Memorandum of Understanding

The Court Administrator enters into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Domestic Abuse Information Network (hereinafter referred to as DAIN), which is a project of Minnesota Program Development, Inc. (MPDI). The DAIN links together eleven Duluth public and private agencies which intervene in domestic assault cases. An MOU with each agency defines the information it will provide to the network and identifies who has access to this information. It also defines the information DAIN will provide to each agency. Collectively, these agencies are committed to three objectives of intervention. They are

⮚ to prioritize victim safety

⮚ to maximize the ability of the system to deter identified offenders from committing further acts of violence

⮚ to create a general deterrence to the use of violence in intimate relationships.

**I. Purpose**

The Court Administrator enters into this MOU for the purposes of improving the community’s capability of responding to domestic violence cases. The DAIN was designed and implemented by an interagency group of practitioners to (a) assist practitioners in responding to *specific cases* and (b) assist policy makers in evaluating the *collective response* to domestic violence cases.

The Domestic Abuse Information Network will

1. provide individual practitioners with up-to-date information on cases
2. alert practitioners to cases which have become stalled within the system or have fallen through the cracks
3. alert practitioners to extremely dangerous abusers and alert victim advocates to high-risk situations
4. promptly communicate information from the victim, dispatcher, and police officer to the pre-trial release agent, probation officer, prosecutor, and judge
5. increase the information available regarding the history and/or pattern of abuse to practitioners when making decisions regarding a case (e.g., supervised release conditions, prosecution decisions, sentencing recommendations, issuing a warrant)
6. improve communication flow among participating agencies
7. inform practitioners of case outcomes
8. allow a review of actions taken by individual practitioners and agencies to ensure compliance with agreed-upon policies and protocols
9. provide data to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the community response.

**II. Exchange of Information**. Participating agencies recognize that the timely exchange of information can have significant impact on case outcomes and on the system’s ability to protect victims.

The Court Administrator agrees to provide the following domestic violence[[1]](#endnote-1) related information to the DAIN coordinator[[2]](#endnote-2):

Criminal Court

1. - Calendars: Arraignment, omnibus, pre-trial, trial, revocation of probation hearings.

- Information provided includes: plea, sentence, case status and disposition, names of prosecutor, defender, judge on all domestic related cases.

- Calendars to be picked up by the DAIN Coordinator on a daily basis.

Civil Court

1. Calendar which includes initial protection order hearings, review hearings, contempt hearings

2. Copies of signed Ex parte orders and affidavits

3. Copies of all protection orders issued and updates on orders.

The DAIN will provide to the Court Administrator monthly reports tracking cases from initial court appearance to disposition. A quarterly report summarizing the overall domestic violence related data collected through the DAIN will also be provided.

**III. Maintenance and Confidentiality**. Participating agencies recognize the sensitive nature of the information and agree to follow carefully the procedures described herein.

All copies of court documents provided to the DAIN shall be securely maintained in locked file drawers in the MPDI office to insure confidentiality of individual. DAIP staff, counselors or facilitators providing services to offenders or victims will have access to review courts orders, however, copies will not be provided to them. All reports shall be shredded five years after the initial case if there are no further incidents involving that offender.

MPDI has contracted with the University of Minnesota-Duluth to conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Duluth coordinated community response in reducing violence against women. The UMD research team will have access to the data produced through the DAIN from 1994 through 1999.

We the undersigned have read and agree with this Memorandum of Understanding. This agreement may be canceled by either party in writing at any time.

By\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ By\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Court Administrator (Duluth) Domestic Abuse Information Network

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Date Date

1. . domestic cases involving assaults, criminal damage to property, trespass, protection orders, violation of protection orders. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. . DAIN coordinator = the MPDI staff person (or designee of said staff ) who gathers all reports and information, enters data into the computer, prepares monthly reports, and manages the information network. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)