

Praxis International –
Rural Violence Against Women

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When Victims of Battering are Charged with Assault:

Exploring Effective Advocacy Responses

Cindene Pezzell, National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women

May 17, 2017

>> Hello everyone, thank you for joining today. We are at the top of the hour. We will start with today's presentation. Hello. Welcome. Offered by Praxis International - Rural Technical Assistance on Violence Against Women . Rural building blocks webinar .. -- Rural building blocks webinar I -- When Victims of Battering are Charged with Crimes: Exploring Effective Advocacy Responses with Cindene Pezzell, National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered women training to have relevant issues [Indiscernible]. I'm glad you are here today. My name is Liz, I am the specialist in Minnesota. I facilitate these webinars each month. Today's topic, John five -- When Victims of Battering are Charged with Crimes: Exploring Effective Advocacy Responses with Cindene Pezzell, National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered women . We know across the country increasing numbers of battered women are being charged with us assault. And illegal use of violence. If the goal of communicated response is [Indiscernible] and accountability for offenders. Domestic violence programs need advocacy strategy and intervention for intervention [Indiscernible] and severity of violence. Today's presenter is [Indiscernible]. At the clearinghouse, she is the legal coordinator and the lead staff. And program Esper witness project, she chordates the legal team providing technical assistance to defense teams and research and development for material. She is an assistant Public defender at the

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Association of Philadelphia where her focus is in family court, providing criminal defense of crimes involving civil protection violations. Welcome Cindene Pezzell .

>> Thank you very much I am very well.

>> We are fortunate to have you with us today. We are excited for your presentation. Before we get started with that, I would like to briefly touch on a few logistics on how the webinar will function. For the sensibility sake, desktop accessibility, the way you can ask questions today, will be through the column in the middle of your screen that says Q&A on the top. Your questions will get routed to me specifically, and I will integrate your comments into the audio presentation. Cindene Pezzell will respond within a webinar. Your phone will be muted. You will not need to worry about background noise. And we have closed captioning happening in real time at the bottom of your screen. Keep in mind, errors and mistakes occasionally happen, we ask you for your patience if there is any sort of quirky language that you may notice within the captions. As far as your questions and comments in the Q&A box, you can adjust the settings for the display of that box. And all boxes on your screen. If you hover over the small icon on the far right of each box, you will see there is a pot options. A piece you can click on. When you do so, you will see a range of choices that you can accommodate your text size color and so forth, feel free to do so at your own discretion. If you happen to be connected by voice over IP, and you notice the sound quality becomes unstable, your best bet is to dial in by telephone. Once that's audio connection has been made, turn off your speakers. You can see the phone number on your screen with the code. Dial and by telephone at any point if useful. If you encounter any other technical issues, send a message to myself, or to our webinar host. And we will make a point to do our best to help

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troubleshoot. This session is being recorded and posted on the recording archive webpage. With that, I'm going to ask Cindene Pezzell to go ahead get started.

>> Think you very much Liz Carlson . Greetings everyone. I'm glad to be here today. We have a lot to talk about today. It is possible we may not yet to read all, I want you to know that, I will say this again at the end, if you are working with survivors charged with crimes or you want or have questions about it, feel free to reach out to the national clearinghouse and we will talk with you one-on-one. If I do not get to everything today, we can definitely figure out a way to talk with you individually.

>> As an organization, we have a very narrow focus. We need to know a lot about a little bit, like you need to know a lot about a lot. Our expertise is where someone experience abuse have a legal relevance. In cases like that we work with defense attorneys, advocates and other members of defense teams to talk about ways those expensive abuse can support their legal theory. The work we do with advocates tens to locus on how to effectively advocate for victims charged with crimes, keeping in mind, defense based principles that can protect their safety and options. We will talk about how victims of battering get into the legal system in the first place. We will briefly talk about some very bad impacts that can result from that involvement in the criminal legal system. I will outline the practical see strategies -- advocacy. If you're working with charged people. And the context of advocate on a defense team. Finally we will talk about some other places you can get information so you can advance this work within your own organization.

