



News Release

www.njcourts.com

For more information:
Winnie Comfort
Pete McAleer
609-292-9580

For immediate release:
June 28, 2016

Supreme Court Committee on Domestic Violence Releases Final Report

The Supreme Court Ad Hoc Committee on Domestic Violence today released its [final report](#), along with 30 recommendations focused on improving education, training and the availability of services for domestic violence victims.

Formed in February 2015 by Chief Justice Stuart Rabner, the committee explored current domestic violence laws, the interaction between municipal and Superior Courts in domestic violence matters, resources available to victims of domestic violence, treatment options for adjudicated offenders, methods of risk assessment and requirements for education and training.

Committee members included representatives from all three branches of government, the private sector, academia, advocacy groups, and legal practitioners representing both victims and those charged with acts of domestic violence.

“The committee’s recommendations were informed and enriched by the active participation and frank input of members with divergent points of view. This report should serve as both a catalyst for further dialogue and a starting point for significant action,” said Superior Court Judge Georgia M. Curio, who chaired the committee.

The committee recommended:

- an expansion in the use of domestic violence advocates for municipal court proceedings.
- the development of court rules and procedures to allow domestic violence victims in high-risk cases to testify in hearings without being physically present in court.
- expanding domestic violence laws to include cyber-harassment as a basis for filing a restraining order.
- a statewide expansion of therapeutic programs for children exposed to domestic violence.

The committee examined the court’s management and adjudication of domestic violence cases and found it to be a competent and fair process. Some of the committee’s recommendations would require legislation or changes to court rules. The full report is available at <http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/>.

###