



JUSTICE IN ACTION

VOLUME I, NO. 7

Order of Contents

[From Our Executive Director](#)

[Legislative Update](#)

[Training Video: Kentucky Appeals Process](#)

[Celebrating Solutions: Looking Back On Our Winners](#)

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Reader,

Welcome again from my remote office. As I write to you wondering when or if my children will return to in-person school this year, I am reminded that just four months ago, I held out hope that by the time school started in August, our lives would largely be back to normal--with people going to work, kids attending school, and fall festivals in the planning stages soon to begin. Yet, here we are, with none of those things truly as I had anticipated.

As I think of our slow-climb to normalcy, I'm again reminded of the lives of so many survivors of intimate partner violence. I'm reminded that the outsider's advice to "just leave" the unhealthy relationship is rarely so simple to follow. Because intimate partner violence occurs in relationships, breaking away is rarely quick and easy. In addition to safety issues, there are often issues of separation of property, custody of children, possession of pets, and divorce. I recently read about a woman whose efforts to obtain custody of her children from her abusive husband lasted four years. From our own experiences here at the Mary Byron Project, we see and know that when the courts are involved--especially the appellate courts--there are few quick answers. But it helps alleviate some of the stress for survivors when they know that the attorneys representing them understand intimate partner violence, are willing to believe and fight for them, and are not limited in their service by the number of billable hours the survivor can afford. Your support of our programs helps make the survivor's long journey to safety a bit less harrowing. We thank you!

And speaking of long processes, this month, I invite you to revisit legislative proposals we talked about earlier this year to see what happened in Kentucky's General Assembly. If you're curious about where our Appellate Advocacy work falls in the scheme of court proceedings, I recommend you check out our online training about the Kentucky Appeals Process. And as we hope for safe return to school for youth across the country, I encourage you to learn about some of our past Celebrating Solutions Winners who devote their energies to preventing intimate partner violence among youth populations and providing services to youth survivors.

Happy reading!

Donde Dilbert



In January we told you about proposed legislation that might be of interest to you. Before the legislative session ended, a world pandemic complicated how the General Assembly operated, as well as their top priorities. Most of the bills we told you about stalled in committee and one was withdrawn. A few passed and one of those will appear on the November general election ballot for voter ratification. Want the specifics? Read on.

The following bills never made it out of committees:

HB 45, An Act relating to firearms and declaring an emergency. A bill which would have amended KRS 403.635(2) to require courts to prohibit certain domestic violence protective order respondent's from possessing firearms and order surrender of those firearms.

HB 76, An Act relating to firearms possession, which made possession of a firearm by certain persons against whom civil protective orders were issued a Class C felony.

HB 105, An Act relating to interpersonal protective orders, which would have permitted mental health professionals or clergy persons to seek an interpersonal protective order against a patient who stalks or sexually assaults them.

HB 122, An Act relating to leave from employment for crime victims, which would have prohibited employers from discharging, discriminating, or retaliating against employees who are crime victims due to attendance in court or other legal or investigative proceedings associated with the criminal prosecution.

HB 216, An Act relating to interpersonal violence, which defined certain conduct towards domestic animals as domestic and dating violence and abuse for purposes of securing orders of protection passed the House with a vote of 81-3 but then stalled in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

One bill was withdrawn by its sponsor:

HB 131, An Act Relating to the reporting of statistics involving domestic violence, which required annual reporting of certain statistics regarding domestic violence homicides, was withdrawn by the sponsor on March 12, 2020.

Three bills passed:

HB 256, An Act relating to the rights of victims of sexual offenses, passed the House with a vote of 84-0 and the Senate with a vote of 34-0 and was signed into law by the Governor on March 24, 2020. The law takes effect on July 15, 2020. However, the law was altered from its original form. The final adopted bill tracks prior language that terminated custody, visitation, and inheritance rights for persons convicted under Kentucky law of a felony sex offense that resulted in the conception of the child and expands application so that persons convicted of similar crimes in other jurisdiction are also denied custody, visitation, and inheritance rights related to the child.

SB 15, An Act proposing to create a new section of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to crime victims' rights, also known as Marsy's Law, passed the Senate by a vote of 31-6-1 and the House by a vote of 74-15. Because the substance of the bill concerns an amendment to the state constitution, which requires ratification by voters, the measure will appear on the November ballot for Kentucky voters to decide. The companion bill, SB 80, An Act relating to crime victims' rights, passed the Senate by a vote of 29-2-1 and the House by a vote of 81-8. The bill was signed by the Governor on April 24, 2020, but will only take effect upon ratification of the constitutional amendment contained in SB 15.

Legislators have begun to prefile bills for the 2021 legislative session. We'll be monitoring for bills you might be interested in.

↓ CHECK OUT THIS TRAINING VIDEO!



Celebrating Solutions 20th Anniversary
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE
Looking Back on Our Winners...

Each month leading to the selection of the winner of the Celebrating Solutions “Award for Excellence”, we spotlight some of our incredible former winners and their services to victims of intimate partner violence. This month the winners are programs which focus on the engagement and education of youth.

The applications of all the Celebrating Solutions and Roth winners can be found on our website at <https://www.marybyronproject.org/celebrating-solutions/>

Day One New York, Inc., New York, NY, 2012 Celebrating Solutions Winner

Day One empowers youth to maintain healthy relationship free from all forms of abuse. Each year Day One provides counseling, legal assistance, preventive education, and trainings to over 25,000 youth and youth-serving adults across the 5 boroughs of NYC.

Day One is recognized as a leading expert on dating abuse and sexual assault among youth, 24 and under. <https://www.dayoney.org/>

The SAFE Alliance, “Expect Respect”, Austin, TX, 2009 Celebrating Solutions Winner

For over 32 years, the Expect Respect program has promoted safe and healthy relationships for youth. It is a multi-faceted program which aims to break the cycle of intimate partner violence through school-based education, support groups and counseling, engaging youth as leaders and influencers, and building capacity among adults for response and prevention. <https://www.safeaustin.org/>

Jana's Campaign, "Love Doesn't Hurt – Teen Dating Violence Prevention Education", Hays, KS, 2016 Celebrating Solutions Commended Program Award.

Middle and high school Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) teachers, and Future, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) advisors are trained to incorporate the evidence based Safe Date's 10-lesson curriculum into existing classroom/courses creating powerful conversations around the issue of healthy vs unhealthy relationships, consent, etc. <https://www.janascampaign.org/>

Our House, New Birth to Violence Free Living, W.A.V. E. Interpersonal Violence Prevention Youth Program, Greenville, MS, 2015 Celebrating Solutions Winner

The W.A.V.E. (Working Against Violence Everywhere) Youth Council's mission is to curtail the number of domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking occurrences among African American youth ages of 13-24 who reside in 9 Mississippi Delta rural counties. The mission is accomplished by implementing public awareness campaigns, addressing the emotional and physical needs of those in the target population, and designing healthy relationship, culturally specific support groups for African American youth. <https://www.ourhousevoices.com/>

Click Here to Donate!



Copyright © 2020 The Mary Byron Project, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

The Mary Byron Project
9901 Linn Station Rd
Louisville, KY 40223-3808