>> Let's start off talking about, let's get our heads around the way, we live in society, and there is a certain amount of baggage that comes along with people who are charged with a crime. If you hear someone discharge, you hear the

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defendant in words that pop up right away. Used to label that person. Here are a list of the few. One of the things I'm used to hearing, if you end up getting arrested, you must have done some. -- Something. That is a common assumption. We know it is not true. Once your defendant, you have labels thinking on you. -- Hanging on you. When someone is a victim, you know, based on the work we do every day. They get planning of labels added to them as well. How often do we hear about victims be called liars, crazy, being told they are making excuses for their behavior. This happens in general. Talking specifically when they need to take this to court, there is a credibility assessment that gets put on victims. When you take being defendant and victim at the same time, those two sets up labels come together. And attach to a person having a hard time being believed about anything they say. If you are charged with a crime, and you have to argue what you are charged of doing as a result of your spirits of abuse, experience people may not see you as a real victim, they may think you are trying to gain the system. I think we have all heard the abuse excuse come up when it comes to victims who say they acted in self defense for example. When I was a public defender, this got thrown around. I understand she was a little bit, she got hit a little, but she gave as she got. Those two identities and experiences come together to create a situation, in which there is going to be a survivor who needs support and services from anti-violence communities. Take those two realities and combine it with the melodies with other oppressions. And other survivors living with on a daily basis. People further marginalize by immigration status or race, their inability to pay bills. That makes navigating the criminal legal system even harder, and relevant to the work you do. This can play out differently problematically for survivors in rural areas. We will talk about some of those ways, more quickly, as we move forward.

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>> Today, when we do this work, and we hear the word victim, a lot of us who have been involved in the criminal system, tend to think of the as the person who has a criminal case against their abusive partner. I will be using victim to refer to anyone as a victim of battering, regardless of whether they are sitting behind the prosecutor or in the defendant's chair. Who gets arrested does not determine a thing in any particular case. -- Victim is always going to mean victim. If I need to refer to someone who has testified against a defendant then I will refer to them as the complaining witness. When people hear about the work of the national clearing house, they tend to think that we stand for this principle, if you have been hurt in your life by your partner, you should probably get to walk away free without any accountability. We do not necessarily the few abuse -- review abuse as a get out of jail free card. You are entitled to rights and privileges to the system. If you're going to have fairness as a defendant, contact me, -- part of the discussion. We stand for the principle that if victims face criminal charges, we need to do a close look at what justice would look like in this scenario. Whether this -- particularly prosecutors. Because you can't get a -- can get a conviction is an injustice to do so. And finally, we are saying as a defendant in the criminal legal system, your experience of abuse should not serve to harm you. We know there are a lot of ways in which someone can be held against them. And result in unfair outcomes, such as verdicts and sentences. Honestly, the most -- introducing this piece, transit -- Liz Carlson talked about -- biggest group, probably cases falling under the umbrella of self defense. In some states called domestic violence. Depending on your statute. And we see homicide cases as well. In all cases, we do our work at the national clearinghouse, where the victim of ongoing battering use resistant force to protect himself from imminent threat. When I talk about experience of abuse getting held against them in court, unless we make sure

