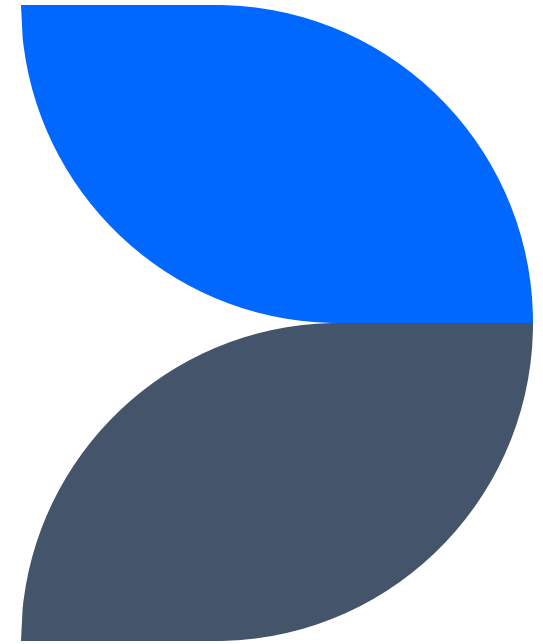


# Families Matter Triage Program Training: IPV Screening and Online Joint and Shuttle Mediation for Cases with High or Concerning Levels of IPV

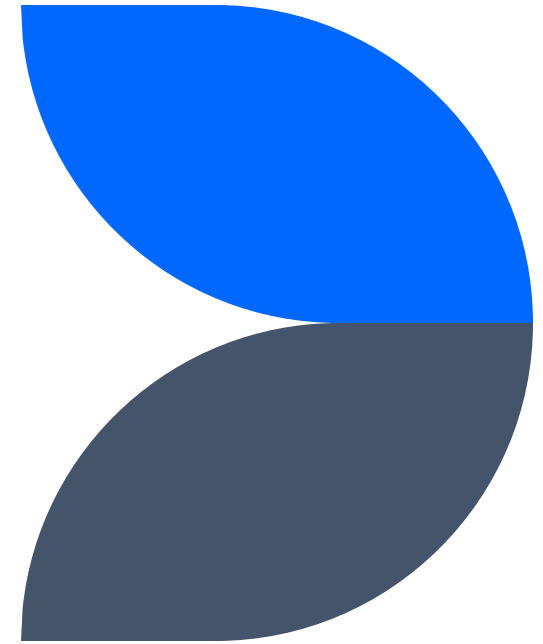
Training session June 18, 2025

12:00pm-5:00pm CST



**Recording available  
to FMTP Mediators  
upon request.**

Email Legal Navigator for access.



# Agenda

12:00-12:15pm	Welcome and Introductions: Message from Hon. Maria Granger, Floyd Superior Court	Granger
12:15-12:30pm	Message from Dr. Brittany Rudd, CAPACITY Lab Director	Rudd
12:30-1:00pm	Families Matters Triage Program (FMTP) Overview and role of Mediators	Etheridge
1:00pm-1:30pm	What the Research Tells Us about Families with a History of IPV/A	Cohen
1:30-1:45pm	Importance of Accurately Assessing for IPV	Cohen
1:45-3:00pm	<i>Recording:</i> How to Conduct the online MASIC-S IPV Screening and Use the Results of the Screening in Preparation for Mediation	Applegate
3:00-3:45 pm	<i>Recording:</i> How to Conduct <b>Online Joint Mediation</b> in Cases with High or Concerning Levels of IPV – <b>Theory, Practice, and Ethics</b>	Applegate
3:45-4:30pm	<i>Recording:</i> How to Conduct <b>Online Shuttle Mediation</b> Cases with High or Concerning Levels of IPV – <b>Theory, Practice, and Ethics.</b>	Applegate
4:30-4:45pm	Review of Logistics (i.e., payment, billing, hours)	Etheridge
4:45-5:00pm	Questions, Wrap-Up, and Next Steps for FMTP	Etheridge

# Welcome

**Amy A. Applegate**

*Indiana University Maurer School of Law*



**Dr. Brittany Rudd**

*Michigan State University, Department of Public Health*



**Nikki Cohen, PhD**

*Michigan State University, Department of Public Health*



**Courtney Etheridge**

*Legal Navigator and Court Staff*



**Hon. Maria D. Granger**

*Indiana University, McKinney School of Law*



# Expectations for 4.5 CLE/CME Credits

- ✓ Kindly turn your video on
- ✓ 80% or more completion of polls throughout the session
- ✓ Fill out our attendance form (and an optional feedback survey) at the end of the session

CLE/CME credits are not submitted without current contract/extension.



