

SJI Newsletter

March 2021 | Volume 31, No. 6



Courts Continuity of Operations (COOP) Planning Guide and Template

Nathan Hall, Project Director
Justin Mammen, Project Consultant
Steven Berson, Project Consultant
Greg Cowan, Project Consultant
Felix Bajandas, Project Consultant

Daniel J. Hall, Vice President
Court Consulting Services
707 Seventeenth Street, Suite 2900
Denver, Colorado 80202-3429



The New Guide To Assist Courts In Planning for Natural Disasters and other Emergencies

The [National Center for State Courts](#) (NCSC), with SJI support, has developed [a new emergency management planning guide](#) to help court officials better prepare for and respond to natural disasters and other emergencies that threaten court operations. The guide, which replaces one created in 2007, comes at a time when the nation is experiencing unprecedented hurricane and wildfire seasons, a pandemic, increasing civil unrest and domestic terrorism. The guide identifies how court officials should write emergency management plans, and connect with state and federal agencies that can help them before, during, and after natural disasters and emergencies.

The work to develop the guide started with a “lessons-learned” meeting in 2019, when court officials from states that experienced major natural disasters -- Florida, Texas, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, California and Hawaii -- gathered in Denver to share what did and did not work in their states. After the meeting, NCSC consultants conducted technical assistance projects in many of those states through the lens of the lessons learned.

The new guide, which was recently presented to the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ), is intended to help all state courts as they create and refine their emergency management plans, commonly referred to as COOPs, or Continuity of Operations Plans. “While the challenges are great, many courts have learned quite a bit about how to innovate and maintain operations in the face of an emergency,” said Nathan Hall, the project director. “The recent lessons learned by these courts have been documented in the new COOP planning guide.” Hall added that it made perfect sense to develop a new guide because the 2007 guide needed to be updated, and other emergency management guides are not specific to courts.

Here are some initial steps, spelled out in the guide, for court officials to take before writing an emergency management plan:

- Get executive support.
- Assign a COOP leader.
- Assemble a COOP planning team.
- Understand emergency management laws and policies.
- Establish relationships with local emergency management officials and key court leaders.

This work will end with the development of additional online assessment and planning tools to help courts. “Moving forward,” Hall said, “this work should make the process of developing a COOP plan much more doable for courts and ultimately result in courts being better prepared for any emergency situation that may arise.”



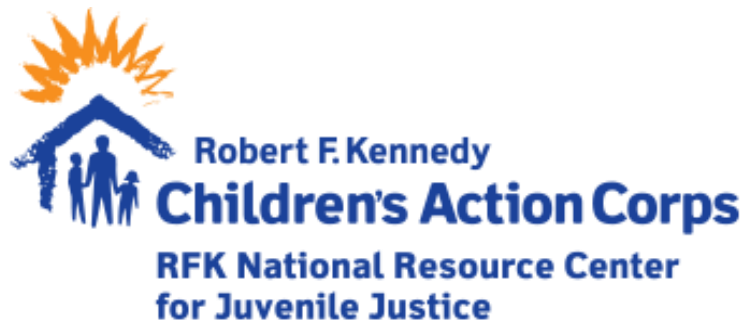
NCJFCJ Holds Roundtable Discussion with Military-Connected Family Organizations and Programs

The [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#) (NCJFCJ), with support from SJI, held a virtual roundtable discussion last month with representatives from organizations, programs, and agencies serving military-connected families. The roundtable discussion was held to further the NCJFCJ's efforts to improve support for military-connected families that are involved in the juvenile and family court system. To this end, national-level entities that work with military-connected families were brought together to network, create new or enhance existing connections across organizations, and share information on programs, resources, and training opportunities.

Roundtable participants included representatives from a broad range of civilian organizations, military programs, and offices within the federal government, namely the [Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness](#), the [National Children's Alliance](#), [Justice for Vets](#), [National Organization for Victim Assistance](#), the [National Military Family Association](#), the [National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#), [Zero to Three](#), the [Battered Women's Justice Project](#), the [National Center on the Sexual Behavior of Youth](#), Family Advocacy Programs and JAG Corps staff from military installations, the Department of Defense/Office of Military Family Readiness Policy, the [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#), and the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#). Participants also included NCJFCJ judges, Military Committee members, and staff.

The roundtable was the most recent activity in NCJFCJ's Military-Connected Families and the Courts Project, which began in 2018 with funding from SJI. The project's overall goal is to provide training, technical assistance, and resources to help strengthen collaboration and coordination across state court system professionals, civilian organizations, and military installations in order to better serve military families involved in the juvenile and family courts.

To read the full article, please visit: [NCJFCJ Holds Roundtable Discussion with Military-Connected Family Organizations and Programs | NCJFC](#)



Dual Status Youth - Technical Assistance Workbook, *Updated Edition*

The RFK National Resource Center has released the [Dual Status Youth – Technical Assistance Workbook, Updated Edition](#) to enhance its practical guidance for state and local jurisdictions on behalf of dual status youth. The highly successful framework, originally developed in 2003, continues to be presented in its original form given the successful outcomes it has generated for dual status youth and their families—as well as multi-system, youth-serving agencies throughout the country—for nearly two decades.