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otherwise, self defense is a good example. When we see self defense cases, we hear that common question being thrown around. Whether from people witnessing the trial, jurors talking to each other, why she leave if it was so bad they use that frame of mind to make assumptions caution must be lying about the severity of abuse, therefore not self defense. A clear example when I say abuse resulting in less there trials unless we do something about it. Self defense is not the only type of case where you will see people you work with involved. There are clusters of other cases. There is not a finite list. Definitely parental kidnapping cases. Cases where protective parents get charged crimes because they take their children and flea to safety, in violation of a court order or statute. That exists in the jurisdiction they fled. We see failure to protect cases. And most of you have probably worked with parents having been accused of failing to protect their children in the child welfare context I am talking about criminal charges because of a law that states if you did not protect your child from your abusive partner, you created a felony. The traffic cases and economic crime, we tend to see those where peoples abusive partners coerce them into criminal activity. I can say that sentence to you, as advocates and you know what I am talking about. Victims committing crimes because there abusive partners make them do it. Unfortunately, in the world of criminal defense it is a block harder to understand what it means. If you want to argue to the court that you are under the arrest or coerce, in a way that excuses you of criminal punishment, the bar is very high. We have our heads around coercion, whether or not a gun to your head, but a lot harder to get court players on board when it comes to evaluating victims charged with crimes.

>> Before we move from this slide, do you have them examples, someone has chatted asking about an example of a firearm purchase.

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>> Absolutely. We are starting to see this more and more actually. Normally, a lot of firearm cases under federal law. State coming out with strong statutes. They are statutes saying that if you are a person who is normally eligible to purchase a weapon, there is nothing that prohibits you can't you do not have a felony or mental health record that prohibits. You meet qualifications. But you are buying it for the sole purpose to give it to someone prohibited from owning get. In it of itself is a felony. That is a strong purchase. We see victims of intimate partner battering getting coal horse. So there abuse or on themselves. Coerce. It is dangerous and it is a felony. It is one of those things, it is hard to defend against. Easy to prosecute. The people that get caught, Kent to license -- go to having a paper trail. That is an example of it. I could not agree more. Well said.

>> There is probably going to be some type of charges that cluster in all areas. And those charges will depend upon where you're talking about. We know a lot of world areas are struggling in particular with trafficking right now and there are so many ways that victim of ongoing battering get swept up to the system not just as people who are trafficked but forced to traffic others. People start off, whether talking about labor or sex trafficking, they start off that young ages. And the only agency is within the trafficking ring, so the people who have coerce into doing this force work, give them power. And then looked at as doing coercing of others. We see that a lot in rural areas. Certainly, the aims will get coal horse -- victims who get coal horse. Economic crimes. Co-horse. These are the types of things we see in the world -- rural spots.

>> I apologize. If this is what you are responding or talking about terms of prostitution or to clarify is prostitution, is that a circumstance in which women are

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forced into prostitution by their batterer? Or is it an escape? What you see more of?

>> That is a good question. We do not see prostitution cases a lot. But when we do, it tends to be people getting arrested for prostitution, whose abusive partner for us -- forced them in. The more common scenario, victims, -- of battering, who by nature of their circumstance, whether limited economically, [Indiscernible]. They may do it added desperation related to their abuse or a substance abuse issue. Even if not affirmatively porting the mound Street. We see both ways.

>> While you were responding, one of our listeners added a comment to say, where she is joining from an Nevada, prostitution is legal. That is a significant factor in terms of the consequence of what batterers do with their partners and nation should. -- Relationship.

>> That is a very good point.

>> Thank you.

>> I have been talking about these cases were we can identify this legal relationship. We can say this person harmed their abusive partner because defending himself from harm. That is a direct connection between the abuse and the crime for which charged. A lot of cases where we cannot necessarily make those connected dots readily. For purposes of providing advocacy, I am putting it out there, with the exception of assistant that advocates can get to defense attorney Scott does not matter we can make the connection there is nothing about a battered person charged with a crime makes them any less battered the matter how seemingly canis. -- Canis. Canis. When I say [Indiscernible] honestly I am preaching to the choir. I cannot imagine someone with more barriers in front,