Welcome from  
Hon. Maria D. Granger




Message from  
Dr. Brittany Rudd, Program  
Director



## How FMTP started

- ✓ Our lab's connection with Judge Granger
- ✓ Shared desire to help families
- ✓ Conducted qualitative interviews with legal partners, community partners, and former litigants in Floyd County
- ✓ Learned that there was a need for a Family Law Navigator!
- ✓ Created the Southern Indiana Triage Workgroup to develop the Families Matter program





# Thank you for the contributions of the Southern Indiana Triage Workgroup

Magistrate Flanigan

Dana Eberle, JD

Amy Stern, JD

Marianne Conrad, JD

Leah Loy, JD

Tabitha Southard, Family  
Law Navigator

Courtney Etheridge

Janelle O'Malley, JD

Joseph Fisher, JD

Leslie Dunn, JD

Judge Stiller

Hannah Crawford

Michelle Shelton

Chris Carroll

Justin Kay

Lisa Reger

Leann Holloway, Chief Court  
Reporter

Brittany Rudd, PhD

Lucinda Smetana, JD

Holly Huber

Jax Witzig

Catalina Ordorica

Nana Frimpong

Clarisa Wijaya



# Overview of the Families Matter Triage Program (FMTP) and Results of Our First Year

Courtney Etheridge



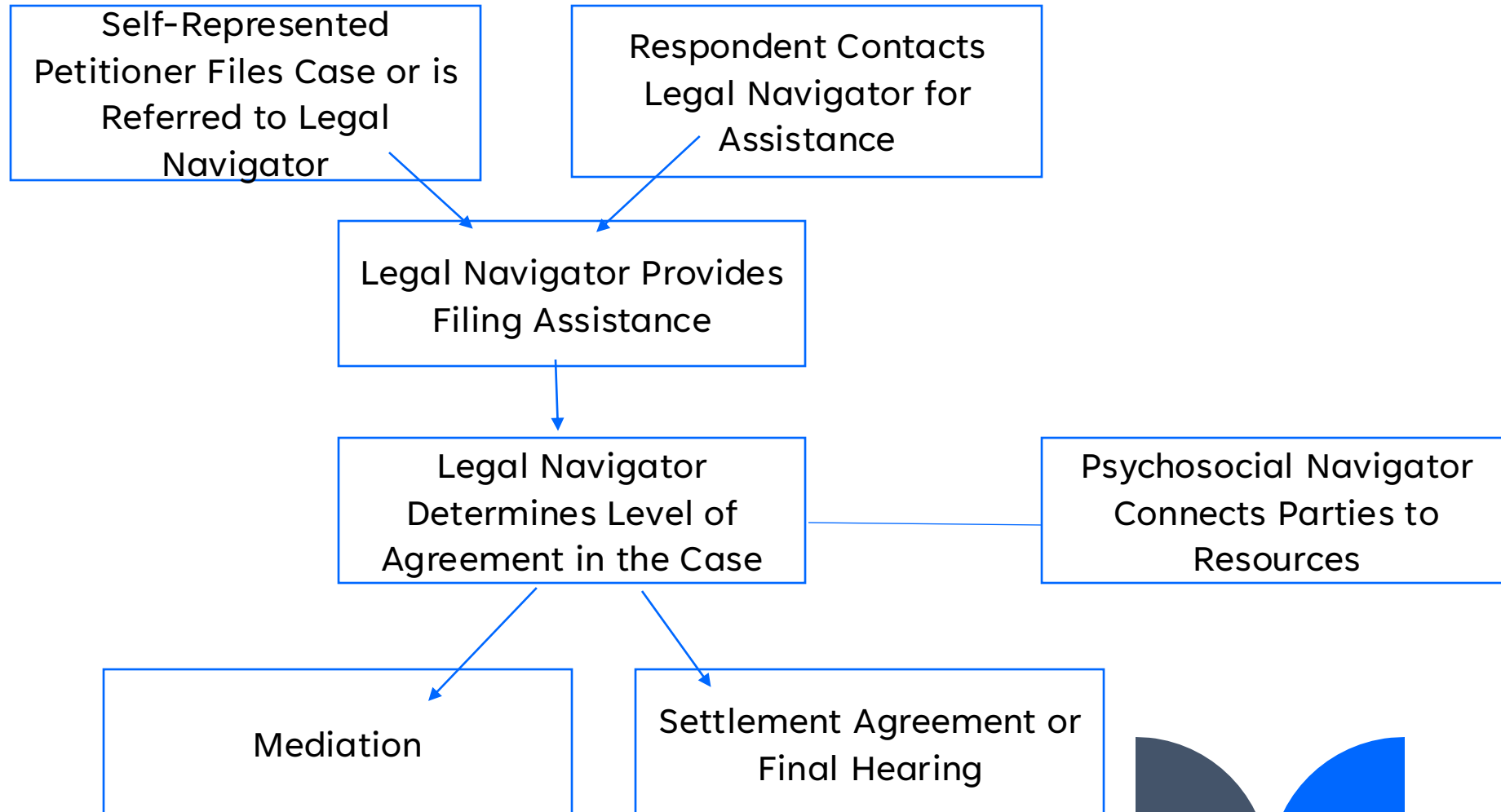
FAMILIES MATTER  
FLOYD COUNTY  
TRIAGE PROGRAM

# Goals of the Program

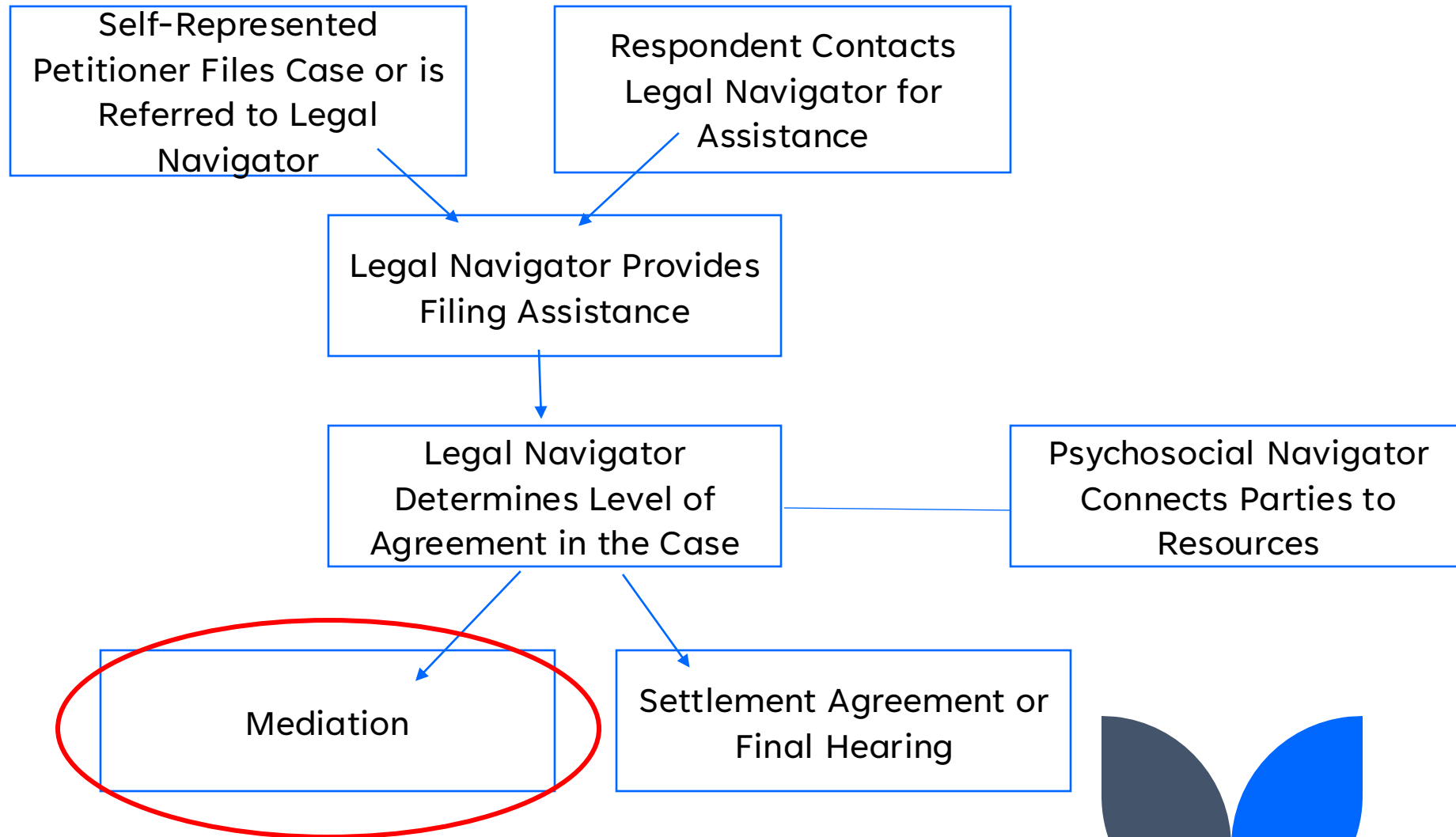
- ✓ Improve court processes for family law litigants
- ✓ Reduce burden on court resources
- ✓ Improve post-separation functioning for all family members in a case
- ✓ Increase use of evidence-based practices in Indiana
- ✓ Strengthen connections with community resources



