

DSVPC Fatality Near Fatality Review Team Recommendations

2022

Children

Recommendation 1: Develop a multi-disciplinary protocol in Fayette County outlining each agency's responsibility for providing services to children who witness and experience domestic violence, particularly when the domestic violence results in a death or near death of a parent or loved one.

Recommendation 2: Build the capacity of adults who work with children and families (teachers, school counselors, coaches, therapists, youth leaders, etc.) to provide information and support for children who witness and experience domestic violence, particularly when the domestic violence results in a death or near death of a parent or loved one.

Action Steps:

- Implement screening protocols across children services to assess domestic violence as a factor in children's trauma
- Develop a vetted list of resources and referrals for children requiring or requesting services and support
- Create resources and material that help us stay in touch with children at regularly scheduled intervals (based on hospice practices) as a way of conducting regular outreach
- Establish a core group of people focused on working on this topic

Undocumented Immigrants

Recommendation 1: Domestic violence is not considered by immigration courts, ICE detainees do not guarantee that domestic violence offenders will continue to be held, and deportation is not necessarily a remedy to domestic violence; therefore, undocumented immigrants who perpetrate domestic or sexual violence should complete their sentence in Fayette County before being released to ICE custody.

Recommendation 2: Victim advocates and other professionals who work with domestic violence survivors should be aware of the process required for-obtaining UVISAS and how likely they are to be available for victims of domestic violence.

Attorneys and Courts

Recommendation 1: When offenders are charged with a domestic violence crime, many protections are provided for their victims. However, when charges are amended (or changed) to no longer include domestic violence, those protections for victims are lost. Therefore, it is important that "domestic violence" not be removed from the charges.

Limited English Proficiency

Recommendation 1: Require all agencies to adhere to language access plans. Minor children and other family members should *never* be used in place of trained interpreters. Utilizing children or family members as interpreters may cause further trauma.

Recommendation 2: Build the capacity of agencies serving domestic violence victims to provide better outreach and services to victims with limited English capacity. This should include creating strong relationships with organizations serving LEP individuals and developing collaborations to cross-train staff and volunteers and share outreach strategies. Translation services should be fully funded within agency budgets and Directors should work to make sure there are ample qualified translators available.

Recognizing and Intervening in Domestic Violence

Recommendation 1: Build the capacity of all agencies, both individually and collectively, to collect and analyze data on domestic violence incidents to determine patterns of harm.