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and intersecting oppressions and disadvantage, in a place where resources are scarce. And health seeking is tricky. And a part of survival strategy is to navigate around -- remote location, especially if isolated. The defendants that you work with, on the call, or some people in most need of the kind of services we will talk about today. I will not spend a lot of time here, but we need to be doing work on behalf of incarcerated people. Most people in jail and prison have experience abuse as a child or adult. Statistics are all over the place. The average amount of people who identify as abuse or around 70% to 90% of incarcerated women. We know anywhere from a third to 85% of those people identified being victims of intimate partner battering. These studies are all over. One thing is clear, no matter what study, jails and prisons are filled with victims of battery. When we talk about needing people, that is where the people we serve are at. No cakewalk for anyone who is charged or convicted with a crime. I know on this call, we can all rattle off 25 collateral consequences of having to arrest record or conviction record. I want to focus on some of the ways in which victims of battering are equally impacted. When we talk about piecing danger, -- increasing danger. It comes with decreasing choices. When someone hasn't arrest record or conviction record, it is nothing but increase choices -- decreased traces. People's housing options are limited, education limited, these are limitations that can result in a victim making choices that they we not otherwise make. While it is terrible for anyone to experience ongoing battering, the collateral consequences can put someone in harms way of a conviction. Especially true for immigrants. People who batter immigrants have a lot of options when it comes to power. A lot of leverage. Can you imagine, if you stay in the country or not, so we in the hands of your abusive partner testifying against you. That is a lot of power. I will move on. We talked about finances and housing. Custody is huge. If someone has a criminal

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record, it will be hard for us to explain the circumstances the court in a way that the court understands. Parenting issues, the contacts become complicated. If a survivor, ends up incarcerated, and on this of the abusive partner to give the survivor access to children, that could be devastating and a huge tool of coercion. -- Co-version co-version. They can also be something that impacts the way -- determination hearing for example. The less power a victim has, and the more power the abusive partner has, as undergirded by the state, the more danger the survivor is actually in. If you are dealing with court systems in the future, and you have an arrest or conviction record, a lot more labels being slapped on you. You will become with less credibility otherwise. This is not just system groups, some community groups. We definitely here about domestic violence programs that refuse services the basis of a criminal record. I hope it does not happen very much, but we hear about it enough and is disheartening. Like we know, whether someone has been arrested or convicted -- it does not tell them if they are survivor services. Let's talk about immediate increase in physical risk. If the police are a resource for someone. In rural places that can be tricky. The survivor tried to use the police and ended up getting arrested themselves, what are the chances they will call the police again? Slim to none. Even for the people who could look to the police as a way to interrupt violence but de-escalate in issue, it will not be there anymore as an action. Think about the question we raise earlier, people cannot seem to answer for themselves, why did she just we? Think about someone on probation, parole or house arrest, you might have a criminal legal system telling you cannot leave. So survivors have to make a choice between defined court or partner. And they will choose to define the court as their partner is scary. And their freedom on the line. These are ways in which being a survivor and having a record at the same time can't up the ante. Cannot. -

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- Can. Personal reporting, definitely a lot harder to not update. -- Navigate. There are times we can adjust. If people want to return to their community, and makes reporting to probation or parole, wherever that tends to be, if it takes it impossible, the parole board may say, if you cannot make probation we will not let you out. Rural victim, they can find themselves in positions where they do a longer jail sentence. A lot of times probation requirements simply harder to me in rural areas, because of the opportunities are less. There's always this, you either have to do employment or job training. If I cannot find a job, the idea job training is laughable. What is that? And where do you expect to find it? Challenges to successful reentry. People who leave jails and prisons, they do not go into a community with a lot of support, and people on their side, making sure they get what they need, it is hard to be someone in going back into the system. In other consideration for people who work in rural areas, you have jails and prisons in your areas. I was talking with a friend, a lot of times people from urban areas enter into rural areas. It can be extremely challenging for someone who has never, lived outside of an urban environment. People often have to adjust to the ways in which they explained what services are available, the ways they get help and to great someone back into a free community. -- Integrate.

>> Yes. We have a Q comments -- if you comments. Can you take them now?

>> Yes.

>> One listener is wondering if you have any recommendations as to how to handle [Indiscernible] in terms of difficulty that there is more providing victims having conviction. You have any recommendations to work with [Indiscernible]?