This updated Technical Assistance Workbook provides access to a wealth of practical new examples of replicable products (e.g., memoranda of understanding, information sharing agreements, policies, procedural narratives, multi-disciplinary team structure and operations, system performance and outcome measures, data collection and reporting

methods) that will support state and local jurisdictions seeking to undertake this important work. The RFK National Resource Center's Dual Status Youth Practice Network and Peer Mentors are featured, demonstrating how peer-to-peer partnerships can assist jurisdictions in effectively navigating through challenges and obstacles to create successful outcomes. Additionally, the updated Technical Assistance Workbook highlights the increased importance of Implementation Science principles and tenets to ensure sustainability of dual status youth initiatives.

Currently, the RFK National Resource Center is working in five states and nine jurisdictions to positively impact multi-system initiatives on behalf of dual status youth. These efforts, combined with its long history of intensive technical assistance partnerships, have resulted in lessons learned, replicable products, and practice methods in more than thirty jurisdictions across the country. These are presented in the updated Workbook.

Like its predecessor, the updated Workbook serves as a companion piece to the Guidebook for Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare System Coordination and Integration: A Framework for Improved Outcomes, Third Edition (2013). Look for the red icon below in the workbook to reference to additional materials found in the [Guidebook](#).





News from NIJ Publications

Four-Part Series Explores Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Criminal Justice System

Through the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, NIJ has made available the following final technical reports (these reports are the result of an NIJ-funded projects but were not published by the U.S. Department of Justice):

Title: Artificial Intelligence in the Criminal Justice System: Demystifying Artificial Intelligence, its Applications, and Potential Risks

Authors: James Redden, Molly O'Donovan Dix

Links: [Summary](#), [Full Document](#) (pdf, 10 pages)

Title: Artificial Intelligence Applications in Law Enforcement: An Overview of Artificial Intelligence Applications and Considerations for State and Local Law Enforcement

Authors: James Redden, Brian Aagaard, Travis Taniguchi

Links: [Summary](#), [Full Document](#) (pdf, 10 pages)

Title: Artificial Intelligence Applications for Criminal Courts: An Overview of Artificial Intelligence Applications for Prosecutors and Associated Considerations for the Criminal Court System

Authors: James Redden, Duren Banks

Links: [Summary](#), [Full Document](#) (pdf, 11 pages)

Title: Artificial Intelligence in Corrections: An Overview of AI Applications and Considerations for Systems Administrators a Policy Makers

Authors: James Redden, Christopher Inkpen Ph.D., Matthew DeMichele Ph.D.

Links: [Summary](#), [Full Document](#) (pdf, 8 pages)

[View all](#) recently added publications and multimedia.



Ethics Awareness Month

March is Ethics Awareness Month. The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) has published the [winter issue of the *Judicial Conduct Reporter*](#) and is available online. The issue reviews judicial ethics and discipline in 2020 with stories on:

- State judicial discipline in 2020
- Removal cases in 2020
- Top judicial ethics and discipline stories of 2020

What judges said to women that got them in trouble:

- Judicial participation in demonstrations, protests, marches, and rallies
- Judicial ethics and discipline during a pandemic

What judges said that got them in trouble in 2020:

- What they said to or about litigants that got them in trouble

- What they said to or about criminal defendants that got them in trouble
- What they said to or about attorneys that got them in trouble
- What they said to court staff that got them in trouble
- What they said in election campaigns that got them in trouble
- What they said to law enforcement that got them in trouble
- What they said off-the-bench that got them in trouble
- What they said on social media that got them in trouble

The *Judicial Conduct Reporter* is published electronically on NCSC's website, and [an index and current and past issues of the Reporter are available online](#). Anyone can [sign up to receive notice](#) when a new issue is available.

SJI Board of Directors

Chair

John D. Minton, Jr.
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Kentucky
Frankfort, KY

Vice Chair

Daniel J. Becker
State Court Administrator (ret.)
Utah AOC
Salt Lake City, UT

Secretary

Gayle A. Nachtigal
Senior Circuit Court Judge
Washington County Circuit Court
Hillsboro, OR

Treasurer

David V. Brewer
Justice
Oregon Supreme Court
Salem, OR

Jonathan Lippman
Chief Judge of New York (ret.)
of Counsel
Latham & Watkins, LLP
New York, NY

Chase T. Rogers

Chief Justice (ret.)
Supreme Court of Connecticut
Partner
Pitney Day, LLP
Hartford, CT

Wilfredo Martinez

Senior Judge
State of Florida
Orlando, FL

Marsha J. Rabiteau

Executive Director
Center for Human Trafficking Court
Solutions
Bloomfield, CT

Hernan D. Vera

Principal
Bird Marella P.C.
Los Angeles, CA

Isabel Frammer

President
Language Access Consultants, LLC
Copley, OH

Jonathan D. Mattiello

Executive Director

The State Justice Institute is a federally-funded, non-profit corporation established by federal law in 1984 to improve the quality of justice in the state courts.



Share the News

SJI uses [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) to promote the work of its grantees and also shares information of interest to the entire state court community. If your organization's work complements ours, let us know and we will share.