



Domestic Abuse Panel Addressing the Effect of Domestic Violence on Children

The first panel was in July of 2002 in Ramsey County. The domestic abuse panel started as a pilot program focused on the effect on the collateral victims (children) and their experience while living in a conflicted/violent household. It was geared to mid to high risk offenders who have completed court-ordered domestic abuse programming.

The response has been very positive from the offenders, as well as, professionals working in the field. Since then it has included first time offenders (5th degree and disorderly), Ramsey county workhouse and Limo lakes prison. The panel has had the support of Judges, county probation, UofM and local programs.

The panel lineup includes the following:

- ❑ Video entitled: “Through My Eyes” children talking about the violence they have witnessed.
- ❑ 911 calls mixed in between speakers.
- ❑ A father (former perpetrator) and his daughter (child victim) talk about the effect of domestic violence on their family and them individually.
- ❑ Adult men (child victims) talk about the domestic violence they experienced as children and effect on them then and now.
- ❑ Provide information to the offenders on what the children will need from them as parents to rebound from exposure to abuse.
- ❑ Have an open discussion about the issue with the panel.
- ❑ Provide information about community resources for the offenders.

A follow up of past panel participates by researching county arrest records of over 200 offenders resulted in the following:

- A year after attending the panel 86% didn't reoffend.
- 2 years after attending the panel 79% didn't reoffend.
- 3 years after attending the panel 76% didn't reoffend.

For more information: Sam Simmons 612-721-0106.