

****AAUW COURT WATCH OBSERVATION FORM****

Date _____ Monitor _____ JUDGE _____

Case Number _____ ATTORNEYS: Petitioner's _____
Respondent's _____
Atty. for the Child (AFC) _____

(PLEASE MARK ALL ANSWERS WITH AN X)

1. **PETITIONER IS:** FEMALE ___ MALE ___ AGENCY ___

1-A. **RELATIONSHIP OF PETITIONER TO RESPONDENT:**

INTIMATE/EX PARTNERS ___ FAMILY MEMBER ___ OTHER ___

2. **CHILDREN:** Yes ___ No ___ Unknown ___

2-A. REPORTED TO HAVE **WITNESSED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:** Yes ___ No ___ N/A ___

3. **COUNTER PETITION IS FILED BY ALLEGED ABUSER** Yes ___ No ___

4. **TYPE OF CASE BEING ADJUDICATED TODAY:**

Order of Protection-Initial Petition issued today ___ First Appearance of Respondent ___

Order of Protection-Already in place ___ Further Proceedings ___

Modification of OP ___

OP Extended ___

Custody ___ Visitation ___

Termination of Parental Rights ___ Order of Commitment ___
(Financial Support)

5. **ORDERS OF PROTECTION**

5-A. Judge cited KEY ITEMS of OP for NEW OPs. Yes ___ No ___

5-B. Judge cited CONSEQUENCES if OP is violated when needed to do so. Yes ___ No ___

5-C. Judge cited TERMINATION date of OP if new OP is issued today Yes ___ No ___

5-D. Judge asked about FIREARMS when appropriate. Yes ___ No ___

5-E. Judge ordered REMOVAL OF FIREARMS when necessary. Yes ___ No ___

6. **IF VACATING AN ORDER OF PROTECTION**

The Judge vacated an OP against Petitioner's wishes Yes ___ No ___

7. **NO SHOWS- PARTIES DID NOT APPEAR**

7-A. Petitioner ___

7-B. Petitioner's Attorney (if he/she has one) ___

7-C. Respondent ___

7-D. Respondent's Attorney (if he/she has one) ___

7-E. Attorney for the Child (AFC) (if case required one) ___

8. SERVICE OF ORDER OF PROTECTION - (PETITION NOT SERVED) Yes ____

8-A. RESPONDENT NOT FOUND ____

8-B. Lack of service by SHERIFF ____

8-C. Lack of service by ANOTHER PARTY ____

8-D. Request for service NEVER MADE ____ Reason (if known) _____

9. APPOINTMENT OF ATTORNEY(S) WHEN NEEDED

9-A. Judge instructed litigant(s) about RIGHT TO HIRE an attorney when needed. Yes__ No__

9-B. Judge did NOT APPOINT an attorney when needed Yes ____ No____

10. SERVICES, COUNSELING, MEDIATION

Judge informed parties of available and appropriate services or programs when needed.

Yes____ No____

11. EVALUATIONS

Judge ordered evaluations when necessary Yes ____ No____

12. IF VIOLATION WAS REPORTED, CONSEQUENCES WERE APPLIED Yes ____ No____

13. END OF CASE - NO SETTLEMENT – ADJOURNED TO A LATER DATE Yes ____

13-A. INABILITY of parties TO AGREE ____

13-B. ATTORNEYS WERE NOT prepared. ____

13-C. MORE INFORMATION needs to be gathered. ____

13-D. NO SHOWS ____

14. END OF CASE – SETTLEMENT REACHED– (AGREEMENT OF ALL PARTIES) Yes ____

15. ACD – CASE ADJOURNED IN CONTEMPLATION OF DISMISSAL Yes ____

16. CASE REFERRED TO TRIAL/ TRIAL DATE SET Yes ____

17. CUSTODY (Actions Taken Today)

17-A. Was FULL CUSTODY awarded TO AN ALLEGED ABUSER? Yes__ No__

17-B. Was decision made solely by Judge? Yes__ No__

17-C. Was custody decision made with AGREEMENT OF ALL PARTIES? Yes__ No__

17-D. Is custody decision PERMANENT? Yes__ No__ Unknown ____

18. VISITATION (Actions Taken Today)

18-A. Was VISITATION awarded TO AN ALLEGED ABUSER? Yes__ No__

18-B. Was visitation decided solely by the Judge? Yes__ No__

18-C. Was visitation decided and AGREED UPON BY ALL PARTIES? Yes__ No__

18-D. Does visitation involve SUPERVISED VISITS when needed? Yes__ No__

18-E. Does visitation involve UNSUPERVISED VISITS, but are OK? Yes__ No__

COURTROOM OBSERVATIONS

19. JUDGE

- 19-A. At beginning of case, Judge CLEARLY PRESENTED issues for the day. Yes___ No___
- 19-B. LISTENED to all parties OBJECTIVELY. Yes___ No___
- 19-C. Treated litigants RESPECTFULLY. Yes ___ No ___
- 19-D. Seemed IMPATIENT, RUSHED, ANGRY, or INDIGNANT at times. Yes ___ No ___
- 19-E. Considered victim's or children's SAFETY. Yes___ No___ N/A ___
- 19-F. Asked if there were any QUESTIONS? Yes___ No___
- 19-G. Carefully WENT OVER settlement with parties; provided CLOSURE. Yes__ No__ N/A__

20. PETITIONER and RESPONDENT

- 20-A. Did not seem to UNDERSTAND proceedings. Petitioner _____ Respondent _____
- 20-B. Indicated concerns for personal SAFETY or children's safety. Petitioner____
Respondent__
- 20-C. This person attempted to INFLUENCE or keep children away from other party.
(ALIENATION of Partner) Petitioner did it _____ Respondent did it _____
- 20-D. Demonstrated POOR ATTITUDE (angry, indignant, rude). Petitioner ___ Respondent ___
- 20-E. Attended REMOTELY (via phone/virtual meeting) Petitioner ___ Respondent ___
- 20-F. ACCOMMODATIONS were made for interpreter/disability when needed. Yes___ No___

21. ATTORNEYS

Previously Assigned but HAD NOT SPOKEN to client:

- 21-A. Petitioner's Attorney _____
- 21-B. Respondent's Attorney _____
- 21-C. Attorney for the Child (AFC) _____

Attorney did NOT SHARE INFORMATION with other attorneys.

- 21-D. Petitioner's Attorney ____
- 21-E. Respondent's Attorney _____
- 21-F. Attorney for the Child (AFC) ____

Attorney came to court and was UNPREPARED.

- 21-G. Petitioner's Attorney ____
- 21-H. Respondent's Attorney ____
- 21-I. Attorney for the Child (AFC)____

OTHER

- 22. Court officers were COURTEOUS and CONSIDERATE. Yes___ No___
- 23. Court officers ESCORTED monitors to courtroom in a timely manner. Yes___ No___
- 24. There was difficulty obtaining the COURT CALENDAR. Yes___ No___
- 25. Proceedings were compromised by DISTRACTIONS (copy machine, equipment, etc.) Yes___

(For #26 & #27, please use back of sheet for your anecdotal comments)

26-27. YOUR GENERAL IMPRESSIONS

26. What do you find good, sound, balanced, fair, impartial, etc. about the case you are witnessing today? What did the Judge or attorney do today that impressed you?

27. What do you find concerning about today's case? What are areas that give you some pause? What do you disagree with? In what areas can you suggest changes or improvements?
