



Community of Practice for Family Law Attorney's Representing Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Emerging Challenges for Family Law Attorneys due to the COVID-19

March 30, 2020



Next COP Calls

- April 21, 2020 at 1pm EST
 Discussion: Helping Victims of Human
 Trafficking Courts Encounter in Juvenile
 Dependency, Child Welfare and Other
 Family Court Proceedings
- May 19, 2020 at 1pm EST



How are you and your office handling the new challenges we are facing with the COVID-19 health crisis?



How can NIWAP and our technical assistance support you during this time?



Duties to Our Clients

- Communicate
 - Telephonically or video teleconferencing with clients
 - Challenges with accessing technology for immigrant survivors, LEP, older life, and clients with limited abilities
- Have access to client files
 - Are you able to access your office?
 - Electronic files



Are your Courts open for essential hearings?



What might be considered essential hearings?

- Department of Family and Protective Services Child Removal hearings
- Temporary restraining orders, protective orders and
- Decided on a case by case basis enforcement actions or any final matter that would pose a serious financial or dire consequence



Response from Family Courts

- Suspending in-person, non-emergency hearings
 - Uncontested dockets have been cancelled
- Reduced court staff, encourage to E-file and email or call before going in person
- Use of virtual hearings
 - Learning Zoom, GoTOMeeting
- Continuances (postponements) should be readily granted



Agreements and Negotiations

- Consider submitting agreed upon and nonevidentiary matters that do not require a record directly to the court
 - Per your State's Rules of Civil Procedure



Importance of Safety Planning with Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking in times of Stay at Home Orders



What are some of the ways COVID-19 affects safety planning?



Discussion of Issues to Address in Light of Stay at Home Orders

- Impact on custody and visitation (possession and access) orders
- If parent is diagnosed or believes they have Covid-19 what should courts order
 - Shall communicate with the other parent and discuss procedures to protect the health of the child

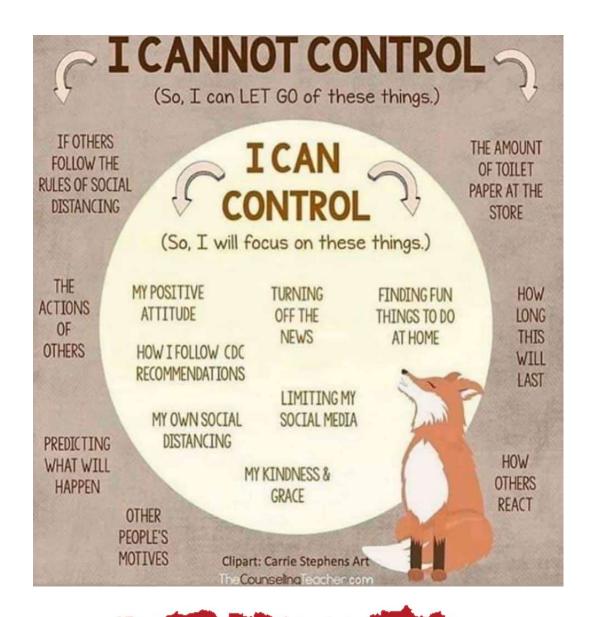


What are emerging issues with custody or visitation related to COVID-19?



How might challenges presented by COVID-19 impact your ability to meet grant deliverables?







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 - With judicial faculty
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