



National Open Court
Data Standards
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Domestic Violence

Recommended Data Elements

National Open Court Data Standards
(NODS)

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Recommended Domestic Violence Case Data Elements

For courts to proactively manage cases involving domestic violence, it is necessary to identify, collect, and use data effectively. This guide is intended to help courts identify the data needed and to provide support for data collection across case types for cases specifically involving domestic violence.

Domestic violence cases present a challenge for data collection, because the quality of the data is directly dependent on good quality data collection which may cross case types, including family cases, criminal cases, and dependency cases. Additional effort is required to tie these cases together, and collect the data needed to address the severity and breadth of domestic violence issues. A lack of good information about the presence of domestic violence results in underreporting of this important issue.

Principles of Data Collection

Using this Report

The [Court Statistics Project](http://www.courtstatistics.org) (CSP)¹ and [National Open Court Data Standards](http://www.ncsc.org/nods) (NODS)² provide frameworks for data collection. The goal of CSP is to present a national picture of state court cases. The goals of NODS are to make case-level state court data available to researchers and policymakers in a consistent manner that reduces the possibility of error and misinterpretation and to reduce the burden on court system staff in responding to data requests.

This report is a complement to these other efforts and uses the NODS framework and recommended data elements as a starting point. The report is divided into sections that align with the NODS organizational structure. Each section describes relevant data elements, providing additional context for domestic violence cases.

While NODS is an effort to provide data standards, courts do not have to change their case management systems to participate in NODS. Rather, NODS is for many courts a mapping exercise so that when they share their data, others understand it.

Not every data element from NODS is included in this report. Priority is given to those elements that are specific to domestic violence cases and need more context or explanation on the “how and why” for collection. Additional elements that are out

¹ www.courtstatistics.org

² www.ncsc.org/nods

of scope for NODS but nonetheless important for domestic violence cases are included in this report.

For easy reference, each section is labeled with the NODS tab number. Additionally, NODS data elements are in **bold**. Sample values from the NODS data elements spreadsheet are *italicized*. Elements out of scope for NODS but in this guide for case-level monitoring at the local court level are denoted with an asterisk (*).

This report does not outline every data element necessary for case management. Instead, the list aims to provide a guide for what data should be collected and initiate the conversation of what information is needed to answer policy and monitoring questions. The list is informed by past research, and by NCSC engagement with state and local courts about current, promising, and best practices. However, it may not cover all needs for a court or state. This report should be viewed as a living document. Recommendations will change, especially as courts incorporate technology solutions more fully.

Tab 1: Case Information

Case Types

Case types are categorized to describe critical information about each case. The case type should be reported in the initial filing. Cases involving domestic violence are complex, as a single circumstance may lead to more than one court case or multiple issues within a case. For instance, a family case (Table 1a) involving domestic violence may also result in a criminal charge (Table 1b) or a dependency case (Table 1c). The family case may include dissolution/divorce, custody, child support, as well as civil and criminal protection orders.

Although outside the scope of NODS, it is good practice for courts to track the status of any protection order.

For additional information on how to classify this data, see [The State Court Guide to Statistical Reporting](#).

Table 1a: Family Case Types

Family Case Type	Definition/Notes
<i>Dissolution/Divorce</i>	Case establishing a divorce or dissolution of a marriage or civil union. These cases often include provisions for custody, support, alimony, and the like in the decree or judgment. In reporting cases, the initial filing and disposition of a dissolution/divorce should be classified as a dissolution/divorce, even if other components are present in the judgment.

Family Case Type	Definition/Notes
<i>Legal Separation</i>	Case establishing the separation of a couple, without a dissolution of the marriage.
<i>Annulment</i>	Case establishing a marriage as retroactively null and void.
<i>Parentage</i>	Case establishing the identity and/or responsibilities of a parent of a minor child.
<i>Child Custody</i>	Cases where an individual requests that a court decide the control or care of a child. This may be known as “legal decision-making.”
<i>Child Support</i>	Case filed to request maintenance of a minor child by a person who is required, by law, to provide such maintenance.
<i>Child Support Enforcement IV-D</i>	Case filed to request maintenance of a minor child by a person who is required under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act of 1973, to provide such maintenance.
<i>Child Support Enforcement Private</i>	Case filed to request maintenance of a minor child by a person who is required by law, but who is not under auspices of Title IV-D of the Social Security Act of 1973, to provide such maintenance. <i>Note: Labeling a child support enforcement as private (non IV-D) distinguishes cases that are brought by private parties outside the framework of Title IV-D, to allow records and analysis of caseload qualification for financial support from the federal government through the state IV-D agency.</i>
<i>Emancipation</i>	Case filed seeking independence of a minor child. ³
<i>Spousal Support/Alimony</i>	Cased filed to request maintenance of a party/spouse by a person who is required by law to provide such maintenance.
<i>Visitation</i>	Case filed by an individual to request the court to schedule the time the individual will spend with minor children. Such requests can be made by parents, grandparents, or other family members. This may also be known as “parenting time.”

