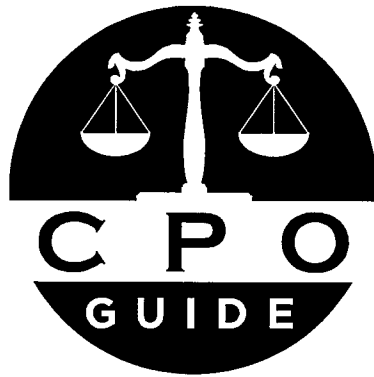


# CIVIL PROTECTION ORDERS:

A Guide for Improving Practice

A full-text version of *Civil Protection Orders: A Guide for Improving Practice* is available on-line at:  
[http://www.ncjfcj.org/images/stories/dept/fvd/pdf/cpo\\_guide.pdf](http://www.ncjfcj.org/images/stories/dept/fvd/pdf/cpo_guide.pdf)

This project was supported by Grant No. 2004-WT-AX-KO81 awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessary reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women or the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.



# **CIVIL PROTECTION ORDERS: A Guide for Improving Practice**

**National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
Family Violence Department**

Maureen Sheeran  
Director, Family Violence Department

**Principal Staff Author**  
Emilie Meyer, JD  
Attorney, Family Violence Department

2010

**National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges**

P.O. Box 8970 • Reno, NV 89507  
1041 North Virginia Street • Third Floor • Reno, NV 89557  
(775) 784-7019 • FAX (775) 784-6160 • [www.ncjfcj.org](http://www.ncjfcj.org)

© 2010, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ ®).  
All rights reserved.

This publication and the statements made and practices recommended herein are the official policy of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), adopted by resolution of the Board of Trustees on July 23, 2011 at the NCJFCJ 74th Annual Conference in New York, NY.

## **Committee Members\***

### **Co-Chairs**

Hon. Susan B. Carbon  
NCJFCJ Past President  
Concord Family Division  
Concord, New Hampshire

Nadine Neufville, JD  
Associate Director  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Office on Violence Against Women  
Washington, District of Columbia

Denise Gamache  
Director  
Battered Women's Justice Project  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Gretta Gardner, JD  
Consultant  
Austin, Texas

Sgt. Scott Gibson  
Lieutenant  
City of Alexandria Police  
Department  
Alexandria, Virginia

### **Participants**

Hon. Berryl A. Anderson  
Judge  
DeKalb County Courthouse  
Magistrate Court  
Decatur, Georgia

Tara Berta, JD  
Supervising Attorney  
Cooperative Restraining Order  
Clinic  
San Francisco, California

Mari Kay Bickett, JD  
Executive Director, CEO  
Texas Center for the Judiciary  
Austin, Texas

Paul Dedinsky, JD  
Assistant District Attorney  
Milwaukee District Attorney's Office  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Barbara Hart, JD  
Director of Law and Policy  
Violence Against Women Initiatives,  
Muskie School of Public Service  
Georgetown, Maine

Peter Helein  
Deputy Chief  
Appleton Police Department  
Appleton, Wisconsin

Sarah Henry, JD  
Staff Attorney  
National Center on Protection  
Orders and Full Faith and Credit  
Arlington, Virginia

Hon. Jeannie JinKyung Hong  
Judge-in-charge  
North Avenue District Court  
Baltimore, Maryland

\*Titles and agencies reflect the positions members held at the time of the final committee meeting on October 23, 2009.

Hon. Dennis J. Kehm (Ret.)  
Circuit Judge  
Festus, Missouri

Mike LaRiviere  
Police Officer  
Salem Police Department  
Salem, Massachusetts

Wanda Lucibello, JD  
Chief, Special Victims Division  
Kings County  
District Attorney Office  
Brooklyn, New York

Hon. Peter Macdonald (Ret.)  
Judge  
Hopkinsville, Kentucky

Bonny Midby  
Advocate  
Southern Nevada Domestic  
Violence Task Force  
Henderson, Nevada

Candace M. Mosley, JD  
Director of Programs  
National District Attorneys  
Association  
University of South Carolina  
Columbia, South Carolina

Scott Santoro, JD  
Senior Program Specialist  
Federal Law Enforcement  
Training Center  
Glynco, Georgia

Cindy Southworth  
Director of Technology  
National Network to End  
Domestic Violence  
Washington, District of Columbia

Angelo Trimble  
Community Liaison  
Alabama Coalition Against  
Domestic Violence  
Montgomery, Alabama

