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Legal Victory to Keep Restraining Orders in Place & Prevent Litigation Abuse



We are excited to share a recent **FVAP legal victory for survivors looking to maintain restraining orders**. Our request for partial publication of the case *In re Marriage of Carlisle* was granted. The published opinion states trial courts have jurisdiction to renew domestic violence restraining orders (DVRO) **even when the original DVRO is pending on appeal**. This means survivors of abuse can still be protected, even if the restrained person in the case files to appeal the original restraining order.

This publication is also a victory because it should decrease the instances of abusers appealing domestic violence restraining orders as an attempt to delay the renewal of restraining orders against them. This behavior is known as a form of litigation abuse. **Litigation abuse** can be a huge financial and emotional expense to domestic violence survivors and can be complicated to address, so we're glad to see a step in the right direction.

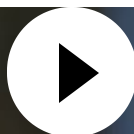
If you think you or someone you know is experiencing litigation abuse, visit our [Legal Resource Library](#) to gain access to our helpful resource, "How to Address Litigation Abuse."

Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw and Intersectionality

In honor of Black History Month, we want to spotlight **Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw**. Crenshaw is a lawyer, scholar and writer on civil rights, race, law, and the ways in which these intersect. She is known for her contributions to Critical Race Theory, and she coined the term "intersectionality," which has given civil rights and social justice advocates **a word to discuss the unique barriers** to safety and justice that people with multiple marginalized identities face.

Crenshaw has also been outspoken about the lesser known high frequency of violence against Black women by police, contributing to the larger conversation about normalized abuse and devaluing of Black women's bodies.

Crenshaw gives an example of how intersectionality can be missed in the courtroom in the clip below.





Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention



Teen dating violence is surprisingly common where [26% of women and 15% of men report having experienced intimate partner violence for the first time before the age of 18](#). Women's experience of intimate partner violence tends to be different than men's, however. Women are more likely to be survivors of more severe levels of abuse.

Because of the high rates of dating violence among teens, every February anti-dating violence organizations collectively **work together to raise awareness** about the frequency of this issue and share resources so that teens can approach dating with the education they need to stay safe in their intimate relationships.

There are many resources available and virtual events that teens and their parents can participate in this month to learn more. [California Partnership to End Domestic Violence](#) has a [Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month Member Events & Resources Library](#) with a compiled a list of upcoming workshops, webinars, campaigns, and more to participate in. [Love is Respect](#) also has a variety of resources and interactive tools on dating, healthy relationships, and how to stay safe.

Survivors' Housing & Employment During the Pandemic



Since 2018, FVAP has advocated for **survivor's rights to housing and employment** by training attorneys and advocates on survivors' unique legal protections, providing on-demand legal assistance and representation on legal appeals and engaging in policy advocacy through its Housing and Employment Justice Program.

In 2020, FVAP expanded its Housing and Employment program by hiring a Rural Housing Outreach Attorney and partnering with outside agencies – WEAVE, National Indian Justice Center, California

Consortium for Urban Indian Health and California Partnership to End Domestic Violence – to expand its services and better reach survivors living in under resourced communities. Because of the negative effects of COVID-19 on survivors and housing security, **the expansion of FVAP’s Housing and Employment Program could not have come at a better time**. [Prior to COVID-19, women who experienced domestic violence were four times more likely to experience housing instability](#); the COVID-19 pandemic has further increased housing insecurity throughout California. As of late December 2020, 19% of all renter households in California were behind on rent, creating a [rental debt of approximately \\$3.7 billion in California](#).

Since the start of the pandemic, FVAP has advocated for changes in laws and regulations to help keep tenants housed during this public health crisis, educated advocates and attorneys on survivor’s housing rights and COVID-19 eviction protections and helped advocates fight for clients’ right to stay housed, even when they are unable to pay all of their rent. Recently, through Senate Bill 91, the California legislature **extended eviction protections** that prohibit all landlords from evicting tenants without just cause and protect tenants that are not able to pay all their rent until June 30, 2021.

Learn more about [FVAP's Housing work and Housing resources](#).

Recent and Upcoming Trainings on Domestic Violence Legal Issues



[FVAP](#) has been busy training on new appeals cases that affect domestic violence survivors, a recent senate bill on coercive control, and housing and employment rights for domestic violence survivors. Below are some of our recent trainings and what’s coming up later this month and in March.

Upcoming

Feb 25: *Housing and Employment: Legal Rights of Survivors* for [Kaiser Medical Social Workers](#), to be presented by FVAP’s [Taylor Campion](#)

Mar 3: *Domestic Violence Dynamics and Housing Protections for Domestic Violence Survivors* for [Housing and Community Action Agency of Shasta County](#), to be presented by [Carolyn Walker](#)

Mar 5: *Housing and Employment: Legal Rights of Survivors* for [Sacramento Family Resource Center](#), to be presented by FVAP’s [Taylor Campion](#)

Recent

Feb 12: *Housing and Employment: Legal Rights of Survivors* for [Sacramento Native American Health Centers](#), presented by FVAP’s [Taylor Campion](#) and [WEAVE](#)’s Erika Trejo

Feb 11: *Housing and Employment: Legal Rights of Survivors* for [International Rescue Committee](#), presented by FVAP’s [Taylor Campion](#) and [WEAVE](#)’s Erika Trejo

Feb 7: *Restraining Orders and Employment Law Protections for Survivors of Abuse* for [Bay Area South Asian Network of Therapists \(BASANT\)](#), presented by FVAP’s Janani Ramachandran

Dec 14: *Helping LGBTQIA+ Survivors Get Help With Appeals* for [LA LGBTQIA+ Center](#), presented by [Cory Hernandez](#)

Jan 22: *Utilizing SB 1141, California’s "Coercive Control" Bill: A Training for Practitioners* for all attorneys, presented by [Cory Hernandez](#) with Pallavi Dhawan from the LA City Attorney’s Office and Stephanie Baez from San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program.

Jan 26: *2020 New Appellate Cases on Domestic Violence Issues* for members of the [California Partnership to End Domestic Violence](#) (CPEDV), presented by [Arati Vasan](#) and [Nancy K.D. Lemon](#)

Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}
{{Organization Address}}
{{Organization Phone}}
{{Organization Website}}

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