# Assisting Pro Se Litigants



# Assisting Pro Se Litigants



# Parties Triaged to Mediation

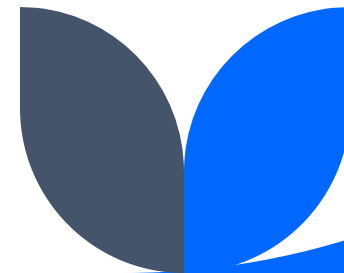
- ✓ If parties are NOT in full agreement → triaged to mediation
- ✓ If there are children in the case → triaged to mediation
- ✓ Legal Navigator assigns the case to the next available mediator on the FMTP mediator registry to the case
- ✓ Once case is assigned, Legal Navigator notifies parties of mediator assignment **but does not schedule mediation**
- ✓ Mediators work with party to schedule mediation
- ✓ **Mediation date is scheduled and assigned to parties within 7-14 days of case assignment**
  - ✓ This timeline is crucial to ensure optimal case progression, and to make sure any safety concerns are adequately addressed.



# Parties Triaged to Mediation

## Timeline

- ✓ Mediation assigned and parties notified
- ✓ Mediators contact parties within three attempts each
- ✓ Mediation scheduled within two weeks
- ✓ Mediation completed/declined
- ✓ Mediation paperwork submitted within ten days



# Our First Completion Poll

[PollEv.com/nikkicohen692](https://pollev.com/nikkicohen692)



1. Go to [pollev.com](https://pollev.com)
2. Enter "nikkicohen692" as the presenter's name



# Results from this past year: The numbers

150 (at least) litigants received filing support

96 litigants received legal navigation

81 litigants have received resource navigation

45 cis women, 44 cis men, and 2 transgender individuals

Average age is 39 (min age = 20 , max age = 77)

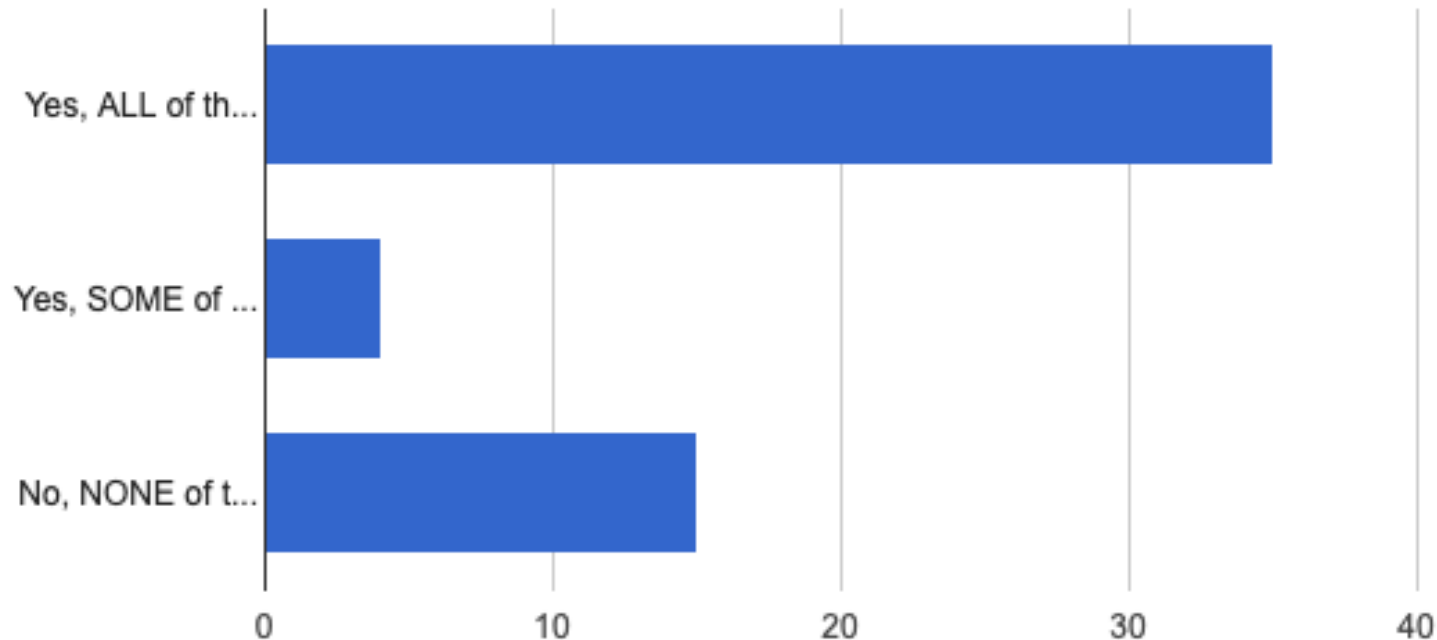
56 individuals (69%) had little to no safety concerns

