

# NGSC Resources Help Courts Deal with Family Violence

**D**omestic violence is one of the most significant issues facing the courts today. Domestic violence filings increased by 12 percent in 38 states between 1996 and 2000, according to the National Center for State Courts' *Examining the Work of State Courts, 2001*, and the National Center's Knowledge and Information Service fielded 126 questions involving family violence between January 1 and May 7, 2002.


To help courts improve the ways they serve families in crisis, the National Center formed the Family Violence Community of Practice (CoP). The mission of this CoP, which consists of National Center staff with expertise in domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, juvenile justice, and victims' rights, is to improve the justice system's response to family violence through research, technical assistance, and education.

The Family Violence CoP provides a number of resources for courts. The quarterly *Family Violence Forum* newsletter keeps courts up-to-date not only on National Center projects but also on state court initiatives to tackle the problem of family violence. For example, the newsletter's first issue (spring 2002) started a regular "Spotlight on the Courts" feature with an article about Florida's Elder Justice Center (13th Judicial Circuit, Tampa), which won the National Association for Court Management's Justice Achievement Award in 2001. The newsletter is located online at [www.ncsconline.org/WC/Publications/Res\\_FamVio\\_FVNLVol1Spring2002Pub.pdf](http://www.ncsconline.org/WC/Publications/Res_FamVio_FVNLVol1Spring2002Pub.pdf).

A Family Violence module on the National Center's Web site (at [www.ncsconline.org](http://www.ncsconline.org)) also provides important information courts can use to improve their

response to family violence cases. Modules on child abuse and neglect, elder abuse, and adolescent-dating violence are planned, as well.

Other initiatives of the National Center's Family Violence CoP include regional meetings to ensure the full faith and credit of protection orders both within and between states, collaborations to address domestic violence and child maltreatment, and permanency for abused and neglected children. For more information on the Family Violence Community of

Practice, please contact Madelynn Herman, knowledge management analyst at (757) 259-1549 or by e-mail at [mherman@ncsc.dni.us](mailto:mherman@ncsc.dni.us). 



## Proposed Bylaw Amendments for 2002 Annual Conference, *continued*

### Article VII – Sec. 9. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Board of Governors may delegate certain of its administrative powers as it may determine except its power to fill vacancies on the Board, to an Executive Committee to act when the Board is not in session. Any such actions taken by the Executive Committee must be by a two-thirds vote of the eligible voting members of the Executive Committee. Effective for the term of office for 2003-2004 and after, any such actions taken by the Executive Committee must be by vote of more than fifty percent of the eligible voting members

of the Executive Committee. Such Executive Committee shall consist of:

- (a) Each elected Officer of the Association as provided in Article VIII, Section 1.
- (b) Three members of the Board of Governors, who shall be elected by the Board, for a one-year term, at its first meeting following each Annual Conference.
- (c) All past presidents of the Association who remain dues-paying members, and who shall serve as non-voting, ex-officio members without recompense. 