

FCW Violence and Abuse Script

Hello, I'm Judge Kenneth Jacobi of the Morguson Circuit Court.

Safety in families is of the highest concern to all judges in Morguson County.

If you have been the victim of violence or abuse—or if any child has been—I have four thoughts for your serious consideration.

First, be sure that your immediate circumstances are safe. Remember that violence in families is often followed by periods of regret and promises that it will not be repeated, but those promises are often broken. Our community has a variety of resources to help. If you believe that violence or abuse could occur (or reoccur) in your family, you should contact any of the following:

- A local attorney.
- The prosecutor's office
- The YWCA Women's Shelter, or
- The Morguson Mental Health Center.

Don't be afraid to ask for help from these experienced persons.

Second, use the courts if necessary. While your judges strongly recommend cooperation between parents when that's a safe option, safety must be assured first. A local attorney, the prosecutor's office, the YWCA, and the Morguson Mental Health Center can all advise you on the protection orders that can help.

Third, get counseling—for yourself AND any child who has suffered or seen violence or abuse. Please do so at once. When homes and love relationships are touched by violence or abuse, it's simply too confusing and painful an experience for victims to sort through on their own. Things improve when families use competent outsiders.

Fourth, and finally, remember the impact on your children. Children are badly hurt just by knowing that violence has occurred. They will need counseling—and they will need to know that you are doing everything possible to make their world and yours safe.

Call for help today. Thank you.