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## October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month



Team FVAP raising awareness on Purple Thursday 2019

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month (#DVAM2019). In addition to wearing our purple gear on #PurpleThursday today we are **raising awareness** this month by sharing resources for abuse survivors available on our website as well as through other organizations that support abuse survivors.

We launched our **#ResourceWednesday series** by featuring FVAP's "Court Preparation Checklist," a helpful resource for abuse survivors to prepare for court, which is in our online [Legal Resource Library](#). We also featured an enlightening article called [Abuse Goes Digital](#) by Stephanie Bowman, Program Attorney at National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, that explains how the advancement of technology, while not necessarily a negative thing, has expanded the ways in which abusers can target their victims.

Check out the other #ResourceWednesday resources we've featured on our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) channels, and watch for the last resource next week.

Make sure to follow us on our social media channels to see how we're raising awareness this month, and every month.

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## FVAP Legal Victory Ensures Safe Parenting





**We are thrilled to have won a case** that has helped keep our client and her child safe, and reaffirms the importance of **safe parenting**.

Our client had a two-year restraining order against the father of her child. As a result, the court gave our client sole custody of the child and unsupervised visitation only during the daytime to the father. Later, when the father was seen driving without a license and with the child not in a car seat, our client went back to court to change the visitation schedule. The court limited the father's contact with the child to professionally supervised visitation. However, the father did not participate in supervised visitation and requested that the court change visitation again, this time to unsupervised, overnight visitation. This time around, the trial court gave father three days a week of unsupervised "visitation" – almost a 50% schedule.

We appealed this case to the Court of Appeal, where **this ruling was reversed**. The Court of Appeal determined that the parenting arrangement ordered by the trial court amounted to joint custody, which is not allowed until the father can show the court that he can safely parent. The case has been sent back to the trial court to correctly apply the law. This victory will help ensure the child's contact with the father is safe and the child is protected.

We are extremely pleased that the trial court will now consider a safe parenting arrangement for the parties. We are also thankful that our client will continue to be represented at trial court by our co-counsel at [Central California Legal Services](#), and that we were able to work on this case with a stellar pro bono team from [Haynes & Boone, LLP](#).

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## Protecting Immigrant Survivors & Thanks to FVAP Fellow



As a result of punitive federal policies, immigrant communities have become increasingly vulnerable and marginalized. This is particularly problematic for immigrants who arrive in the United States to escape abuse in their home countries. To address the unique and pressing needs of these communities, we recruited a talented legal fellow and recent graduate of Berkeley Law, **Michelle Kim**, to work on this multifaceted project to **protect immigrants' rights**.



Michelle's fellowship consisted of three main components:

- Opposing proposed rules by federal agencies that would negatively impact immigrants and their children who have experienced abuse;
- Understanding and addressing the fear of immigration enforcement that was discouraging abused immigrants from seeking vital assistance from courts and shelters; and
- Identifying the unique needs of immigrant survivors and creating resources that didn't exist elsewhere.

While there continues to be work to be done to support immigrant survivors, we are proud to say that in just one year, [FVAP](#) has made great strides for immigrant survivors through this project. For instance, we submitted a public comment opposing the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) proposed regulations to indefinitely detain immigrant children, trained numerous domestic violence organizations in California on the importance of client privacy due to the increase in detention and deportations, and created a resource dispelling the myths about immigrant survivors that often surface in court.

Huge thanks to Michelle for making this project a great success and helping us keep immigrant abuse survivors safe in their new home country.

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## FVAP Opposes HUD's New Proposed Housing Rule



[FVAP](#) is opposing a proposed rule change by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which will weaken a legal theory called “disparate impact” and will make it harder for people, including survivors of domestic violence, to prove housing discrimination. HUD’s proposal would widely affect marginalized people across the United States by making it unreasonably difficult to stop housing providers from having harmful discriminatory practices. HUD’s proposal would significantly decrease federal housing protections for survivors of domestic violence and survivors of other forms of gender based violence, who are largely women.

Find out more about HUD’s proposed rule change by visiting [www.fightforhousingjustice.org](http://www.fightforhousingjustice.org).

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## FVAP in Court, Training on Confidentiality & Privilege, and More



FVAP has been busy arguing in court on behalf of abuse survivors, training others, and facilitating important conversations that advance the rights of survivors of domestic abuse and refine California law for the better.

**September 24:** FVAP argues in court in **Los Angeles** that survivors with a restraining order should not have to face their abuser in person in a civil deposition.

**September 24:** FVAP trains with [National Housing Law Project](#) on domestic violence survivors' housing protections under the law.

**October 2:** FVAP hosts monthly legal assistance webinar series for members of the [California Partnership to End Domestic Violence](#) (CPEDV) on the difference between privileged and confidential information.

**October 18:** FVAP presents "Developments in Domestic Violence Case Law and Statutes and the Psychology Behind Them" in **Santa Clara** for [Santa Clara County's 26th Annual Domestic Violence Conference](#).

**October 24-25:** FVAP is in **Eureka, CA** for a convening of domestic violence organizations in the far north region of the state that are members of the [California Partnership to End Domestic Violence](#) (CPEDV) to discuss challenges, goals and practices of the region's domestic violence agencies, including issues domestic violence survivors face in court and in housing and employment.

**Thank you** for your support that makes this broad reach possible.

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*October 2019*

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