24 cases were assigned to mediation



# Majority of cases had children

Out of the **54 individuals** who had children,  
**39 individuals** had children with the other person in the case  
**15 individuals** had children **BUT** not with the other person in this case



# Successes of this past year

The full FMTP model, which includes filing support, legal navigation, and resource navigation, has been implemented **for over 8 months!**

22 cases completed the FMTP

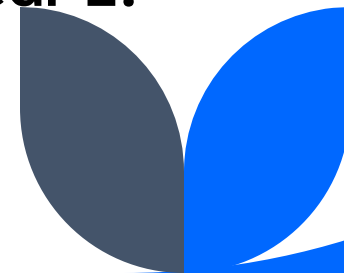
Out of those completed cases, one person completed the FMTP feedback survey and said they received filing support through the program and were “very satisfied” with the support they received.



# Challenges of this past year

- Staff turnover
- Confusion regarding billable hours and MASIC-S implementation
- Lack of communication between parts of the program (i.e., legal navigators, resource navigators, mediators, judge)
- Clearer expectations of roles and responsibilities

**We are working to overcome these challenges in year 2!**



# Billable Hours

- The initial meeting with each individual including MASIC-S and the mediation itself (up to 3 hours total)
  - This initial meeting including the MASIC-S is expected to take less than an hour for each party.
- Non-Billable hours: scheduling and submission of documents

Since this is a limited fund, the allotted 3 hours has not changed for this year. However, if mediation can not be completed within the 3 hours, you need to discuss options with the Legal Navigator.

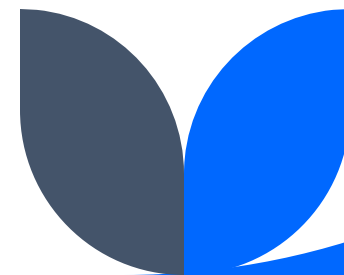


# Our New Program Website

<https://www.in.gov/counties/floyd/departments/fmtp/>



FAMILIES MATTER  
FLOYD COUNTY  
TRIAGE PROGRAM





# What the Research Tells Us about Families with a History of IPV/A

1:00pm-1:30pm



**Presenter:**

Nikki Cohen, Phd

**Slides created by:**

Amy Holtzworth-Munroe

Amy G. Applegate

Connie J. Beck



# Definition of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Abuse

## Multidimensional construct

- Psychological/emotional abuse
- Coercive controlling behaviors
- Physical aggression and violence
- Sexual violence
- Stalking
- Financial abuse



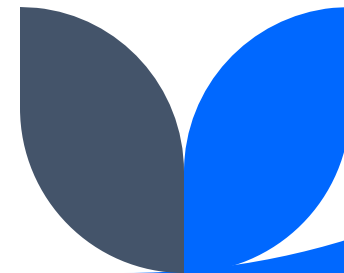
# Prevalence of IPV

16% (or more) of children have witnessed IPV at least once during their lives

- Finkelhor, Turner, Shattuck, & Hamby (2015)

According to the CDC, about 41% of women and 26% of men experienced IPV during their lifetime

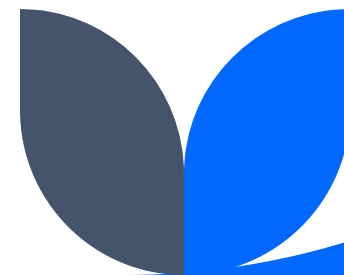
Results from our own resource specialist meetings are in line with this percent.



# Parental Separation and IPV and Abuse: Prevalence

Parties in family mediation report having experienced IPV at alarming rates: (Beck et al., 2011; Ballard et al., 2011; Rossi et al., 2015)

- 88 - 98% Psychological abuse
- 85 - 98% Coercive/controlling behaviors (e.g., control of money/outside contacts, jealousy, threats)
- 54 - 58% Physical violence
- 12 - 56% Sexual abuse (e.g., coercive demands, physical force)
- 34 - 56% Escalated physical/injury
- 47% Stalking