³ In some jurisdictions, emancipation may be part of a juvenile or probate docket.

Family Case Type	Definition/Notes
<i>Termination of Parental Rights</i>	Case requesting the severing of the parent-child relationship. ⁴
<i>Adoption</i>	Case involving a request for the establishment of new, permanent relationship of a parent and child between persons not biologically related. ⁵
<i>Domestic Protection/Restraining Order</i>	Case involving a request to issue a protection or restraining order designed to limit or eliminate the contact between two or more individuals in a domestic relationship.
<i>Immigration</i>	Case involving Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.
<i>Judicial Bypass</i>	Case requesting a court order in lieu of parental permission.
<i>Surrogacy</i>	Cases involving a contract or agreement between individuals regarding non-biological parentage.
<i>Domestic Relations-Other</i>	Cases involving actions between family members, or other forms of domestic relationships, of unknown specificity, non-attributable to other categories, or as all single case types in domestic relations cases.

Table 1b: Criminal Case Types

Criminal Case Type	Definition/Notes
<i>Felony</i>	A criminal offense punishable by incarceration for a minimum of one year or more or death; the most serious crimes are classified as felonies. Some states have ranking classifications for felony offenses, such as Part A or Class I.
<i>Misdemeanor</i>	A criminal offense punishable by incarceration for a maximum of one year and/or fines; the less serious crimes are classified as misdemeanors. Some states also have ranking classifications for misdemeanor offenses, such as Type A, or Class II.
<i>Appeal from Limited Jurisdiction Court</i>	A criminal conviction appeal from a limited jurisdiction court, such as drug treatment court or municipal court.

⁴ In some jurisdictions, TPR petitions may be part of a juvenile docket.

⁵ In some jurisdictions, adoptions may be part of a juvenile or probate docket.

Table 1c: Dependency Case Types

Dependency Case Type	Definition	Notes
<i>Dependency-Abuse/Neglect</i>	Cases including 1) abuse cases alleging the hurting or injuring of a child by maltreatment; (Abuse, as defined by statutes in the majority of state is generally limited to maltreatment that causes, or threatens to cause, lasting harm to a child.) 2) neglect cases alleging failure by a parent or custodian to render appropriate care to a child; an act of omission by the person legally responsible for a child's care that threatens the child's well-being; or failure to provide a child with suitable food, shelter, clothing, hygiene, medical care, or parental supervision.	In domestic violence cases where a child has also been abused/neglected or is at risk of abuse/neglect, an abuse/neglect petition may also be filed.
<i>Dependency-No Fault</i>	Cases alleging one or more of the grounds for dependency without specifically faulting the parent(s) or guardian.	In domestic violence cases where the custodial parent is a victim or alleged victim of domestic violence and the child(ren) has been harmed or is at risk of harm by someone other than the parent, a no-fault dependency petition may be filed.
<i>Dependency-Other</i>	Dependency cases in which it is alleged that a child has been abused or neglected or is otherwise without proper parental care. Courts should use this case type for dependency cases of unknown specificity, when dependency cases are not attributable to one of the other previously defined dependency case categories, or when dependency cases are reported as a single case type.	This is used in jurisdictions that do not distinguish between abuse/neglect and no-fault petitions.

Dependency Case Type	Definition	Notes
<i>Termination of Parental Rights</i>	Cases requesting the severing of the parent-child relationship by the state due to allegations of abandonment, child abuse, unfitness of a parent, and other injuries to a child.	A TPR petition may be filed when the parent has been unable to resolve the issues that led to the dependency petition.

Note that in domestic cases, it is not unusual to have a case filed as a “foreign judgment” case. These are cases decided in another jurisdiction but filed with the local court for purposes of enforcement as outlined in the [Violence Against Women Act, Full Faith and Credit Provision](#).

Associated Legal Issue

Family cases often have more than one issue involved. While the family case type should be based on the primary issue (such as dissolution/divorce), best practice is for associated legal issues to also be identified (Table 1d). This can help with case triage and with an evaluation of case management.

Table 1d: Associated Legal Issue

Associated Legal Issue	Definition/Notes
<i>Parentage</i>	Case establishing the identity and/or responsibilities of a parent of a minor child.
<i>Child Custody</i>	Cases where an individual requests that a court decide the control or care of a child.
<i>Child Support</i>	Case filed to request maintenance of a minor child by a person who is required, by law, to provide such maintenance.
<i>Child Support Enforcement IV-D</i>	Case filed to request maintenance of a minor child by a person who is required under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act of 1973, to provide such maintenance.