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>> I would suggest, if people have not looked at the updated [Indiscernible] guidelines, do so. It is a lot easier to serve incarcerated survivors. They have taken out a lot of language with charged people. I do not believe there is any language that limits working with convicted people. I do not have them in front of me but it is a lot easier than it used to be.

>> Okay, that is good to know. For the listener with that specific question, if you do a little research and unable to find the information, the end of our webinar, the PowerPoint will be available and her contact commission is on the last slide. -- Contact Filmation. If you need more information. -- Contact Filmation.

>> Another person is wondering about complication jurisdiction with tribal lands. Like, webinar in it of itself.

>> Do you have any, or is there anything that is useful and not detailed to be able to respond and give some direction -- respond?

>> I do not understand.

>> The complication of serving victims who have convictions with the tribal land. That jurisdiction within a tribal land or area.

>> That is a good question, I don't know if it is more about jurisdiction or service. Whenever I have a question about providing services to someone, whether that person lives on native land or he or she convicted on native land. Reach out to the women's resource Center and go from there. The other thing I would say, if someone is doing some sort of probation like a sentence on behalf for a conviction coming from tribal court, it is important to be cognizant as a collective from probation and state courts. There can be different requirements for people

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and the language we use will need to be shifted. We may not be reporting to probation officers for finds and costs,.. Where there was not a reporting requirement, but meetings with elders required and community service on the reservation. I think not drinking state language into the tribal situation can be important as it can become confusing. And not making assumptions about requirements can feel important. And to look for guidance and guidance from the tribal nation under which the person was convicted. It can be very helpful. I do not know if that answers your question if it's about jurisdiction I am not the right person.

>> Thank you. I did respond to our listener and I let her know she is welcome to contact you, and you can give her the recommendation for other indigenous and tribal reporters -- resource centers.

>> I wonder if you can briefly, respond to give more detail about the ways in which victims are further endangered, physically endangered to the consequence to some of our sponsors?

>> Of some of our responses?

>> In terms of being under [Indiscernible]. [Indiscernible - multiple speakers]. I will read her exact comment. She asked how does a conviction increase overall danger? Results in negative consequences for the victim how does increase danger?

>> One way it can increase danger despite the scope is by giving feet abusive partner more leverage. Especially true when the abusive partner considered the victim of ongoing battery by the court system. For example, if a victim gets picked it up domestic violence, based on probation, there is a lot of communities in

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which the probation office will be judged to be abusive partner for guidance around what they need. And treat that matter like a victim. -- Batterer. And the batterer having access to the probation officer. Imagine the matter coercion that will have an be able to leverage. If you do not have sex with me now, I will call your probation officer and tell them you are using drugs. If you don't sell these drugs are good chunk with me I will call your probation officer. -- Drunk. I will force you to get drunk. And then call your probation officer. It is that coercive controlling that we see. And the likelihood, if the victim does not end up complying with demands, and does exactly what he does and say, and uses physical violence. It is going to give the batterer more to have. [Indiscernible].

That is how danger goes up. If having less places to go, [Indiscernible].

Sometimes victims can force to stay under house arrest. The batterer knows where she is. Maybe she could be safe at work or go to the friends house, we the county or go on a road trip, whatever. If confined, she is like a sitting duck to that abusive partner. That is what I am talking about when I say danger goes out.

When options go down, danger goes up. Does that make sense?

>> Yes it does. Thank you. One final question. Locally, when the program is working with victim defendants within the county, what is the best place to start and to refer and start the process?

>> What process?

>> When a thick defendant -- advocacy program working with the women that is a victim and a defendant, do they start with public defender?

>> That is a great question. I think the first step is to find out whether or not she is represented, and then to get in touch with the defense attorney. That can be very

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point first that. -- First step. The public defender office to be a good resource as well. If you are in a position to give her information on how to receive representation sooner, that would be the thing to do. For example, victims get arrested, they have to go to their first court date, maybe assigned a public defender. If they could of got one earlier, that is a place where advocates can walk them through the process. I definitely would say to start with the attorney. If you have any questions, advocates call us of the time. And navigate some of those early steps.

