**Domestic Violence Benchbooks**

**What is a benchbook?**

Domestic Violence Benchbooks give guidance to judges on to how to address domestic violence per state statutes, case law and court rules. Benchbooks can cover all types of courts such as family law, criminal, juvenile, protective order and specialty courts. They are generally developed by statewide committees made up of a variety of professionals from domestic violence programs and law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges. The state supreme court is almost always the leader of the effort to establish a benchbook on domestic violence. Most benchbooks are developed using grant funds to support the effort, which can take months or years to complete. “Benchbook” is not a consistent label and some states vary on whether the term is one or two words. Some states opt for “benchguide” or “courtguide” instead.

For guidance on how to develop a benchbook see The Center for Court Innovation’s “Domestic Violence Benchbooks – a Guide to Court Innovation.” <http://www.courtinnovation.org/sites/default/files/documents/DV_BenchbookFinal.pdf>

The National Center for State Courts lists domestic violence resources links by state. This includes forms, court rules, state coalitions, and task forces.

<http://www.ncsc.org/topics/children-families-and-elders/domestic-violence/state-links.aspx>

Below are various states’ benchbooks or materials similar to benchbooks as defined above.

States without readily accessible online benchbook resources have been omitted.

**Arkansas**

“Domestic Violence and Protective Order Benchbook” 2016

<https://courts.arkansas.gov/sites/default/files/DomesticRelationsBenchbook.pdf>

**Arizona**

“Arkansas Circuit Courts Judge’s Becnhbook: Domestic Relations Division” 2014

[http://www.azcadv.org/azcadv2014wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/2016 Benchbook .pdf](http://www.azcadv.org/azcadv2014wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/2016%20Benchbook%20.pdf)

**California**

“Judges Guide to Domestic Violence Cases: California Protective Orders” 2014

<http://www2.courtinfo.ca.gov/protem/pubs/protective_orders.pdf>

**Colorado**

“Colorado Domestic Violence Benchbook” 2011

<http://coloradohighschoolmocktrial.net/repository/DV%20Benchbook%20Final%2010_2011.pdF?ID=20475>

“Colorado Domestic Violence Benchbook, 2014 Edition”

<http://mentoredforgood.net/repository/DV%20Benchbook%202014.pdf>

**Connecticut**

“Domestic Violence (Family Violence): Frequently Asked Questions” from the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch’s website

<https://www.jud.ct.gov/faq/Domviolence.htm>

**District of Columbia**

“Rules Governing the Proceedings in the Domestic Violence Unit of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia” 2000

<http://www.dccourts.gov/internet/documents/domestic_violence_rules.pdf>

**Florida**

“Florida’s Domestic Violence Benchbook” 2014

<http://www.flcourts.org/core/fileparse.php/273/urlt/ElectronicBenchbook2014O-OAccessibilityOcheckedO1-26-2015.pdf>

**Georgia**

“Georgia Domestic Violence Benchbook”

<http://icje.uga.edu/domesticviolencebenchbook.html>

**Indiana**

“Protection Order Deskbook”

<http://www.in.gov/judiciary/center/files/pubs-benchbooks-protection-order-deskbook.pdf>

**Maryland**

“Maryland Judge’s Domestic Violence Resource Manual” <http://www.courts.state.md.us/family/publications/dvmanualcomplete.pdf>

**Michigan**

“Domestic Violence Benchbook – Fourth Edition” 2017

<https://mjieducation.mi.gov/benchbooks/dom-viol>

**New Jersey:**

“New Jersey Domestic Violence Procedures Manual, Issued under the Authority of the Supreme Court of New Jersey and the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey” 2004

<https://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/courts/assets/family/dvprcman.pdf>

**New Mexico**

“New Mexico Domestic Violence Benchbook” 2005

<https://women.unm.edu/resources/New-Mexico-Domestic-Violence-Benchbook.pdf>

**New Hampshire**

“Circuit Court District Division – Domestic Violence Case Protocols” from the New Hampshire Judicial Branch’s website

<http://www.courts.state.nh.us/district/protocols/dv/>

**Ohio**

“Assessing Allegations of Domestic Violence in Child Abuse Cases” 2016

<http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/JCS/domesticViolence/publications/DVChildAbuse.pdf>

“Domestic Violence & Allocation of Parental Rights and Responsibilities: Court Guide” 2016

<http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/JCS/domesticViolence/publications/DVAllocationParentalRights.pdf>

**Oregon**

“Domestic Violence Court: Procedures Manual” 2009

<http://www.courts.oregon.gov/Multnomah/docs/CriminalActions/DomesticViolence_DomesticViolenceCourtProceduresManual.pdf>

**Pennsylvania**

“Pennsylvania Domestic Violence Benchbook For Magisterial District Judges” 2016 <http://www.pcadv.org/Resources/__MDJ_BBK_PCADV_09092016F.pdf>

**South Carolina**

“Centralized CDV Court: a Guide to Establishing a CDV Court in Your County” 2010

<http://www.scag.gov/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/cdvcourtguide.pdf>

**Tennessee**

“Tennessee Domestic Abuse Benchbook” 2009 <http://www.selegal.org/Memos/2009%20DV%20Benchbook.pdf>

**Texas**

“The Texas Family Violence Benchbook” 2011

<http://www.txcourts.gov/media/478288/domesticviolencebenchbook.pdf>

**Utah**

“Utah Domestic Violence Bench Book” 2012

<http://www.vawaandcourts.org/~/media/Microsites/Files/VAWA/Utah%20DV-Benchbook.ashx>

**Virginia**

“District Court Judges’ Benchbook” 2016

<http://www.courts.state.va.us/courts/gd/resources/manuals/districtcourtbencbook.pdf>

**Vermont**

“Documents Submitted by Judge Amy Davenport on behalf of Superior Court Judges assigned to the Family Division” 2014 <http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2014/WorkGroups/Committee%20on%20Child%20Protection/Judiciary/W~Judge%20Amy%20Davenport~Superior%20Court%20Judges%20Assigned%20to%20the%20Family%20Division%20Written%20Comments~9-2-2014.pdf>

**Washington**

“Domestic Violence Bench Guide for Judicial Officers” 2015

<https://www.courts.wa.gov/content/manuals/domViol/Complete%20Manual%202015.pdf>

**West Virginia**

“West Virginia Benchbook for Domestic Violence Proceedings” 2012

<http://www.courtswv.gov/public-resources/domestic/DVBenchbook2012.pdf>

**Tribal**

“Tribal Court Bench Book for Domestic Violence Cases” 1999

<http://www.tribal-institute.org/download/VAWA+Bench+Book.pdf>