

WATCH Domestic Violence Court Monitoring Forms

Your Name: _____

Date: _____

Thank you for your assistance in monitoring the proceedings at domestic violence court. When referring to specific cases ***please include the line number and/or defendant name*** so that we can follow up on individual cases.

What time did you arrive at court? _____ What time did appearances begin? _____

Were there any announcements prior to the start of court? Yes No If yes, what was stated?

If the judge took a recess, was that recessed explained to the gallery? Yes No

Courtroom Staff:

Please provide information on the following personnel, noting such things as: arrival time, demeanor, interaction with other staff, efficiency, interaction with victims/defendants, etc. You do not need to limit yourself to these questions.

NOTE: Please do not to ask court personnel their names. Please note names only if you overhear or see name badges. Use back if needed.

One judge: *Did the judge appear prepared? Was he/ she on time? Was there a reason given if not? How was his/ her demeanor with defendants?*

Name:

One clerk: *Did the clerk call the calendar in an efficient manner? Were participants able to hear her?*

Name:

Two city attorneys: *Did the attorneys arrive on time? Were they prepared?*

Names:

Defense attorneys:

Did the attorneys arrive on time? Were they prepared?

Names:

Victim advocates: *Were advocates present and checking in with victims when they arrived?*

Names:

Two sheriff's deputies: *Were deputies in control of the courtroom? Was anyone asked to leave? If so was it handled respectfully?*

Names:

Two probation officers: *Were probation officers on time and prepared? Were they able to provide information when asked? Were their interactions appropriate?*

Names:

Appearance Information

Do you feel no contact orders were adequately described? Yes No If no, please explain.

If there were any sentencings, did the judge speak in a manner and tone that expressed the seriousness of the offense?
Yes No If no, please explain. Was the firearm statute discussed at every sentencing? Yes No

Did any of these cases involve strangulation? If yes, please list the defendant's name(s).

Were there any interpreters in court today? Yes No If yes, what language(s) was/were spoken?

Were there any issues or problems related to the interpretation that you would like to comment on?
(we understand that you may not speak the language in question)

Courtroom Decorum

Were you able to adequately hear the proceedings? Yes No Sometimes Please explain if needed.

Were there any disruptions in court today? Yes No If yes, explain how they were handled.

Were you aware of any violations of the no contact order in court or in the hallway? Yes No
If yes, please explain what happened and how it was handled.

Did you feel the participants understood the process? Yes No
If no, explain.

Is there anything else you would like to mention? Use back if needed.