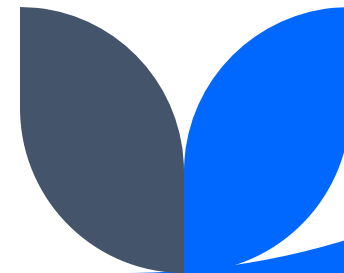
# Parental Separation and IPV and Abuse

IPV can continue after separation/divorce (Campbell et al., 2003; Messing et al., 2014)

- Separation is a high risk-time for initiation or escalation of IPV and abuse
- Perpetrator can use legal system/courts to continue harassment, IPV, and abuse
- Interactions between individuals (e.g., on-the-spot negotiations) can lead to conflict and risk for more IPV and abuse (Rossi et al, 2015)
- Some perpetrators may remain involved with their children to continue intruding in survivors' lives (e.g., Hardesty & Ganong, 2006; Tubbs & Williams, 2007; Wuest et al., 2003)

# Female vs Male Violence: Understanding the research

- Females also perpetrate IPV (overall, at rates similar to males)
  - Known since first national U.S. survey (Straus & Gelles, 1980)
- But more recently, heated debate:
  - How big a problem is female violence?
  - Are male and female violence equivalent phenomena?
- In your setting, you will know about both female and male IPV victimization and both are of concern!



## Completion Poll #2

[Pollev.com/nikkicohen692](https://Pollev.com/nikkicohen692)



1. Go to pollev.com
2. Enter "nikkicohen692" as the presenter's name



# **Consequences of IPV**

## **Reviews and Meta-Analyses**

**More Studies of Female  
Survivors**



# Consequences of Witnessing or Experiencing IPV for Children

## Increased risk for:

**Internalizing problems** (McTavish et al., 2016; Vibhakar et al., 2019; Vu et al., 2016)

- Depression
- Anxiety

**Externalizing problems** (Lee et al., 2022; Vu et al., 2016)

- Delinquency
- Violence may be normalized for children who witness IPV and learn that violence is acceptable way to settle conflicts (Jaffe, Johnston, Crooks, & Bala, 2008)

**Academic problems** (Cage et al. 2022)

- Lower grades and worse academic conduct
- More attendance problems than children not exposed

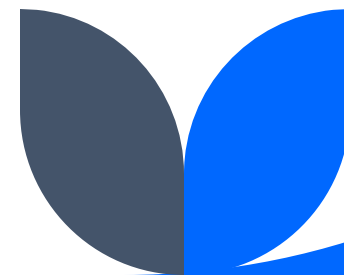
**Health problems** (Holmes et al., 2022)

- More obesity and nutritional deficiencies
- More visits to emergency rooms





# Effects of IPV on Parenting



- IPV is associated with significant negative effects on parenting, but also significant efforts from mothers to account and compensate for the impact of IPV exposure on children (Rossi et al., 2016)
- These parents report experiencing more parenting-related stress, and such stress is related to worse parenting overall (Fogarty et al., 2019; Sypher et al., 2022)
- Significant association between perpetration of IPV and child maltreatment (30-60% overlap; Hamby, Finkelhor, Turner & Ormrod, 2010) and negative parenting behaviors, including lack of warmth and rejection of children (Anderson & Cramer-Benjamin, 1999; Stover, Easton, & McMahon, 2013)



## **Many effects of IPV do not end even if the partners have separated**

- Rates of IPV may be 30 times higher for separated women and nine times higher for divorced women, compared to married women (Rezey, 2020; Toews & Bermea, 2017)
- Risk of lethality also often increases post-separation (Spearman et al., 2023)
- When parents share physical custody of their children, there can be ongoing opportunities for IPV (Hardesty & Ganong, 2006)



# Given all of these possible consequences of IPV and abuse...

- We need to consider how to handle it in family law cases
- To do so, we need an effective way to screen for IPV and abuse

# Individuals who reported IPV (and other safety concerns) when meeting with a resource specialist

Suicidal behavior and/or suicidal ideation (n = 9, 11.1%),

Endorsement of child abuse and/or neglect (n = 3, 3.7%),

Endorsement of harm to a vulnerable adult (0, 0.0%),

Endorsement of Interpersonal Violence (n = 16, 19.8%),

Little or no risk of safety at this time (n = 56, 69.1%),

parent reported child attempted suicide or has SI (n = 2, 2.5%)

# Most Prevalent Types of IPV based on the results of our resource specialist meetings

Stalking behavior (n = 8, 50% of IPV sample)

Controlling behavior (e.g., the other person in this case has forbidden me to go without [him/her/them], or acted extremely jealous, or successfully controlled my activities) (n = 8, 50% of IPV sample)

Being punched, kicked, choked, or stomped on (n = 6, 37% of IPV sample)

Currently fearful, scared, or afraid of potential physical harm to self or loved ones (n = 5, 31% of IPV sample)

One person reported being threatened with a gun or knife. Zero litigants reported receiving a severe injury (e.g., major wound, severe bleeding, burn, being knocked out).