>> Great, thank you Cindene Pezzell .

>> Are we ready? [Laughter]

>> I love questions. I like to talk about what people want to hear rather than what I say. Back.

>> When we talk about effectively helping victim defendant -- there is a lot of ways we can approach the question. One is preventing the lack of the better word, appropriate arrest. That prevented peace is important. I am not erasing it but I am not focusing on that now. Rather, we will talk about once [Indiscernible] the rest is happened, what is it that we can do? I think to isolate the things we can help is worth talking about. Things that get in the way of helping. And the things I am about to talk about to not necessarily apply to every program. But we hear over and over again. When working with defendants. We hear from advocates working so closely with the prosecution, the think we are going to jeopardize relationships. That concern is real. And it can get in the way of wanting to do this work. Again, it is going back to that notion, the criminal legal system and advocacy system, as merge, they are two different things. We are not set up to only work

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with people with the police say are victims of the crime. We are set up to help victims of partnering battering. It requires conversation and culture change. It is definitely doable to change that fear, I think. Fear of being [Indiscernible] comes up the well -- as well. And maybe not as common as it used to be. If you work with this group of survivors, and you work with this group of defendants, all women, when you look bias? We keep hearing it, but we need to answer questions about bias. And services for victims of intimate partner battering, regardless of gender. Doesn't always need to be women? It has not stopped us and other work and it should not stop us with defendants either. Working with perpetrators. Again, the criminal legal system has hijacked language and a lot of the areas. And it is important to check ourselves defining perpetrator based on winds of getting arrested -- who ends up. Some people say that is a good starting point. I would not say that. We are in a much better position to evaluate ongoing battering, when working with someone within a period time. That doesn't mean the criminal legal system, the police police get it wrong. Remember, the police are on the scene evaluating an incident. We are not doing our jobs based on incident. We are doing is based on a complex pattern. Like I said, it is not that the police screw it up, it is a different animal. Funding restrictions. In addition to looking get the new regulation, like I said are very good in terms of this work. I encourage people to be thoughtful about other funding sources. Sometimes we need to move money to do the work we want to do. And [Indiscernible] may be the other source of income can cover defendants. It should not be a huge problem for people. Definitely ways the program can get creative. How do community base advocates get involved? The most effective things that can happen, not overnight, the defense bar knows who you are and what you do. I was going to talk about it later, in terms of the clock, I will talk now as it is boring. -- Important. I will go

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back to my own experience as a public defender, keeping my perspective and what I think and how long I was. -- Wrong. You can have a way to understand how defense attorneys may not be fully in the loop with your role and function. I was a public defender over five years, which is a long time. Solid transition. [Indiscernible] one rotation we would get, is referred to by the court staff as love court. [Indiscernible] felony and misdemeanor domestic violence cases. Everyone dreaded getting that docket, nobody wanted it. I walk into this world as a defense attorney, and I would get there before most clients and/or witnesses. And what I would see is the prosecutor sitting at his/her table, community-based advocate sitting next and answering the phone. Filling out paperwork. Signing subpoenas. Once the trial started, the advocate moved in the jury box. Checking the complaining witnesses in on every case. What would you think? I thought that person work with the prosecutor. I had no idea there were community base resource so my clients have been battered. I just did not know. The moral of the story, not only to make sure the defense for knows you and knows you serve to break those attention to your court culture, particularly for those of you who have targeted domestic violence dockets, whether one day a month or week, every day. Pay attention the court culture. Yes, it is probably true you will talk to more complaining witnesses then defendants, but it is important for the prosecutor and defense attorney to know you are a resource for victims, the matter what side the court they are sitting.