Sujata Warriar, PhD  
Consultant  
Bloomfield, New Jersey

Seema Zeya, JD  
Domestic Violence Coordinator  
Fairfax County Government  
Department of Systems Management  
for Human Services  
Fairfax, Virginia

## **Consultant**

Darren Mitchell, JD  
Co-Executive Director  
Legal Resource Center on Violence  
Against Women  
Takoma Park, Maryland

## **Staff**

### ***Office on Violence Against Women***

Carrie Mitchell, JD  
Program Specialist  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Office on Violence Against Women  
Washington, District of Columbia

***National Council of Juvenile  
and Family Court Judges***

Maureen Sheeran  
Director  
Family Violence Department

Hon. Steven D. Aycock (Ret.)  
Assistant Director  
Family Violence Department

Nicole Bates  
Administrative Assistant  
Family Violence Department

Erin Hammer  
Administrative Manager  
Family Violence Department

Brianne Hanretty  
Senior Administrative Assistant  
Family Violence Department

Emilie Meyer, JD  
Associate Attorney  
Family Violence Department

Danielle Pugh-Markie  
Senior Program Manager  
Family Violence Department

Sherrie Riley  
Senior Program Manager  
Family Violence Department







## PREFACE

In 1994, Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), comprehensive legislation designed to address the problem of abuse against women in its various forms. Implementation of the measures contained in VAWA has improved the lives of millions of women in the 16 years since its enactment. One small but formidable element is VAWA's requirement of "full faith and credit for protection orders," namely that a protection order issued in one jurisdiction must be accorded full faith and credit in others and enforced as though issued in the enforcing jurisdiction. What seemed to be a straightforward concept turned out to be more complex and compelled a multi-faceted, comprehensive approach to implementation. Many initiatives were undertaken, including this guide's predecessor.

In 2005, the Family Violence Department (FVD) of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) published *A Guide for Effective Issuance & Enforcement of Protection Orders*, which came to be known as the *Burgundy Book* because of the color of its cover. This project was a partnership with the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), U.S. Department of Justice and the National Center on Full Faith and Credit. The *Burgundy Book* sought to advance implementation of the VAWA Full Faith and Credit provision by addressing the greatest impediments: inconsistent and often ineffective issuance, service, and enforcement of protection orders. The *Burgundy Book* was developed as a comprehensive guide to address those issues.

Thousands of copies of the *Burgundy Book* have been distributed to judges, advocates, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and attorneys, in this country and abroad, and hundreds of trainings undertaken to

educate professionals about appropriate issuance and enforcement of protection orders. However, since the *Burgundy Book* was originally published, Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act of 2005, which clarified and strengthened the Full Faith and Credit provision. States have similarly responded with more nuanced legislation. Also, the explosion in technology provides opportunities for more efficient practice, while opening up new ways in which perpetrators can survey and stalk their victims.

During 2009, the FVD and OVW reconvened some of the country's finest experts on full faith and credit (many of whom served on the original *Burgundy Book* committee) to re-examine the *Burgundy Book*. As with the original committee, the group consisted of approximately 25 professionals drawn from the judiciary, law enforcement, advocates, civil attorneys, and prosecutors.

The group worked together to evaluate what was most useful about the original *Burgundy Book*, areas where the law had changed and, thus, guidance needed to be revised or augmented, and ideas for better integrating the individual disciplines' sections into one cohesive document. With an eye toward creating greater continuity throughout, the committee abandoned the Principles and Strategies format of the original *Burgundy Book* in favor of crafting what we now refer to as the Common Ground. The Common Ground reflects the essential values and practices that all of the professions represented agreed are essential to a strong and vibrant protection order process.

Because each profession is unique in its roles and responsibilities, the sections were updated to include information designed by and for that profession. The committee also recognized that there were some subjects where additional substantive information would be useful to professionals to assist them with fulfilling their roles. Thus, at the end of the new document is a section on Issues in Focus.

This work has culminated in *Civil Protection Orders: A Guide for Improving Practice*, otherwise called the *CPO Guide*. The reader has the option of using the new guide as a whole, i.e., the sum of its parts: the Introduction, Common Ground, five discipline-specific chapters, and the Issues in Focus, or using it "cafeteria-style," namely in parts as the reader may wish. For example, the reader might want to consult the

Introduction, the reader's own discipline section, and one or more Issues in Focus, but not the entire document. However, because the committee believes a coherent civil protection order system relies upon the interplay and interdependence of each profession's work, we encourage everyone to become familiar with the entire document. We believe this will both help the reader do a better job within his or her own profession and better equip the reader to participate as a member of a larger process designed, in the final analysis, to provide safety to all members of our broad and diverse communities.