Associated Legal Issue	Definition/Notes
<i>Child Support Enforcement Private</i>	Case filed to request maintenance of a minor child by a person who is required by law, but who is not under auspices of Title IV-D of the Social Security Act of 1973, to provide such maintenance. *Note: Labeling a child support enforcement as private (non IV-D) distinguishes cases that are brought by private parties outside the framework of Title IV-D, to allow records and analysis of caseload qualification for financial support from the federal government through the state IV-D agency.
<i>Spousal Support/Alimony</i>	Cased filed to request maintenance of a party/spouse by a person who is required by law to provide such maintenance.
<i>Visitation</i>	Case filed by an individual to request the court to schedule the time the individual will spend with minor children. Such requests can be made by parents, grandparents, or other family members.
<i>Termination of Parental Rights</i>	Case requesting the severing of the parent-child relationship.
<i>Adoption</i>	Case involving a request for the establishment of new, permanent relationship of a parent and child between persons not biologically related.
<i>Domestic Protection/Restraining Order</i>	Case involving a request to issue a protection or restraining order designed to limit or eliminate the contact between two or more individuals.
<i>Domestic Relations-Other</i>	Cases involving actions between family members, or other forms of domestic relationships, of unknown specificity, non-attributable to other categories, or as all single case types in domestic relations cases.

The primary issue before the court should be the primary case type, while any associated legal issues should also be noted. See Table 1e for common examples.

Table 1e: Examples of Case Type Designation and Associated Legal Issue

Issues before the court	Primary case type	Associated legal issue(s)
Divorce, Custody, Child Support, Visitation	<i>Dissolution/Divorce</i>	<i>Child Custody Child Support Visitation</i>

Issues before the court	Primary case type	Associated legal issue(s)
Parentage, Child Support, Visitation	<i>Parentage</i>	<i>Child Support Visitation</i>
Spousal Support, Legal Separation	<i>Legal Separation</i>	<i>Spousal Support</i>

Case Flags

NODS includes case flags to capture whether certain conditions were present in cases. Although courts may collect the information in more detailed ways, this is information that is often collected only within court documents, making it difficult to retrieve in a systematic way. Regardless of how the data is collected, this information can be mapped to a flag that indicates that condition was present.

Specifically in cases involving domestic violence, it is important for courts to capture that information in a recognizable way across all case types. The **Finding of domestic violence flag** indicates that there was a finding of domestic violence associated with parties in a current case. This may be mapped to NODS based on a charge code, based on the granting of a protection order, and/or based on a finding in a family or juvenile case. For courts to have an accurate assessment of the prevalence of domestic violence, there must be an entry in the case management system (not just written findings in a court order).

Other case flags, below in Table 1f, may also be helpful to the court. The dependency court judgment flag identifies family court cases that also have a dependency case.

Table 1f: Case Flags

Element #	Flags	Definitions/Notes
24	Confidentiality Flag	Indication that the case indicates confidential information, including information such as legal minors, medical information, etc.
32	ICWA Case Flag	Flag to indicate there was a finding that the federal Indian Child Welfare Act is applicable in this case.
33	Contested Flag	Indication that the case was contested at some point
37	Minors Involved Flag	Indication that there are minors/children involved in the case
43	Finding of Domestic Violence Flag	Indication that there was a judicial finding of domestic violence associated with parties in the current case

Element #	Flags	Definitions/Notes
44	Dependency Court Judgment Flag	Indication that there was a judicial finding in a dependency case associated with a minor/child involved in the current case (e.g., legal custody)

Linked Cases

Multiple cases may be linked if there is a finding of domestic violence. Examples include:

- A criminal case of assault or domestic battery and a family case involving divorce/dissolution.
- A family case involving custody and a dependency case involving abuse or neglect of a child.
- A criminal case of elder abuse and a guardianship case involving the older relative.
- A criminal case of assault or domestic battery and a civil case for a protection/restraining order.

In all of these situations, the linked case, jurisdiction, and case type should be part of the record.

Table 1h: Linked Cases

Element #	Data Element	Definition
27	Linked Case	Court case identifier for any associated case
28	Linked Case Jurisdiction	The court of the linked case
29	Linked Case Type	The primary case type of the linked case

Case Filings & Dispositions

Case filing is the single best time to collect basic case information. Noting a filing type for each case can help in tracking each case over time. Similarly, when the case is disposed, courts should track the **case manner of disposition** (jury trial, bench trial, or non-trial). Summary judgment, settlement, alternative dispute resolution, default judgment, dismissal, transfer to another court, bind over, guilty plea, Nolle prosequi, all delinquency and dependency non-trial hearings can all be categorized as non-trial dispositions.

