

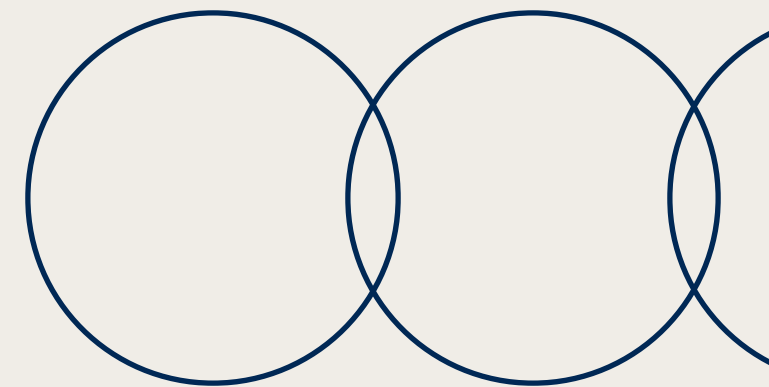
Survivor Advocacy & Legal Support Challenges

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OKC



Understanding Failure-to-Protect

Misuse and Consequences



Who Gets Charged?



National Trends in FTP

Predominantly Women

An alarming **87% of FTP defendants** are women, often seen as perpetrators rather than caregivers, indicating a troubling trend of criminalizing those who seek to protect their children.

Victimization Overlap

Over **60% of these women** report being victims of domestic violence themselves, revealing a disturbing pattern where survivors become targets of the very system meant to protect them.

Harsh Sentencing

The median sentence for **failure-to-protect cases** reaches 15 to 30 years in several states, showcasing the severe consequences faced by those who are often victims rather than offenders.

The Impact on Survivors

Experiences of domestic violence victims

Many survivors face **devastating consequences** when seeking help. They often call for support, only to find themselves criminalized, which perpetuates trauma and **disrupts their family dynamics** significantly.

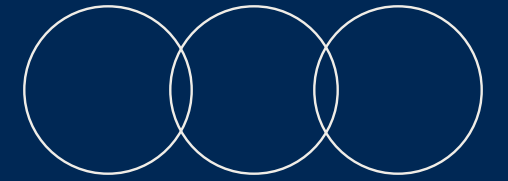
“Many abused children cling to the hope that growing up will bring escape and freedom.

But the personality formed in the environment of coercive control is not well adapted to adult life. The survivor is left with fundamental problems in basic trust, autonomy, and initiative. She approaches the task of early adulthood—establishing independence and intimacy—burdened by major impairments in self-care, in cognition and in memory, in identity, and in the capacity to form stable relationships.

She is still a prisoner of her childhood; attempting to create a new life, she reenounters the trauma.”
— Judith Lewis Herman, Trauma and Recovery: The Aftermath of Violence - From Domestic Abuse to Political Terror



When they do leave... Family Court Failures



Systemic Challenges for Survivors

Contact Mandates

Courts often **require survivors** to maintain contact with abusive partners during custody proceedings, exposing them to further harm and undermining their ability to seek safety for themselves and their children.

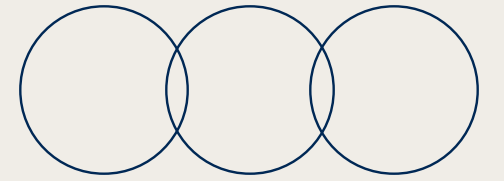
Alienation Claims

The concept of “parental alienation” is frequently used to discredit abuse allegations, placing blame on survivors and **diminishing** the severity of their experiences in custody evaluations and decision-making.

Seeking Protection

Survivors face penalties when they seek protection orders, with courts sometimes interpreting these efforts as attempts to manipulate custody arrangements, thereby further endangering their safety and well-being.

Child Exposure Statistics



Understanding Domestic Violence Impact

Severe IPV Rates

1 in 4 women experience severe intimate partner violence (IPV), highlighting the urgent need for systemic change and support for survivors to address the ongoing crisis of domestic violence.

Child Exposure

1 in 15 children are exposed to domestic violence annually, demonstrating that many young lives are affected by abuse, which has lasting implications on their mental and emotional wellbeing.