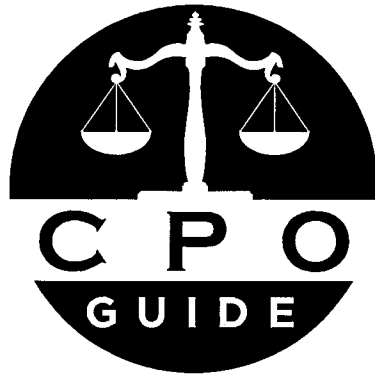
Two caveats are in order. First, because the field of protection orders has grown immeasurably since the original publication, the committee felt this document should focus on civil protection orders only. The original *Burgundy Book* has references to criminal orders, and while some of the strategies offered in this document could easily be transferred to the criminal system, we do not want the reader to have the impression that this document is intended for the criminal justice system. Such a document is yet to be produced.

Second, this document is designed to provide best practices for the specific professions and the system as a whole. Although some communities, for various reasons, may not be in a position to implement all of the practice strategies, the overarching values are universal and provide needed guidance.

The committee worked tirelessly during 2009 to produce the new *CPO Guide*. They met in person three times and had numerous conference calls. We thank them immensely. Each brought extraordinary talent and a willingness to listen, be challenged, and to create the most useful document we could imagine. In producing this book, they modeled what we hope to see among professionals across the country. OVW and NCJFCJ are honored to have been able to work with all of them.

This *CPO Guide* is dedicated to the thousands of victims and children whom we serve.





**CIVIL PROTECTION ORDERS:**  
**A Guide for Improving Practice**



# Introduction

Each year, many of the millions of women<sup>1</sup> who are battered by their partners look to the civil protection order system as a way to stop the abuse. In the act of seeking protection, a victim is putting her trust and safety in the hands of numerous professionals: from the advocates and attorneys who explain the system and assist the victim in obtaining an order; to the judge who crafts an order appropriate to the victim's unique needs; to the law enforcement officers who serve and enforce the order; and to the prosecutor who prosecutes violations. Anywhere along that complex chain, a victim can find that the promise of the civil protection order system is either kept, or broken. *Civil Protection Orders: A Guide for Improving Practice*<sup>2</sup> (herein *CPO Guide*) provides guidance for professionals working to ensure that the promise of the civil protection order system is realized.

## *The Threat of Domestic Violence*

Domestic violence poses a serious threat to women's physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional well-being. Current estimates suggest that one in four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.<sup>3</sup> Domestic violence costs the nation an estimated \$5 to \$10 billion annually in direct medical and mental health care services and lost productivity.<sup>4</sup>

The risk of experiencing violence increases significantly both during and after separation.<sup>5</sup> Because a victim's move to separate signals an impending loss of control, a perpetrator often escalates tactics to exert abusive power and control and may punish the victim through threats,

---

<sup>1</sup> Although both men and women can be victims of domestic violence, the majority of victims of abuse and coercive control are women. Therefore, this guide uses gendered terms. However, the values and strategies would apply equally where the victim is male. See BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS, U.S. DEP'T OF JUSTICE, FAMILY VIOLENCE STATISTICS: INCLUDING STATISTICS ON STRANGERS AND ACQUAINTANCES 1 (2005), <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/fvs02.pdf> (finding that females were 84 percent of spouse abuse victims and 86 percent of victims of abuse by a boyfriend or girlfriend and that males were 83 percent of spouse murderers and 75 percent of murderers who killed a boyfriend or girlfriend).

<sup>2</sup> The *CPO Guide* is an evolution of the *Guide for Effective Issuance & Enforcement of Protection Orders* (informally called the *Burgundy Book*) published in 2005, which was the culmination of a multi-year, multi-phase project that explored effective issuance and enforcement of protection orders.

<sup>3</sup> TK Logan, Lisa Shannon & Robert Walker, *Protective Orders: Questions and Conundrums*, 7 TRAUMA, VIOLENCE & ABUSE 175, 177 (2006) (finding that "the percentage of women who will experience partner violence victimization is far greater than the percentage of women who experience breast cancer").

<sup>4</sup> Family Violence Prevention Fund, The Facts on Domestic Violence, [http://www.endabuse.org/content/action\\_center/detail/754](http://www.endabuse.org/content/action_center/detail/754).