Filing types may include *new*, *reopened*, *reactivated*, and *transferred*.

Key dates to note include **case initial filing date, disposition date, date of marriage/domestic partnership, date of separation, and appeal filed**. If there is a divorce involved, the date of divorce will typically be a calculated field based on the date that a petition for divorce was granted.

Law Enforcement Data

If a domestic violence finding was made through a criminal case, courts should track the contact with law enforcement that initiated the case (Table 1i).

Table 1i: Law Enforcement Data Elements

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
47	Law Enforcement Agency	Identification of law enforcement or investigative agency that initiated the case	It is recommended to use the FBI standard (ORI Number). Agency name may also be used.
48	Law Enforcement Arrest Tracking Number	The unique tracking number associated with an arrest in a state, linked to the criminal court case	Alphanumeric Arrest tracking number, cycle number, etc.
49	Law Enforcement Incident Tracking Number	The unique tracking number associated with the incident that initiated the case; distinct from the arrest tracking number	Alphanumeric; This can be called OTN (offense tracking number) or OCN (offense cycle number).

Protection orders

In cases with accusations of domestic violence, it is not unusual for a litigant to seek a civil protection order. This is a case type in NODS, but the status of the protection order is considered out of scope for NODS. The court may wish to track whether a protection order was sought and granted as well as the current status of the order. The court may want to track the date for each change of status.

Whether there was a violation of a protection order at any point in the case is also outside the scope of NODS but may be important for the court. The court may also wish to track the date or case stage when the order was violated.

Table 1j: Protection order data elements

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
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Out of scope for NODS	Protection/ Restraining Order Status*	Date for each change of status	Petitioned* Granted* Dismissed* Withdrawn* Expired*
Out of scope for NODS	Violation of Protection/ Restraining Order*	Indication of whether the protection order was violated at any point in the case	Yes No

Tab 2: Participants in the Case

The court collects individual information on the participants involved with domestic violence cases. Keeping track of demographic and contact information in case management systems (CMS) can help accurately identify individuals within the CMS. Collecting a unique **identifier** (element 16 below) for individuals involved in the case can help courts keep track of individuals involved across multiple cases. This is especially helpful if information can be shared between jurisdictions within the state. For example, courts benefit from firearm restriction data (element 13 below) in domestic violence cases regardless of where the case took place (same or other jurisdiction) to ensure firearm restrictions are incorporated in the order.

Participant information to collect includes the following:

Table 2: Participant Information

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
1	Party Name	Full name of Party	<i>All available detail</i>
2	Party Opt-in to Text Notifications	Has Party opted into text message notifications?	Yes No
3	Type of Electronic Service	Destination for electronic notifications from court	<i>Text Message Email Telephone Social Media</i>
4	Alias	Alias used by the individual, including maiden name	<i>All available detail</i>
5	Date of Birth	Individual's Date of Birth	<i>Date</i>

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
6	Race	Party's identification with one or more social groups	<i>White Black or African American American Indian or Alaska Native Asian Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander Other</i>
6a	Race Source	The source or agency where the race data was collected	<i>Court (direct inquiry) Driver's license Law Enforcement Jail Corrections/Probation Prosecutor Petitioner Another State Agency Unknown</i>
6b	Race Self-Identified or Observed	An indicator for whether the race source relies upon self-report by the party or an observation from someone else (e.g., law enforcement)	<i>Self-reported Observed or Perceived</i>
7	Ethnicity	Party's identification with an ethnicity	<i>Hispanic/Latinx/Latino/Latina Non-Hispanic/ Latinx/Latino/Latina</i>
7a	Ethnicity Source	The source or agency where the ethnicity data was collected	<i>Court (direct inquiry) Driver's License Law Enforcement Jail Corrections/Probation Prosecutor Petitioner Another State Agency Unknown</i>
7b	Ethnicity Self-Identified or Observed	An indicator for whether the ethnicity source relies upon self-report by the party	<i>Self-reported Observed or Perceived</i>

