

NOTICE

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Supreme Court to Decide if Police Must Safeguard Due Process in the Enforcement of Protective Orders

On March 22, 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *Gonzales v. Town of Castle Rock, Colorado*, to determine if law enforcement officials violated the constitutional rights of a victim of domestic violence when her protective order was not enforced and procedures were not in place to ensure the safety of her family.

The case was brought by Jessica Gonzales, whose three daughters were murdered by

their father after Castle Rock police refused to enforce the court-issued protective order against him.

The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) and its member state domestic violence coalitions, including the National Center, submitted an amicus brief asking the Court to recognize the constitutional rights of Ms. Gonzales and affirm the Court of Appeal's ruling in her favor.

"The loss of Ms. Gonzales's

children at the hands of their father is senseless and could have been prevented," said Lynn Rosenthal, Executive Director of NNEDV. "Police officers are responsible for protecting our communities. The police need to have some procedural safeguards in place when they deny a request to enforce an order."

Twenty-five to 31 percent of American women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boy-

friend at some point in their lives,^{1,2} and from 3 million to 10 million children witness that abuse each year.³ Because domestic violence tends to increase when a victim makes attempts to separate from an abuser, protective orders — commonly referred to as restraining orders — offer abused women a chance to live a life without abuse. Studies show that the majority of victims who seek protective orders complain of serious abuse: physical assaults,

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Fort Campbell Community Collaboration Project Starts Strong



Greg Williamson/photo courtesy of The Leaf-Chronicle, Clarksville, TN.

Debby Tucker, left, visits with Staff Judge Advocate Col. Richard Whitaker and Clarksville Mayor Don Trotter during the CCR Demonstration Project Kickoff Luncheon at Fort Campbell on January 25.

Leaders from the military, law enforcement, the justice system and victim advocacy groups gathered in January to launch the groundbreaking Military/Civilian

Coordinated Community Response Demonstration Project. The Army's Fort Campbell and surrounding communities of Clarksville, TN, and Hopkinsville, KY, are collaborating to create guidelines to coordinate the response of civilian and military agencies in domestic violence cases involving military personnel.

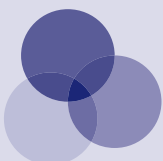
The National Center's Executive Director, Debby Tucker, is working closely with local project leaders: Helen Kinton, Director, Sanctuary; Patricia Mock, Managing Attorney, Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland; and Louie Sumner, Fort Campbell Family Advocacy Program Director.

Fort Campbell Installation Commander Major General Thomas R. Turner

hosted the kickoff luncheon, which included welcoming remarks from Colonel Dave Martino, Chief of Staff for the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Fort Campbell.

Since 70 percent of Fort Campbell's soldiers live off post, surrounding community agencies such as law enforcement, county courts and victim advocacy agencies need to work with the military to increase access to services and enhance safety for victims and to hold offenders accountable.

The Battered Women's Justice Project of Minneapolis, MN, is subcontracting with the National Center to assist in implementing this project, which is funded by the Office on Violence Against Women and the U.S. Department of Defense.



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