<sup>5</sup> Jacquelyn C. Campbell et al., *Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results From a Multisite Case Control Study*, 93 AM. J. PUB. HEALTH 1089, 1092 (2003).

other acts of violence, or child abduction. Not only are victims who separate from perpetrators of domestic violence significantly more likely to be abused,<sup>6</sup> they are also at an increased risk for intimate partner homicide.<sup>7</sup>

### ***Civil Protection Orders: The Promise of Safety***

More than 40 years ago, Pennsylvania became the first state to enact comprehensive legislation allowing victims of domestic violence to obtain civil protection orders.<sup>8</sup> Since then, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, all United States territories, and many tribes have committed to safeguarding victims of domestic violence and their children by offering this civil remedy. Federal legislation strengthened those protections by requiring states, tribes, and territories to accord full faith and credit to protection orders issued in foreign jurisdictions.<sup>9</sup> Today, civil protection orders are the predominant legal remedy victims use to extricate themselves from the violence.<sup>10</sup>

Victims often choose the civil protection order process because it provides them with needed alternatives to the criminal justice system and to shelters that require them to leave their homes.<sup>11</sup> In the civil protection order system, victims can seek, and courts can grant, orders that enjoin respondents from contacting, harming, harassing, or stalking them. A court may also order that a victim retain physical and legal custody of her children while providing additional safeguards such as

---

<sup>6</sup> PATRICIA TJADEN & NANCY THOENNES, NAT'L INST. OF JUSTICE, EXTENT, NATURE, AND CONSEQUENCES OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE: FINDINGS FROM THE NATIONAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN SURVEY 42 (2000) (finding that "married women who lived apart from their husbands were nearly four times more likely to report that their husbands had raped, physically assaulted, and/or stalked them than were women who lived with their husbands").

<sup>7</sup> Campbell et al., *supra* note 5.

<sup>8</sup> Matthew J. Carlson, Susan D. Harris & George W. Holden, *Protective Orders and Domestic Violence: Risk Factors for Re-Abuse*, 14 J. FAM. VIOLENCE 205 (1999) (finding that while two states had protection order legislation prior to Pennsylvania's 1976 Protection from Abuse Act, this act was a landmark in terms of scope of protection).

<sup>9</sup> 18 U.S.C. § 2265 (West 2009).

<sup>10</sup> Sally F. Goldfarb, *Re-conceiving Civil Protection Orders for Domestic Violence: Can Law Help End the Abuse Without Ending the Relationship*, 29 CARDOZO L. REV. 1487, 1503-04 (2008).

<sup>11</sup> Logan, Shannon & Walker, *supra* note 3, at 181.



supervised visitation or exchange.<sup>12</sup> Additionally, a respondent may be ordered to vacate the home, thus instilling in the victim a renewed sense of safety and security. Further, courts can provide an array of economic provisions, including requiring the respondent to pay restitution, child support, or provide other economic remedies. And, unlike the criminal justice system, the civil protection order system provides victims flexibility in meeting their specific needs<sup>13</sup> and more control over the process and outcome.

The protection order system's overarching goal of safety<sup>14</sup> is achieved for many of the approximately 1.2 million victims of intimate partner rape, stalking, or physical assault who receive protection orders annually.<sup>15</sup> Studies reveal that between 30 percent and 77 percent of victims report that the process and act of receiving the order ends the violence.<sup>16</sup> For many successful petitioners, the temporary or emergency order was all that was needed: "the most common reason for not returning for a permanent order was that the respondent had stopped bothering the petitioner, which suggests that being the subject of the court's attention can influence the perpetrator's behavior."<sup>17</sup> Even when perpetrators violate protection orders, the orders are still effective at decreasing the severity and frequency of the violence and the fear of harm for the majority of victims.<sup>18</sup>

---

<sup>12</sup> For examples, see N.C. GEN. STAT. ANN. § 50B-3(a)(13) (West 2009) (allowing any additional prohibitions or requirements the court deems necessary to protect any party or any minor child); MICH. COMP. LAWS ANN. § 600.2950(1)(j) (West 2009) (interpreting *Brandt v. Brandt*, 645 N.W. 2d 327, 329 (2002) to allow custody arrangements as part of the catch-all provision). See generally Allie Meiers, *Comment: Civil Orders of Protection: A Tool to Keep Children Safe*, 19 J. AM. ACAD. MATRIM. L. 373, 381 (2005) (stating that "A civil order of protection has many benefits to children and their parents who are subjected to abuse.... '[C]atch-all provisions' allow the civil courts broad discretion to effectively deal with removing the respondent/abuser from the home, protection of property, attorney's fees, and providing child custody, support and visitation arrangements").