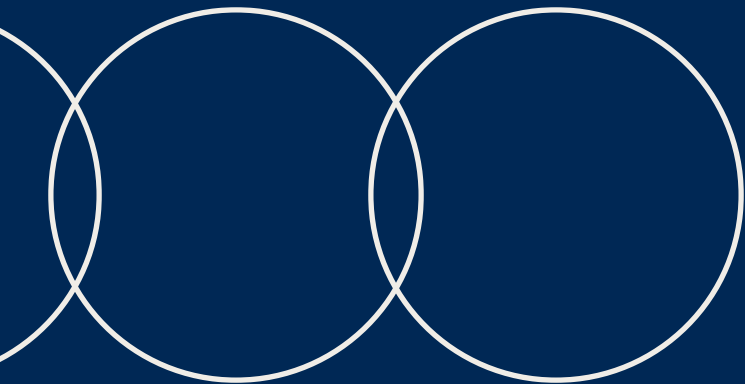
Overlap with Maltreatment

There is a *30–60% overlap* between domestic violence and child maltreatment, indicating that children living in abusive homes are at a higher risk for neglect and physical harm.

Oklahoma Context

Local Relevance of FTP

Oklahoma ranks **2nd nationally** for women killed by men, highlighting the urgent need for reform to protect survivors rather than criminalize them.



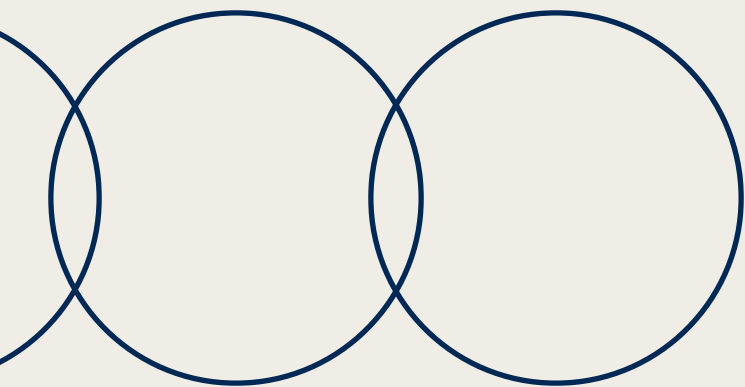
Fiscal & Human Cost

Understanding the Impact

Current data shows 55 active cases serving time in Oklahoma prisons for failure to protect.

Each year in prison costs \$24,000.

We are spending \$1,320,000 to incarcerate women for failure to protect each year.



Proven Solutions



Differential Response

DV-trained CPS teams support survivors effectively and compassionately.



Safe-Harbor Reporting

A safe-harbor model allows survivors to seek help freely without fear of prosecution.



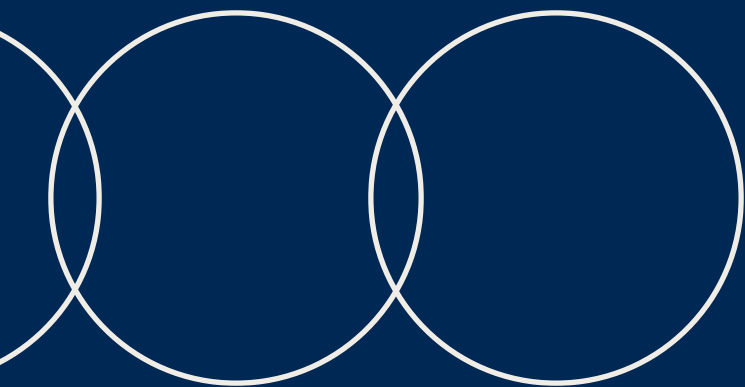
Coercive Control Defense

Legal frameworks must recognize and protect survivors' realities.



Fund Supervised Visitation

Supervised visitation centers ensure children's safety during visits. Costs can be prohibitive and put survivors in danger.



Policy Recommendations



Amend FTP Law

Update statute to include actual knowledge requirements.



Mandate Data Reporting

Require annual data collection on FTP prosecutions.