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
		or an observation from someone else (e.g., law enforcement)	
8	Gender	Party's self-identified gender	<i>Male</i> <i>Female</i> <i>Non-binary</i>
8a	Transgender	Party identifies as transgender	<i>Yes</i> <i>No</i>
9	Sex	Individual's biological sex/sex assigned at birth	<i>Male</i> <i>Female</i>
11	Special Needs/ADA Flag	Flag to indicate accessibility needs the court should address with accommodations	<i>Yes</i> <i>No</i>
Out of Scope for NODS	Mailing Address*	Address consisting of number, street (or PO Box), city, state	<i>Alphanumeric Text</i>
Out of Scope for NODS	Residential Address*	Address consisting of number, street, city, state	<i>Alphanumeric Text</i>
12	ZIP Code	ZIP code of Party	<i>Postal Code</i>
Out of Scope for NODS	Email Address*	Address for electronic mailbox to receive email	<i>Alphanumeric Text</i>
Out of Scope for NODS	Phone Number*	Phone number including area code	<i>Numeric</i>
Out of Scope for NODS	Phone Type*	Type of phone to determine how to contact (call, text)	<i>Home*</i> <i>Cell*</i> <i>Work*</i>
13	State Firearm Restrictions	Party is subject to firearm restrictions at the state level	<i>Yes</i> <i>No</i>
14	Ever Represented	Has Party ever been represented?	<i>Yes</i> <i>No</i>

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
15	Primary Language	Individual's primary language if limited English proficient	<i>Text</i>
16	Identifier	Anonymized series of characters that identify the same individual within the court system, across cases and courts within the state	<i>Alphanumeric</i>
18	Relationship to Action	Participant's role/standing in the case	<i>Petitioner Nominated Party Respondent Subject of the Petition Interested Party Parent Foster parent Relative Caregiver Guardian Conservator Executor</i>
35	Homeless Status	Person is homeless according to HUD definition: homeless, imminent risk of homelessness, homeless under other federal statutes, or fleeing/attempting to flee DV	<i>Yes No</i>
42	Marital Status	Marital status of individual	<i>Never married Married Separated Divorced Widowed</i>
44	Veteran/Military Status	Indication of whether the individual is currently or has	<i>Yes - United States Yes - Another Country No</i>

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
		previously served in the armed forces	
45	Tribal Affiliation	Person's membership or affiliation with a Tribe	<i>Federally recognized Tribes</i>

Tab 3: Attorney/Advocates

In monitoring cases involving domestic violence, it is important to know the attorneys and advocates that are involved in the cases. If the parties have ever been represented, the court should keep track of the **Attorney/Advocate Entry Date** (first date the attorney/advocate entered the case), the **Attorney/Advocate End Date** (the date the attorney/advocate exited the case), and **the Associated party/participants** (the parties or participants that are represented or advocated for).

It may also be helpful to note the **Attorney Type** and **Advocate Type**, to which the value Victim/Survivor Advocate* has been added to the NODS values.

Table 3: Attorney & Advocate Information

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
1	Attorney/Advocate Name	Full name of attorney/advocate	<i>Text</i>
2	Firm Name	Attorney/advocate's firm at time of entry into the case	<i>Text</i>
3	Attorney/Advocate Address	Mailing address of attorney/advocate	<i>Text</i>
4	Attorney/Advocate ID Number	ID number assigned by bar, supreme court, state, court, or case management system	<i>Alphanumeric</i>
5	Attorney/Advocate E-mail Address	Attorney/advocate's e-mail address	<i>Text</i>

6	Attorney/Advocate Phone Number	Attorney/advocate's telephone number	<i>Text</i>
9	Attorney/Advocate Entry Date	Date attorney/advocate entered case	<i>Date</i>
10	Attorney/Advocate End Date	Date attorney/advocate exited case	<i>Date</i>
11	Limited Scope	Attorney retained to provide assistance on only some aspects of the case	<i>Yes No</i>
12	Associated Party/ Participant	The party/parties or participant(s) represented or advocated for by this advocate	<i>Text</i>
14	Attorney Type	Type of Attorney	<i>Private Attorney Public Defender State Attorney Legal Aid/Legal Services Attorney Protection & Advocacy (P&A) Attorney Allied Legal Professional GAL/Best-Interest Attorney Other</i>
15	Advocate Type	Type of non-attorney court-appointed advocate	<i>Navigator CASA/Non-attorney GAL Court Visitor Victim/Survivor Advocate* Other</i>

In participant information (tab 2), **ever represented** indicates that the person had an attorney at some point in the case. For thorough evaluation, capturing the dates of representation allows the court to analyze whether a person was represented at any given point of the case. To do this:

1. Identify the key case events (**Family hearing type**)

2. Identify the relevant dates (**Scheduled hearing/event date**)
3. Identify the **Hearing/event outcome**
4. Calculate the period of representation for each party (from **advocate/attorney entry date** to **advocate/attorney end date**)
5. Calculate if the held hearing or event occurred before, during, or after the period of representation

Tab 4: Status

Keeping track of a **case status** is important for family cases. Cases involving dissolution/divorce are often reopened for custody, support, and/or visitation after the initial disposition. Cases may also be reopened to modify or extend protection orders. Although these are likely considered reopened cases by the local jurisdiction, they are mapped to *open* case status in NODS.

