Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

CHAMBERS OF
WINIFRED YOUNGE SMITH
PRESIDING JUDGE

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SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

GENERAL DIRECTIVE BY THE PRESIDING JUDGE

DIRECTIVE NO: **2014-15**

SUBJECT: **FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNCIL**

I. Establishment and Purpose

Pursuant to the general authority conveyed under rule 10.603(c)(8) of the California Rules of Court, a Family Violence Council is established to serve the needs of the Alameda County Superior Court and the communities it serves.

The purpose of the Family Violence Council is to provide critical feedback to the Court regarding family violence; to improve coordination and cooperation between the Court and other public and private agencies that respond to family violence and abuse in Alameda County; and to promote public education on family violence. The Family Violence Council is restricted in the same way the Court is restricted from advocating on behalf of particular issues.

II. Meetings

The Family Violence Council shall meet at least four times per year. All meetings shall be open to the public.

III. Membership

Membership shall be open to all persons who support the purpose of the council. People representing the interests and perspectives of the following agencies or sectors of the community are particularly encouraged to become members of the council:

- All divisions or departments of the Court that deal with family violence, including juvenile court, family court, and criminal court;

- Family Dispute Resolution Services;
- District Attorney's Office;
- Public Defender's Office;
- County Counsel's Office;
- Local police departments;
- Alameda County Sheriff's Department;
- Probation Department;
- Social Services Agency;
- Behavioral Health services;
- Public Health agencies;
- Medical community;
- Local bar associations, including the family law and juvenile law bar;
- Legal services providers;
- Battered women's shelters, batterer's intervention program providers, survivors of family violence, and former batterers;
- Educational institutions; and
- Providers of therapy for families and children affected by family violence.

Membership on the Council is acquired and maintained by regular attendance at Council meetings.

IV. Chair of the Family Violence Council

The presiding judge shall annually appoint a judicial officer as chair of the Council. The presiding judge may appoint co-chairs provided that both are judicial officers or one is a judicial officer and the other is a court employee nominated by the Court Executive Officer. The chair or co-chairs shall preside at meetings of the Council and of the Council Steering Committee, shall appoint committees as needed, shall provide leadership and direction for the Council and the Steering Committee, and shall communicate with the presiding judge regarding Council business.

V. Secretary of the Council

The Court Executive Officer or his or her designee shall be ex officio secretary of the Council and shall be responsible for providing secretarial assistance to the Council.

VI. Steering Committee

The Council shall have a Steering Committee comprising judicial officers or court staff appointed by the chair or co-chairs. Any immediate past chair or co-chair shall be a member of the Steering Committee. The chair or co-chairs may from time-to-time invite other members of the Council to attend Steering Committee meetings. The Steering Committee shall meet as needed to set the agenda for

Council meetings, provide guidance and oversight for other Council committees, identify emerging issues that should be considered by the Council, and ensure that the programs and activities of the Council and its committees effectively promote the purposes and goals of the Council and the policies of the Court.

VII. Other Committees

The Council shall operate through a committee structure. The chair of the Council is responsible for establishing the existence, scope, and purview of any committees.

VIII. Powers and Duties of the Family Violence Council

The Council has the authority and duty to do the following:

i. Improve the coordination and cooperation between the Court and public and private agencies, programs, and services that respond to family violence and abuse in Alameda County;

ii. Encourage and promote public education on family violence;

iii. Form committees to implement the goals and objectives of the Council;

iv. Request information, data, research and other assistance from courts and public and private agencies and services that respond to family violence and abuse to further the goals and objectives of the Council;

v. Assess methods used by courts and public and private agencies, programs, and services to respond to family violence and abuse in Alameda County;

vi. Examine and review legislation that relates to family violence and abuse; and

vii. Make recommendations to the presiding judge and/or appropriate Court committees to improve the response to family violence and abuse in Alameda County.

This directive shall expire on December 31, 2014.

Issued: January 14, 2013

Hon. Winifred Y. Smith, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Alameda