# **Need to Assess IPV and Abuse in Mediation**

**How does screening for IPV relate to the goal of  
mediation?**



## Completion Poll #3

[PollEv.com/nikkicohen692](https://PollEv.com/nikkicohen692)

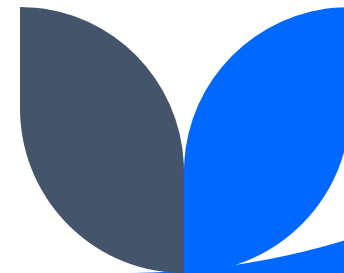


# Need to Assess IPV and Abuse in Mediation

According to an article by Ballard and colleagues (2011), in a survey of 149 mediation programs, **70%** reported that mediators **received IPV training** and **80%** reported **screening for IPV** in some way (Thoennes et al., 1995).

However, **only 50% of these programs** reported separate screening for each party and using screens that ask directly about violent behaviors

Another study focused on community mediation clinics, 60% of clinics reported IPV training and 69% reported some level of IPV screening (Clemants & Gross, 2007). However, **only 50% of the clinics reporting screening used formal, standardized screening tools (either questionnaires or interviews).**



# Need to Assess IPV and Abuse in Mediation

Based on two studies examining methods of IPV screening in mediation:

- **mediators did not report the presence of IPV in more than half the cases** in which the parties themselves reported physical violence on a short, behaviorally specific screening questionnaire (Ballard, Holtzworth-Munroe, Applegate, & Beck, 2011)
- **more parties reported injury inflicted by the other party and fear of the other party on an evidence-based screener than on the Multi-Door screen.** In addition, there was a nonsignificant difference between screens in the likelihood that individuals reported IPV with weapons used. (Rossi, Holtzworth-Munroe, Applegate, Beck, Adams, & Hale, 2015),



# Why use an evidence-based tool?

- It is possible that broader, less specific screens elicit fewer reports of IPV victimization due to potential differences in how parties define violence or abuse.
- Survivors of IPV may minimize or demonstrate an inability to recognize violence or abuse and its level of severity as a result of denial, shame, or changes in perceptions of what is normal, which may be missed if not screened properly.



# Why use an evidence-based tool?

**Need to give systematic screening to all parties, in all cases**

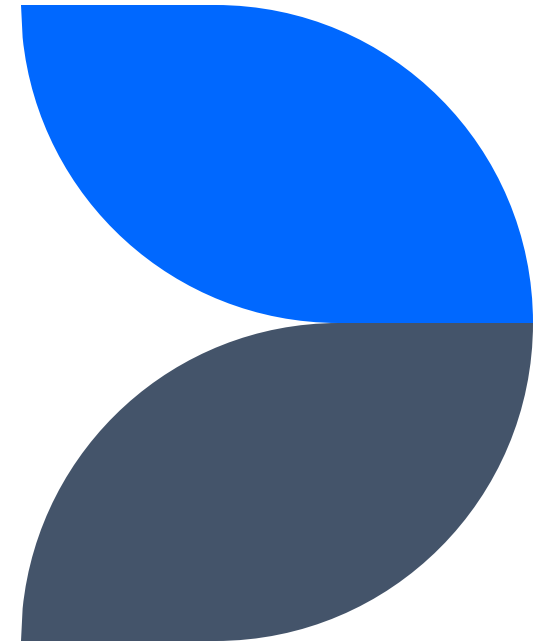
**Need to use a standardized, behaviorally-specific screen that enhances reliability between mediators.**

Various possible IPV screening measures are available, but your cases will be screened using a shortened version of the MASIC



# Effective Screening for IPV

*Recording from last year*



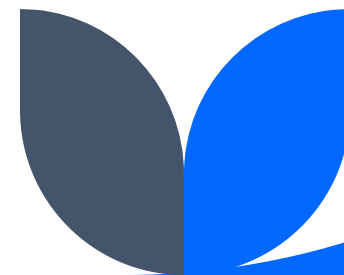
# Summary of Recording

- IPV and abuse is likely to have occurred in many cases you will see and can have serious consequences that could impact the family law process
- You should be aware of the IPV and abuse and understand its impact on the family
- We recommend IPV and abuse screening for every case, using a standardized and behaviorally-specific IPV and abuse screening instrument
- Questions?