>> Related to that we have a question from one of the listeners. In his state, his state has a requirement that law enforcement arrests the primary aggressor, which is problematic if the victim is defending himself. When talking about Hank attention to -- paying attention to the way the court is handling things. What are

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the best ways to be educated and reaching gap to make connections and provide analysis around battering and making those?

>> -- Those distinctions?

>> I do not necessarily think it will be feasible for an advocate said court while I docket is being called in making determinations around whether someone batters their partner or not. I think if the defense attorney knows the advocate in the room can be a resource for their client, that is where the connection can happen. The advocate doesn't have to sit there and believe the defense or prosecution. In those situations, but once attorney -- defense attorney can forge that connection. It can get complicated, though, -- the prosecutor will see the advocate helping but at the same time, that is how we get our service someone comes to us, they are victim of ongoing battery, and we do whatever intake process we do because we are not shutting people out. We include them in our services for we do not sometimes, we refer them. It is that connection with the defense attorney. To be lights in the room physically, and having the ability to send the client to you is a huge powerful point of intervention. I hope that answers the question. We do not have the go on the police report, and that is a good point when talking about the primary aggressor piece. Sometimes you can look at a duration, and you will see -- experience. And you will see the person as a victim. If the -- [Indiscernible] they think the client needs services as a survivor.

>> Thank you. That has been helpful. We have had a few people responding, their state utilizes the primary aggressor in terms of arrest determination. To have that connection and to be present in the courtroom, [Indiscernible] that is helpful.

Thank you.

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>> I have known the law, realities, limitations, I want to say outlawed what I mean. -- Out loud. Advocates being extremely powerful. I am not talking about memorizing the criminal code and giving legal advice. Most if not all are prohibited from giving advice. Being conversed in a way the system works within your community, it is something enormously helpful to the people you're working with. This is the kind of information that can take people -- who were absolutely freaking out, to a place where they can manage to navigate that first day court. I will give a couple examples. This happens all the time someone will say I am charged with five different things. They say that I punched my partner in the face, why my charge with so many things? You do not have to go through all of the charges, you can say is, as a thing this works. Anytime you see a defendant accused of hitting their partner in phase these charges, it does not mean it will go away, but it is routine that they face these charges. That is not legal advice. But it can calm people down. Telling them what side of the courtroom can help them, down. Telling them where they can park, and what will happen, once they go into the building. Will they need to go through a metal detector, allowed to bring cell phone? This is a big one, how does the judge feel about bringing my kids? Always that you can shed light on the process are going to be extremely health of. The biggest one is -- helpful.

>> Murdered -- most first court dates the defendant has nothing to say at all, otherwise not guilty or guilty. Talking with people and making sure what they expect, advocates may have been stationed morbid or the defense attorney. -- More. It does not mean you will never being able to talk to make a lot of sense. People do not want to feel silence. If they know what is happening is a part of the process, and talk to the lawyer later, they can be empowering. And helps get them off the ceiling.

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>> Related to that, do you have any suggestions for advocates on the line, inasmuch as victims see relatively -- concede. Defensive violence? What are the ways in which advocates can support victims, not just seating? -- Conceding?

>> That is excellent question. I will talk about seating. -- Conceding. We see over again, victims tend to take over responsibility, batterers take under responsibility.

Please show up on the scene of a crime, he says you punched him. Did do, yes.

Okay. That whole conversation can completely miss self-defense context. It is important, therefore victims know their rights. This is tricky when we talk about advocacy. We know police should be a resource for everyone. And everyone that - - needs to know their rights. The right to remain silence piece comes in to it. If the police questioned you as to whether you have committed a crime, you can evoke your right with an attorney at that point. Not giving legal advice, but forming their rights before they need to know, is a huge thing. We talk with programs about degrading knowing your rights conversation and general advocacy. Just by being a victim of ongoing battering, that will be a situation in which more likely to be law enforcement. And maybe the abuser will get arrested as well as you. And knowing your rights is huge. The other place where we see this phenomenon, the listener brought up. Victims take quick guilty pleas. That is complicated. Guilty pleas are given out like candy for people in exchange for powerful and compelling reasons if you take this guilty plea you can get out of jail. It is hard to say that -- note to that. We need to know how to get to people as soon as we can and as soon as possible. Having information about our program, in jails and prisons, particularly jail, it is important. If they have a conversation with us or the opportunity to plead guilty, can we connect to legal counsel? Before they actually take that guilty play? Will that be a possibility? Early intervention is key to preventing some guilty pleas that should not happen. I will say not all guilty pleas are bad sometimes it is in