In some circumstances [The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act \(SCRA\)](#) requires that a **case status** involving an active-duty servicemember be *inactive* until the service member has returned from overseas duty. The reason placed on inactive status in these cases would be mapped to "*military status*." When the case is reactivated, it would be mapped to *open* in NODS, though the court may wish locally to use a case status of reactivated.

Table 4: Case Status

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
1	Case Status Date	Date of status change	<i>Date case status set</i>
2	Case Status	Case status after change	<i>Open/Pending Inactive Disposed/Closed Disposed & Set for Review Problem-Solving Court</i>
3	Reason Placed on Inactive	Reason for change to inactive status	<i>Bench Warrant Court-Issued Stay Military Status Bankruptcy Stay Interlocutory Appeal Body Attachment Court-Ordered Evaluation Other</i>

Additional guidance on case status definitions can be found in [The State Court Guide to Statistical Reporting](#).

Tab 5: Pleadings

Courts can only effectively manage individual cases and the docket as a whole by maintaining data on the pleadings, motions, and filings of a case. Elements in the pleadings tab capture information about the filing, date, and outcome of pleadings. These elements also include information about whether the pleading is an answer or amended.

Table 5: Pleadings

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
1	Pleading Title	Statement of claim	<i>Text</i>
2	Date Filed	Date pleading or motion was filed	<i>Date</i>
3	Filing Party	Party filing the pleading	<i>Text</i>
4	Complaint	Is pleading the initiating complaint in the case?	<i>Yes</i> <i>No</i>
5	Answer	Does pleading contain an answer and/or denial to the initiating complaint?	<i>Yes</i> <i>No</i>
15	Amended	Is this an amended pleading?	<i>Yes</i> <i>No</i>
20	Summons Issued	Was a summons issued?	<i>Yes</i> <i>No</i>
21	Summons Date	Date summons was issued	<i>Date</i>
23	Request for Emergency Relief	Does pleading contain a request for emergency/temporary relief?	<i>Yes</i> <i>No</i>
30	Pleading/Motion Outcome	Order decision associated with specific motion(s)	<i>Granted (Full)</i> <i>Granted (Partial)</i> <i>Denied</i> <i>Dismissed/</i> <i>Withdrawn</i>

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
31	Mutually Agreed Filing Flag	Indicates that the case was filed with agreement among parties	Yes No
32	Fee Waiver Date	Date a fee waiver request/petition was filed	Date

Tab 6: Motions and Filings

Motions and filings include dates and titles of motions, as well as who filed them and the type of motion. It includes data about whether a filing is agreed/stipulated, meaning that the facts are not in dispute.

Table 6: Motions and Filings

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
1	Motion/Filing Title	Title of motion or filing	Text
2	Date Filed	Date pleading or motion was filed	Date
3	Filing Party	Filing party	Text
4	Motion/Filing Type	Type of motion or filing	Administrative Affidavit of inability to pay costs Continuance Discovery Dispositive Motion to dismiss Motion to suppress evidence Post-Trial Speedy trial Other
5	Pleading/Motion Outcome	Order decision associated with specific motion(s)	Granted (full, partial) Denied Dismissed/withdrawn
6	Amended	Is this an amended motion/filing?	Yes No
7	Agreed/Stipulated	Is this motion/filing agreed/stipulated?	Yes No

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
8	Opposed	Is this motion/filing opposed?	Yes No
9	Opposition	Is this a filing in opposition to a motion/filing?	Yes No

Tab 7: Hearings and Events

Data elements on hearings and events help the courts manage individual cases and the docket as a whole. It is essential for effective case management.

The **hearing types** for family cases are broad. The court will likely want to capture greater detail about hearing types that are then mapped to the broad hearing types in NODS. This guide adds post-decree* to hearing types that are helpful to courts.

NODS does not include data on whether a party was served and on what date. Courts may want to track this, particularly in these cases where many individuals are self-represented.

NODS has the data element **did any party or attorney appear remotely?** With values of *yes* or *no*. For individual courts, it is best practice to capture how each party appeared (*in-person*, *video*, or *audio*) in addition to the **hearing/event modality** (*In-person*, *videoconference*, *telephonic*, *combination*). Note that in many jurisdictions, combination is known as hybrid.