<sup>13</sup> LOGAN ET AL., *THE KENTUCKY CIVIL PROTECTION ORDER STUDY: A RURAL AND URBAN MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVE STUDY OF PROTECTIVE ORDER VIOLATION CONSEQUENCES, RESPONSES, AND COSTS* 5 (2009).

<sup>14</sup> Carolyn R. Dilgard, *Crossing the Line: The Interstate Implications of Issuing and Enforcing Domestic Violence Protection Orders: An Examination of New Jersey*, 35 RUTGERS L.J. 253, n. 8 (2003).

<sup>15</sup> SENATOR JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, CORRECTIONS, AND VICTIMS' RIGHTS, *TEN YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY PROGRESS: THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT* 18 (2004).

<sup>16</sup> TK Logan & Robert Walker, *Civil Protective Order Outcomes Violations and Perceptions of Effectiveness*, 24 J. INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE 675, 677 (2009).

<sup>17</sup> SUSAN L. KEILITZ ET AL., NAT'L CTR. FOR STATE COURTS, *CIVIL PROTECTION ORDERS: THE BENEFITS AND LIMITATIONS FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE* (Pub. No. R-201) (1997).

<sup>18</sup> Logan & Walker, *supra* note 16, at 687.

In addition to increasing safety for victims, protection orders and the process of petitioning can contribute to a victim's sense of autonomy.<sup>19</sup> The protection order "becomes an announcement that the abused woman refuses to 'take it' anymore and is acting on her own behalf."<sup>20</sup> Studies show that the majority of petitioners would seek protection orders again, even though some of those petitioners' requests were denied and others had their orders violated.<sup>21</sup> For many of these petitioners, the process of reaching out for assistance and initiating change was a step toward independence.<sup>22</sup>

Despite the fact that protection orders work to empower the victim and stop the violence for many, the ability of the system to protect victims can be impeded by barriers in both service and enforcement. Women can face significant challenges when accessing the protection order system that go unrecognized or unaddressed by many professionals.<sup>23</sup> For example, professionals may lack familiarity with statutory eligibility requirements for civil protection orders. If a victim is told she does not meet the requirements, when in fact she does, "it could be the first and last time [she] petitions for a protective order."<sup>24</sup> Even when a victim receives effective assistance, inconsistent enforcement may increase the danger by emboldening perpetrators and creating a false sense of security in the victim.<sup>25</sup> One source found that "[u]nequivocal standardized enforcement of court orders is imperative if protective orders are to be taken seriously by the offenders they attempt to restrain."<sup>26</sup> To this day, around the country, victims cannot rely on that unequivocal response.

---

<sup>19</sup> Goldfarb, *supra* note 10, at 1514-15 (sharing the following victim perspective: "After so long of just taking it and taking it[,] I needed to be able to show myself as much as show him that I was tired of being a victim").

<sup>20</sup> Judith McFarlane et al., *Protection Orders and Intimate Partner Violence: An 18-Month Study of 150 Black, Hispanic, and White Women*, 94 AM. J. PUB. HEALTH 613, 617 (2004).

<sup>21</sup> Goldfarb, *supra* note 10, at 1510-18.

<sup>22</sup> *Id.*

<sup>23</sup> LOGAN ET AL., *supra* note 13, at 9; see also Logan, Shannon & Walker, *supra* note 3, at 183 (finding three predominant accessibility limitations "eligibility criteria, bureaucracy, and lack of response and/or enforcement by criminal justice officials").

<sup>24</sup> Logan, Shannon & Walker, *supra* note 3, at 184.

<sup>25</sup> LOGAN ET AL., *supra* note 13, at 156 (finding that "if offenders learn there are no consequences to [protection order] violations but victims take the risk of reporting violations, offenders may retaliate. Thus, reported violations with no consequences likely further increases risk to victims"); see also Judy L. Postmus, *Challenging the Negative Assumptions Surrounding Civil Protection Orders: A Guide for Advocates*, 22 AFFLIA 347, 353 (2007) (asserting that "the biggest challenge to the effectiveness of restraining orders lies in the poor enforcement when an abuser violates the order").