## Completion Poll #4

[PollEv.com/nikkicohen692](https://PollEv.com/nikkicohen692)



# How to Conduct the Online MASIC-S IPV Screening and Use the Results of the Screening in Preparation for Mediation: *Recording from last year*



Amy A. Applegate, Primary Trainer  
With Holly Huber Gifford, PhD

## Completion Poll #5 & #6

[PollEv.com/nikkicohen692](https://PollEv.com/nikkicohen692)



# **How to Conduct Online Joint Mediation in Cases with High or Concerning Levels of IPV – Theory, Practice, and Ethics**

*Recording from last year*



Amy A. Applegate, Primary Trainer

## Completion Poll #7

[PollEv.com/nikkicohen692](https://PollEv.com/nikkicohen692)



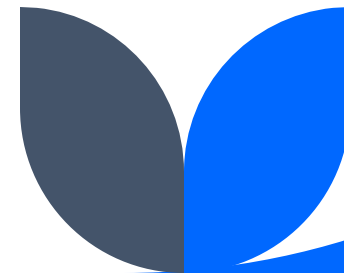
# Mediation: Review of Expectations and Logistics

Courtney Etheridge



# Role as Mediators:

- The FMTP ADR Coordinator will assign you a case
- Gather background information (e.g., POs, other cases) and review case information included in case assignment email
- Conduct conflict checks on both parties/case
- Contact parties within 3 days of referral to schedule mediation and the individual screening session
- Conduct confidential individual screening of each party for intimate partner violence (IPV) using the MASIC-S
- Track the time required to complete screening for each party
- Plan for the mediation using information from the case and the MASIC-S.
- Guidance on how to effectively mediate when there is IPV in the case can be found in the manual
- Conduct mediation in the appropriate format for the case.
- Within 10 days of mediation, file all mediation documents.
- Submit the MEDIATOR'S ADR PLAN SUBMISSION WITH INVOICE



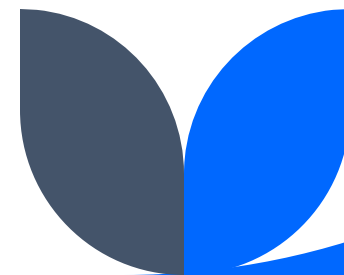
# Mediation Reimbursements for the Floyd County Superior 3 Court

- Auditor's Office needs the mediator's contract and W-9 on file for invoices to be paid
- Claims include the AP Voucher, Order for Mediation Services, and Mediator's ADR Plan Submission with Invoice
- ADR Coordinator will complete AP Vouchers for claims and submit to Auditor's Office



# Mediation Reimbursements: What Hours Are Billable?

- Billable hours: initial meeting with each individual including MASIC-S and mediation
- Non-Billable hours: scheduling and submission of documents
- This CLE course is offered at no cost in appreciation for your time and effort considering some of the billable restraints.



# Judge Granger Approved Mediation Forms

- ADR Parties' Letter
- ADR Mediation Order\*
- ADR Application for Mediation\*
- ADR Mediator's Letter\*
- ADR Mediator's Plan Submission with Invoice\*
- ADR Mediation Payment Schedule\*
- ADR Mediation Payment Worksheet\*
- Instructions for Preparing and Filing/Serving Floyd County Mediation Documents
- Agreed Mediated Order Template
- How to Calculate Child Support Using the Online Calculator
- Arrearage Guidance
- Summary Decree Template
- Verified Waiver of Final Hearing Template
- Form Mediator's Report\*



# **Families Matter Triage Program (FMTP): Questions, Wrap-Up and Next Steps**

Courtney Etheridge



## Next Steps...

- ✓ Make sure your contract for the FMTP has been sent to Courtney Etheridge so that you can be added as a vendor and scheduled
- ✓ If there are months you are unavailable to schedule a mediation, please inform us as we will be assigning cases as they come in



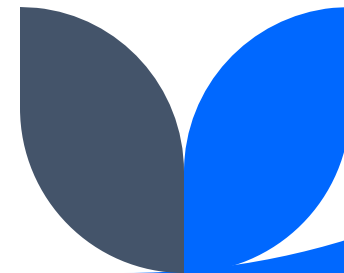
# After Today's Training...

## Registration Materials

- Signed FMTP Mediator Agreement
- Email us with any upcoming scheduling conflicts
- W-9 Form for Floyd County Superior Court 3
- Program Registration Form – PDF file
- Anonymous feedback survey

## Program Materials can be accessed on our website!

- One-page summary
- Manual
- Copy of these slides
- Info on how to access MASIC-S



# Questions and/or Concerns?

Please use this QR code to complete an anonymous feedback survey and/or email me with direct or private needs.



[cetheridge@floydcounty.in.gov](mailto:cetheridge@floydcounty.in.gov)

# **Attendance for CME or CLE credit**





**Thank you for your  
participation!**