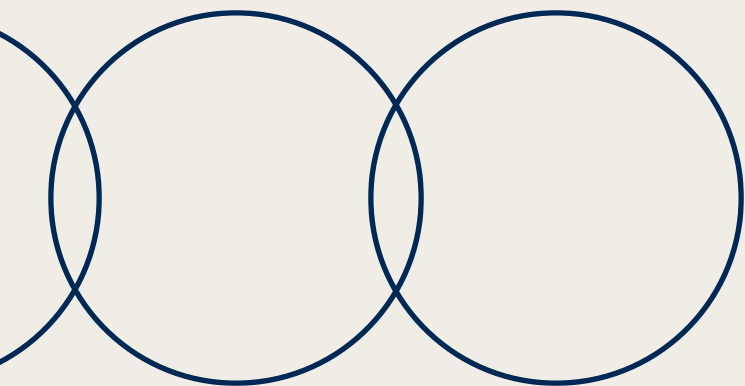
Coercive Control Defense

Introduce legal protections against manipulation and control.



Cap Non-Abusive Sentences

Limit sentences for caregivers not directly involved.

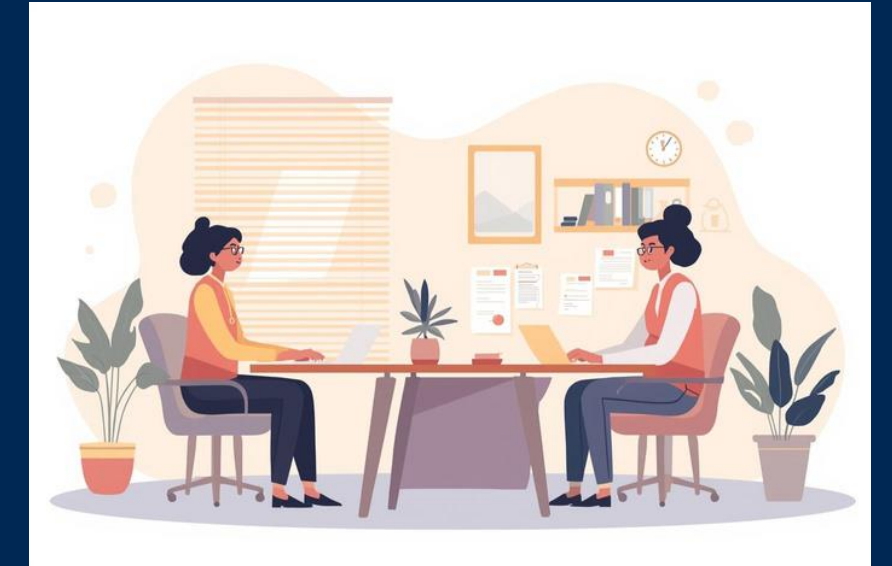


Survivor Centered Court Reforms



Trauma-Informed Evaluators

Proper training ensures evaluators understand trauma impacts.



Expand Civil Representation

Increasing legal support is essential for vulnerable families.



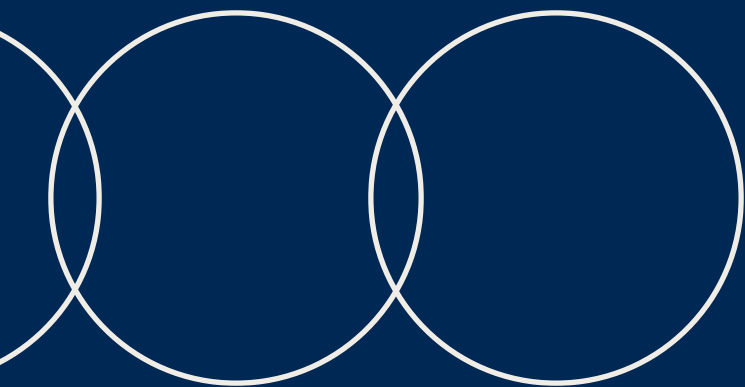
End Alienation Theories

Discarding these theories protects survivor's rights in court.



One Family, One Judge

This approach ensures consistent hearings for families in need.



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