Table 7: Hearings and Events

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
1	Scheduled Hearing/Event Date	Date of scheduled hearing, trial, or conference	<i>Date</i>
2	Judicial Officer	Judicial officer presiding at the event	<i>Name or ID</i>
3	Parties Present	The parties or case participants present for the event	<i>Name, ID, or relationship to action</i>
4	Attorneys/Advocates Present	The attorneys or advocates present for the event	<i>Name or ID</i>

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
5	Hearing/ Event Outcome	Outcome of hearing or event	<i>Held Continued Cancelled Postponed/Rescheduled</i>
6	Hearing/Event Modality	Way that the hearing was held	<i>In-Person Videoconference Telephonic Combination</i>
7	Continuance/ Postponement Reason	Reason scheduled event was continued or postponed/rescheduled	<i>Transportation Evaluation Illness Court Closed Party/Witness not Available/FTA Lack of Notice Insufficient Time Incomplete Discovery/Crime Lab Delay Other</i>
8	Interpreter Present	Was a certified/professional court interpreter used during the event?	<i>In-Person Remote None</i>
9	Interpreter Language	Language of certified court interpreter	<i>Text</i>
10	Hearing Initiation	Manner in which hearing was initiated	<i>Party's Written Motion Oral Request (Telephonic, In-Court) Court's Initiative</i>
14	Family Hearing Type	Type of family hearing	<i>Pretrial/Temporary Trial/Contested Hearing Contempt Post-Decree*</i>
17	Evidentiary	Was evidence introduced?	<i>Yes No</i>
18	Continuance/ Postponement Party	The party/entity that requested the continuance/postpone ment	<i>Party Court</i>

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
19	Type of Record	Type of record created during hearing	<i>Audio Video Court Reporter None</i>
20	Remote Witness	Did any witness appear remotely?	<i>Yes No</i>
21	Remote Witness Type	Manner of remote witness appearance	<i>Audio Video</i>
22	Remote Party(ies)	Did any party or attorney appear remotely?	<i>Yes No</i>
23	Remote Party Type	Manner of remote party/attorney appearance	<i>Audio Video</i>
24	Conference Type	The type of conference scheduled	<i>Status/Review Pre-Trial Settlement Case Management/Scheduling Other</i>
Out of scope for NODS	Service Date*	Date the party was served	<i>Date</i>

Tab 8: Orders

Court actions are captured through orders, which can be in response to pleadings, hearings, events, or monitoring activities. Capturing key data elements in a case management system (not just in court orders!) allows for better tracking of cases. In domestic violence cases, orders in both criminal and family cases may be relevant.

Entering information about services allows courts to monitor compliance (or to track when services are ordered but unavailable). Service orders can include *counseling, substance use treatment, parenting classes, supervised visitation, assisted outpatient treatment, hospitalization/inpatient treatment, hybrid AOT/Hospitalization*, batterer intervention programs*, or other types of services.

Medical, substance use, psychological, competency, custody, and home study evaluations can also be ordered.

Table 8: Orders

Data Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
1	Order Date	Date order entered	<i>Date</i>
2	Order Title	Title of order	<i>Text</i>
5	Result	Finding on pleading or motion	<i>Granted Granted in Part Denied</i>
6	Party	Party who is the subject of the order	<i>Name or ID</i>
7	Judicial Officer	Judicial officer issuing the order	<i>Name or ID</i>
11	Reason for Contempt	Reason for contempt finding	<i>Support Parenting/Visitation No Contact Other</i>
12	Service Ordered	One or more parties were ordered to participate in a service	<i>Date</i>
13	Service Type	Services one or more parties ordered to access	<i>Counseling Substance Use Treatment Parenting Classes Batterer Intervention Program* Supervised Visitation Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Hospitalization/Inpatient Hybrid AOT/Hospitalization Other</i>
14	Service Party	The party or parties ordered to participate in a service	<i>Text</i>

Data Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
15	Service/ Evaluation Outcome	Outcome of service/evaluation	<i>Held Continued Cancelled Postponed/Rescheduled FTA</i>
16	Continuance/ Postponement Reason	Reason scheduled event was continued or postponed/rescheduled	<i>Transportation Evaluation Illness Court Closed Party/Witness not Available/FTA Lack of Notice Insufficient Time Incomplete Discovery/Crime Lab Delay Other</i>
17	Evaluation Ordered	One or more parties were ordered to participate in an evaluation	<i>Date</i>
18	Evaluation Type	Type of evaluation ordered for party	<i>Medical Substance use Psychological Competency Custody Home study Other</i>
19	Evaluation Party	The party or parties ordered to participate in an evaluation	<i>Text</i>
20	Evaluation In- House	The evaluation was conducted by the court	<i>Yes No</i>
23	Warrant Issued	A warrant was issued after case initiation	<i>Date</i>
24	Warrant Reason	Reason the warrant was issued after case initiation	<i>New Offense Violations of Conditions FTA Body Attachment</i>

Data Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
			<i>Runaway Other</i>
25	Warrant End	Date a warrant ceased	<i>Date</i>
26	Warrant End Reason	Reason the warrant ceased	<i>Returned/ Served Quashed/ Cancelled /Recalled Expired Surrendered</i>

Tab 9: Charges

If a domestic violence situation results in criminal charges, the case management system should capture key charging elements in the criminal case.

