? Yes No
 If yes, who has custody of the children? Petitioner Respondent
 If visitation rights were granted, does the Order include visitation arrangements? Yes No
 If yes, where is visitation to occur? Court Supervised Visitation Center Other: _____

ALLEGATIONS:

Were there allegations of drug or alcohol abuse? Against the Petitioner Against the Respondent
 Were there allegations of mental health issues? Against the Petitioner Against the Respondent
 Did the Petitioner allege that weapons were involved? Yes No
 Were there allegations of parental kidnapping? Against the Petitioner Against the Respondent

Please try to answer each one. Even if you are unsure, please try to give the best answer based on what you have seen.

| JUDICIAL BEHAVIOR | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|
| Did the Judge establish jurisdiction? (incident happened in DC, party lives in DC, etc.) | | |
| Was the judge familiar with the facts of the case? | | |
| Did the judge ask if there was a history of domestic violence? | | |
| Was the judge patient with the Petitioner/Respondent? | | |
| Did the judge interrupt the Petitioner/Respondent? | | |
| Did the judge reprimand or show visible signs of disapproval? | | |
| Did the judge answer questions fully? | | |
| Did the judge ask questions about reconciliation? | | |
| Did the judge ask about public benefits given to the Petitioner as a result of filing of petition? | | |
| Did the judge discuss factors not related to the case? | | |
| Did the judge ask for a SAFE advocate's assistance? | | |
| If yes, please describe: | | |

Was there anything about the parties' perceived or stated identity that appeared to have an effect on the judge's ruling and/or behavior?

Petitioner's Mental or Physical Disability LGBTQ Identity English Proficiency Socio-economic status
 Citizenship Status Past Criminality Age Other: _____

Respondent's Mental or Physical Disability LGBTQ Identity English Proficiency Socio-economic status
 Citizenship Status Past Criminality Age Other: _____

Please explain:

COMMENTS: There are a few lines here to comment if something particularly important or interesting happened. (Did the petitioner make any special requests of the judge? Was this request granted? Etc.)

Thank you for your help!



Volunteer Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Case Name: _____ **Docket Number:** _____

Judge: _____

Please answer the following: Note: If the RESPONDENT alleged that Petitioner engaged in any of these behaviors, PLEASE INDICATE THIS AS WELL!

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Did the Petitioner allege that the Respondent has access to any weapons such as a gun? | Yes No No Answer |
| Did the Petitioner allege that the Respondent controls most or their entire daily activities/violently jealous? | Yes No No Answer |
| Did the Petitioner allege that the Respondent strangled the Petitioner? | Yes No No Answer |
| Did the Petitioner allege that the Respondent has forced the Petitioner to have sex? | Yes No No Answer |
| Did the Petitioner allege that the physical or sexual abuse increased in severity/frequency over the past 12 months? | Yes No No Answer |

Did the Petitioner allege that the Respondent threatened to kill Petitioner or someone close to Petitioner? **Yes No No Answer**

Are the Parties currently in contact with one another? **Yes No No Answer**

Did the Petitioner allege that Respondent drinks alcohol or uses drugs? **Yes No No Answer**

Did the Petitioner allege that the Respondent threatened or tried to commit suicide? **Yes No No Answer**

Are the Petitioner and Respondent currently separated? **Yes No No Answer**

Did the Petitioner allege that Respondent has ever violated a TPO/CPO **Yes No No Answer**

(If female) Did the Petitioner allege that the Respondent hit or beat Petitioner while pregnant? **Yes No No Answer**

Does the Petitioner have children with someone other than the Respondent in this case? **Yes No No Answer**

Did the Petitioner attempt to leave or called police in the last 12 months? **Yes No No Answer**

Has the Petitioner ever required medical attention for injuries from Respondent? **Yes No No Answer**