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Governor Newsom Signs FVAP-Sponsored Bill Protecting Children and Preventing Unjust Financial Liability



We are grateful to Governor Gavin Newsom for signing [FVAP](#)-sponsored Assembly Bill 925 into law on September 12. **This bill improves children's safety** by enabling minors or their parents to share information about them in restraining orders with people who need the information to keep them safe, such as child-care providers, schools, and doctors. Before this new law, confidential information about a minor in a restraining order could only be shared with the abuser and law enforcement. Also, if the information was shared with someone else, even the minor's school, the court would impose a \$1,000 sanction against the minor or person who disclosed the confidential information. **Now minors and their parents will no longer face unjust financial penalties** for sharing information that will keep them safe.

FVAP-Piloted Tip Sheet Extends Reach to Help More Survivors Calculate Their Appeal Deadlines



In February 2019, [FVAP](#) partnered with the Santa Clara County Self-Help Center to pilot a tip sheet called "Calculating Your Deadline to Appeal a California Family Law Order." This tip sheet provides a step-by-step flow chart to help survivors who represent themselves in court calculate their deadlines to appeal unjust court outcomes. [FVAP](#) developed this tip sheet because we received many questions about how to calculate the deadline to appeal, and **we wanted to ensure survivors who have to represent themselves in court have a helpful, comprehensive resource.**

The Santa Clara County pilot project was a success. Today, the Self-Help Center distributes the tip sheet at different locations, and the feedback is that the tip sheet is very helpful to people representing themselves without a lawyer. FVAP has now expanded the pilot project to two more counties, Alameda County and San Mateo County, and is looking into expanding this project to other locations.

FVAP in Court: Helping Survivors with Victim-blaming and Language Access



FVAP's work in the appellate courts is keeping us busy.

On **September 11, 18, and 24** we were in **Los Angeles** in oral argument and moot courts for a case involving a conflict in the law that endangers the safety of domestic violence survivors--even when a survivor has a restraining order in place protecting them from coming in contact with their abuser, the survivor may still have to face their abuser in a deposition (a legal proceeding that is like an interview). Addressing this issue is important because not only is it dangerous to require that a survivor and their abuser be in the same location, but it is also potentially retraumatizing for the survivor. We hope that the outcome of this case will protect this survivor and others.

On **September 16 and 19**, we were in oral argument and moot court in **Los Angeles** for a **case involving victim-blaming and language access**. Language access comes up all too often in the court system, and it can be a dangerous barrier for domestic violence survivors. As an example, we recently represented a survivor who was denied a restraining order, leaving her unprotected for 5 years, because she was not provided with an interpreter in court. We were able to set her up for another restraining order hearing after [representing her on appeal](#) and winning her case; we are thankful she is still safe despite the long wait for another hearing. We also represented a survivor who was brought to the United States by her abuser and had her limited English language proficiency held against her in the trial court's custody decision. [The appellate court overturned this portion of the custody ruling](#). FVAP is working tirelessly to protect survivors by overturning court outcomes that use inconsequential factors, like English language proficiency, to deny protection.

Collaborating to Protect Survivors' Confidentiality and Privileged Information



As part of a comprehensive tool-kit that **empowers domestic violence agencies to protect their clients' right to confidentiality and to maintain their privileged information**, [FVAP](#) is providing monthly "office hours"-style virtual meetings where our attorneys provide real-time legal information to domestic violence shelters and other agencies. The tool-kit is a collaboration between [FVAP](#), the [California Partnership to End Domestic Violence](#), and the [Confidentiality Institute](#) and includes recorded webinars and written informational materials. **The monthly meetings kicked off in July 2019** with a discussion of what to think about if you are a domestic violence advocate and also a mandated reporter of child abuse. Other topics have included

responding to civil and criminal subpoenas and working with youth. [FVAP's](#) work in this area continues to grow. We approach the work with the awareness that domestic violence advocates often come into contact with Immigration & Customs Enforcement officers, community partners who do not have access to survivors' privileged information, and victims' rights workers who are employed by law enforcement. Navigating community relationships to support survivors while maintaining confidentiality and privilege requires a nuanced understanding of the complex state and federal laws involved.

Check Out Videos of Banding Together 2019’s Bands



Photo by [Cathy Breslow/Breslow Imaging](#)

If you're feeling in the mood to rock out, check out the [Banding Together website](#) to view videos of all of the performances by this year's talented bands at FVAP's June 2019 Battle of the Bands. Huge thanks to our videographer, **Glenn Mercado**, who volunteered his time and talent to film and edit videos of our bands.

September 2019

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