

FCW Welcome to Co-Parenting DV Class Video Script

I'm Judge Kenneth Jacobi of the Morguson Circuit Court. I want to take a few minutes to welcome you to our county's class for victims and survivors of domestic violence.

All Morguson County's judges want to be of help to victims and survivors of such violence. We also want to be of help to children who have seen or heard such violence. The needs here are very real and sometimes complicated.

We are aware that some of the principles that work for persons involved in other separations—ones where there is no history or threat of violence—do not apply in families with violence. Your circumstances may simply not be ones where you can safely or constructively use strategies that work for other families—strategies like lots of communication, cooperation, and mutual accommodation.

We hope that you will be open to the many messages in this class. There will be important lessons on topics like:

1. Resources you should know about for your immediate protection,
2. Longer-term help like counseling, the Family Justice Center, and support groups, and
3. Help that your children may need.

We strongly encourage you to use this class along with counseling for your particular circumstances. The effects of domestic violence are almost always too confusing for victims and survivors to sort them out for themselves and their children. Your class will also include instruction on the local Family Justice Center, a facility and program specifically dedicated to ending domestic violence. Please reach out for the best help—and keep reaching out.

Be sure to speak to your class instructors about any questions you have and any help you feel you need. You can pose questions during your class or in conversations or emails between and even after the last of your class sessions.

Finally, be aware that the courts of Morguson County strive to be fully available to protect families from violence and the threat of violence. Work with anyone and everyone you feel may be able to help you, including your class instructors, your counselors, your attorney, and the Family Justice Center. Thank you.