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someone's best interest. The point we need an expert in the law advice people before they do so and a lot of communities are not set up to make that happen easily and that can be powerful for advocates. Interrupt that's being trained to get counsel Bob. -- Counsel involved.

>> Yes, I like your suggestion about degrading your rights -- integrating. For the sake of being a victim there is increased mobility. That is a great idea.

>> Thank you. [Laughter].

>> If you have, I see time winding down. I want to say two things. You may have questions. Please do not hesitate to email me. When working with victims with battering crimes, it is important to stay away from the facts of the case. For which they are charged. I know that goes against every advocate bold in our body we want to talk to survivors about what happens. However, having fat conversation does two things. Regardless of how strong your long as. You can make you -- of potential witness and potentially jeopardize. [Indiscernible]. It is important. What can it be, if we know someone is a victim, is there anything that we need to know to decide whether or not we will give services? I do not think so. We should advise our clients over again, to keep the details of the incident between themselves and their lawyer and friends team -- defense team. We have seen people's best friends testified against victims, they may have given a story about what happened to prosecute -- and they thought it would be helpful to present. Advocates can be key in making sure that the defendant is not talking folks, the facts of the case. The other thing is in terms of -- it might be a great tool on behalf of the defendants. It is important to have defense attorney on board before you talk with the prosecutor. Whether we have waivers or not, despite our best intentions, going to the prosecutor without defense attorney knowledge, you can

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undermine the criminal case. I have way too many examples. I will give you one. The prosecutor evaluates a case and Colson who she is led to believe is victim of crime. A guy allegedly punched in the face by the girlfriend. The prosecutor finds him scary not credible and a bad witness. The prosecutor decides she will drop the case asked week. The advocate comes and tells the prosecutor, yes, she did punch him in the case but you should though the case out as it was self-defense. The prosecutor to not believe it at all, and was going to De Smet -- dismiss the case. Without knowing the strategy, and got confirmation that he was punched in the face. That is a small example. Having the defense attorney on board is take away. We have three minutes left. I encourage people to call. I will turn it back over to you Liz Carlson .

>> Thank you Trent -- Cindene Pezzell . You have made important points. I appreciate how thorough you have then. -- Been. In case you are not aware, the PowerPoint is available for download from this webinar right now. In the materials box at the bottom of your screen, you see the PowerPoint which all slides, including the remaining several, that we will not to today. As well as her contact information. Please make a point to download the PowerPoint so you can have it for future reference. We cannot thank you enough Cindene Pezzell . On behalf of the woman that we work with every day, critical and important information. We appreciate your time. Thank you. There is your contact information.

>> Cindene Pezzell contact information on the screen. When you disconnect, you will be routed to an evaluation. If it does not happen, sometimes the computer may have a pop-up blocker. It may not appear in the screen. You will have an opportunity to give us your feedback on today's webinar. The email -- via email. If

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you would copy thank you in advance -- we thank you in advance. And feedback. I would also like to let you know the next webinar will be conducted Wednesday Wednesday, July 26. The topic crossing borders and bridging gaps. Before that session, the month of July you will receive publicity to register. We hope you will be back with us. With that, thank you so much Cindene Pezzell for your presentation. Thank you Patricia for the technology. And all web made time in your day to join us. Take care. We hope to talk to you again.

>> Goodbye.