

Monroe County
Integrated Domestic Violence Court Partners

- ◆ Alternatives For Battered Women
- ◆ Center For Court Innovation
- ◆ Delphi Drug and Alcohol Council
- ◆ Greater Upstate Law Project
- ◆ Legal Aid Society of Rochester
- ◆ Local Police Agencies: Brighton, East Rochester,
Fairport, Gates, Greece, Irondequoit, Ogden,
Sweden, and Webster
- ◆ Mens Workshop
- ◆ Monroe County Department of Probation
- ◆ Monroe County District Attorney's Office
- ◆ Monroe County Public Defender's Office
- ◆ Monroe County Sheriff's Department
- ◆ Pre-Trial Services Corporation
Monroe County Bar Association
- ◆ Rochester Police Department
- ◆ Rochester Police Department-Victim Assistance Program
- ◆ Rochester Safe Start
- ◆ Society for the Prevention and Care of Children
- ◆ Unity Health System

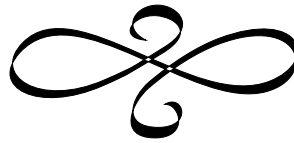
“One Family/One Judge”

“From orders of protection, to child custody determinations to divorce decrees, related matters would be handled in one courtroom, promoting not just informed decision making but also efficient case management, finally and forever changing the way we treat families and children in our justice system.”

Hon. Judith S. Kaye, Chief Judge New York Court of Appeals

MONROE COUNTY

INTEGRATED
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT



Honorable Elma A. Bellini
Presiding Justice

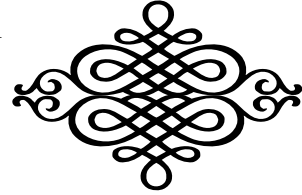
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The Monroe County Integrated Domestic Violence Court (IDV Court) was established to meet the mandate set forth by New York State Chief Judge Judith Kaye “to improve the quality of justice we provide to families victimized by domestic violence.” As envisioned by Judge Kaye, the IDV Court is based on the concept of “One Family/One Judge,” and is designed to simplify the court process for victims of domestic violence seeking court intervention while

safeguarding the constitutional rights of those accused.

Historically, victims of domestic violence have had to seek criminal prosecution in City or County Court, file petitions for child support, paternity, custody and visitation in Family Court, and litigate matrimonial actions in Supreme Court. Victims are often confused by this process, overwhelmed by the criminal justice system and frustrated by the lack of coordination and continuity between the courts to effectively and efficiently resolve issues to meet their immediate needs.



In contrast to this multi-court labyrinth, the policy of IDV Court is to promptly identify parties having a domestic violence- related criminal matter and family and/or matrimonial matters pending in separate courts and to transfer all matters under the umbrella of IDV Court. As a Supreme Court part with general original jurisdiction, IDV Court is empowered to accept all overlapping criminal and civil matters related to the family.

The Honorable Elma A. Bellini, Acting Supreme Court Justice, presides over this court. Support Magistrate Diana Irizarry handles all child support matters for IDV Court.

All felony and misdemeanor domestic violence related offenses committed in Monroe County having an overlapping Family Court and/or matrimonial matter pending are transferred to IDV Court. Cases will remain in IDV Court from post-arraignment appearance through disposition and post-disposition monitoring. Those cases that proceed to trial will also remain in IDV Court until trial-ready.

Violations of orders of protection, returns on warrants or any other violations of court-mandated conditions including probation will be heard in IDV Court.

Related cases involving the same family arising during the pendency of an IDV case are also transferred to IDV Court.

DEFENDANT ACCOUNTABILITY

Defendants not sentenced to incarceration are mandated to appear in IDV Court for regular compliance reports with court mandates including attendance and completion of a Domestic Violence Educational Program. Defendants sentenced to Monroe County Domestic Violence Intensive Supervision Unit of Probation are monitored for compliance with conditions of probation including house arrest, electronic monitoring and other court mandated services. All defendants will be monitored for the length of their sentence.

ENHANCE VICTIM SAFETY

Paramount to the success of IDV Court is the court's ability to provide the victim with immediate access to a victim advocate and victim advocacy services.

Margy Shavick of Alternatives for Battered Women is available to assist victims of domestic violence with safety planning and support services throughout the court proceedings. Linkage to a comprehensive array of health and social services are provided to meet the immediate and long-term needs of the family.

This specialized court operation and case handling process will promote continuity, consistency and efficiency in the handling of domestic violence offenses.