<sup>26</sup> U.S. DEP'T OF JUSTICE, ENFORCEMENT OF PROTECTIVE ORDERS, LEGAL SERIES BULLETIN #4 (2002), [http://www.ncjrs.gov/ovc\\_archives/bulletins/legalseries/bulletin4/welcome.html](http://www.ncjrs.gov/ovc_archives/bulletins/legalseries/bulletin4/welcome.html).

Therefore, victims may refrain from seeking justice system intervention if they believe perpetrators can violate orders with impunity.<sup>27</sup>

What makes the difference for those whose protection orders are successful in ending the violence and those whose orders are not? Many things. Perpetrators are likely to violate orders, unless there are strong disincentives.<sup>28</sup> Victims need direct services designed to support them and account for their practical, as well as their legal, needs.<sup>29</sup> Another key component of success is the presence of an integrated and consistent protection order system that coordinates issuing, serving, and enforcing court orders. Not only will an integrated and competent system promote victim safety and help save lives, it can also save states millions of dollars.<sup>30</sup>

### ***Civil Protection Orders: A Guide for Improving Practice***

Recognizing the need to promote effective issuance, service, and enforcement of protection orders, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) and the National Center on Protection Orders and Full Faith and Credit (NCPOFFC),<sup>31</sup> replicated aspects of the *Burgundy Book* development process in 2009 to create an updated, more streamlined guide. This publication, *Civil Protection Orders: A Guide for Improving Practice (CPO Guide)*, is designed to increase the capacity of communities to issue, serve, and enforce protection orders more effectively and to enhance the safety of and protection for victims of domestic violence and their children. In so doing, the *CPO Guide* is intended to provide a fundamental understanding of the values and practices necessary for a more effective civil protection order system.

---

<sup>27</sup> Logan & Walker, *supra* note 16, at 687.

<sup>28</sup> Carolyn Williams, *Not Everyone Will "Get It" Until We Do: Advocating for an Indefinite Order of Protection in Arizona*, 40 ARIZ. ST. L.J. 371, 377 (2008).

<sup>29</sup> Jane C. Murphy, *Engaging with the State: The Growing Reliance on Lawyers and Judges to Protect Battered Women*, 11 AM. U. J. GENDER SOC. POL'Y & L. 499, 514 (2003).

<sup>30</sup> LOGAN ET AL., *supra* note 13, at 149 (finding, based on a cost extrapolation, that "protective orders save the state [Kentucky] \$85 million for a one-year period, which is likely a conservative estimate").

<sup>31</sup> The NCPOFFC is a project of the Battered Women's Justice Project and provides problem-solving technical assistance and support to individuals, advocates, attorneys, and law enforcement to facilitate implementation of the full faith and credit provision of the Violence Against Women Act.

The *CPO Guide* is built on eight essential values that underpin an effective protection order system: safety, autonomy, accessibility, competence, reliability, collaboration, culture and diversity, and community engagement. It acknowledges that improving outcomes requires professionals and systems as a whole to engage with victims and communities in ways that support and advance these values.

The *CPO Guide* has three main sections:

**Common Ground:** To develop the Common Ground, the multi-disciplinary committee of experts spent a significant amount of time identifying and committing to the overarching values and identifying those practices that each profession has a role in implementing. It is the committee's belief that these values are universal to professionals in the civil protection order system and that these values must be embraced fully for the system to function effectively.

The Common Ground sets forth the gold standard for professionals. The committee recognizes that not all jurisdictions have laws, policies, or resources in place to implement every strategy. The Common Ground's values and practices, nonetheless, provide a guiding framework for significantly improving practice.

**Discipline-Specific Chapters:** Each day in this country, professionals throughout the system are called upon to engage in the life-saving practice of domestic violence intervention and prevention. While these professionals can approach their work with the same guiding values, each profession has its own role and mandates in implementing an effective protection order system. The *CPO Guide* acknowledges those unique roles and provides guidance specific to advocates, attorneys, judges and court personnel, law enforcement officers and commanders, and prosecutors. These chapters focus on strategies each discipline can use while operating under the same Guiding Values.

**Issues in Focus:** A third component of the *CPO Guide*, Issues in Focus, provides a brief introductory discussion of three areas critical to effective implementation of the values and strategies found in the *CPO Guide*: Firearms, Military Issues, and Technology. Focusing interventions in each of these areas requires specific knowledge that is useful to all professions and can help improve practice and promote safety.