Table 9: Charges

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
1	Offense Date	Date when the offense occurred	<i>Date</i>
2	Arrest Date	Date when the defendant was arrested	<i>Date</i>
3	Charge Identifier	Sequence number uniquely identifying each filing charge within a case (count number). This is not the statute number or case type code	<i>Numeric</i>
4	Charge Filing Date	Date the charge was filed	<i>Date</i>
5	Charge Filed By	The type of party that filed the charge	<i>Prosecutor Law Enforcement Attorneys General Other</i>
6	Filing Charge Body of Law	The authoritative source or body of law that prohibits the offense alleged in the case.	<i>Numeric</i>
7	Filing Charge Statute/ Ordinance Number	The statute/ ordinance number that defines the alleged behavior as an offense.	<i>Text</i>
9	Filing Charge Description	Description of the offense at filing	<i>Text</i>
10	Filing Charge Degree	Charge class severity/degree at filing	<i>Felony Gross Misdemeanor Misdemeanor</i>

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
			<i>Violation</i>
11	Filing Charge Degree Detailed	The specific class severity or degree provided by statutory laws for each charge against the defendant.	<i>Text</i>
12	Filing Charge Modifiers	The specific type of mitigator or enhancer associated with the filing charge	<i>Attempt Conspiracy Solicitation Domestic Violence Use of a Weapon Other</i>
13	Disposition Charge Statute/ Ordinance Number	The state statute/ordinance number that defines the alleged behavior as a criminal offense for each disposed charge.	<i>Statute or ordinance number</i>
15	Disposition Charge Description	Description of the offense at disposition.	<i>Text</i>
16	Disposition Charge Degree	Charge class severity/degree at disposition.	<i>Felony Gross misdemeanor Misdemeanor Violation</i>
17	Disposition Charge Degree Detailed	The specific class severity or degree provided by statutory laws for each disposed charge.	<i>Text</i>
18	Disposition Charge Degree Detailed	The specific type of mitigator or enhancer associated the disposed charge.	<i>Attempt Conspiracy Solicitation Domestic Violence Use of a weapon Other</i>

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
19	Charge Disposition Date	Date when each charge received a judgment or disposition	<i>Date</i>
25	Date Transmitted to Crime Information Center	Date court disposition sent to the State Crime Information Center	<i>Date</i>
43	Plea Type	Type of plea the defendant entered	<i>Guilty Guilty by Payment Not Guilty Alford No Contest Not Criminally Responsible</i>
44	Plea Date	Date a plea was entered	<i>Date</i>

Tab 10: Pretrial-Intake

If a domestic violence situation results in criminal charges, the case management system should capture key pretrial and intake elements in the criminal case. Data gathered in the criminal case (such as the risk assessment instrument or bonding) may have implications for a related family case.

Table 10: Pretrial-Intake

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
1	Risk Assessment Instrument	Name/type of pre-adjudication or pre-trial risk assessment instrument	<i>Text</i>
2	Risk Assessment Score	Risk score assigned during the pre-adjudication assessment phase	<i>Numeric or categorical (high, medium, low risk)</i>
3	Pretrial Release Decision	The decision made by the court for the defendant's pretrial custody status	<i>Release on Recognizance Held on Bond/Bail</i>

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
			<i>Held Without Bond/Bail</i>
4	Bond Hearing Type	Type of hearing to discuss bond.	<i>Bond/Bail Setting Bond/Bail Review Bond Posted</i>
5	Bond Type	Type of pretrial release bond imposed by the court at the bond/bail hearing	<i>Personal Recognizance/ROR Percentage/Secured Bond Unsecured Bond Cash/monetary Bond Property Bond</i>
6	Bond Amount	Dollar amount of the monetary bond imposed at the bond/bail hearing	<i>Dollar Amount (Currency)</i>
7	Defendant Status Bond Code		<i>Bail posted In default</i>
8	Condition(s) of Release	Conditions the defendant or juvenile must follow when released pre-trial	<i>Release on Supervision Electronic Monitoring Drug/Alcohol Testing Ignition Interlock No Contact Order Program Compliance Other</i>
9	Pretrial Release Revocation Reason	The reason pretrial release was revoked	<i>FTA New offense Violation of a technical condition of pretrial release</i>
10	Deferral	Date case deferred	<i>Date</i>
11	Summons Issued	Date the initial summons was issued, if the defendant was not arrested and taken into custody	<i>Date</i>

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
12	Grand Jury Indictment	The grand jury issued an indictment, for those jurisdictions where a grand jury is used to determine whether there is enough evidence	Yes No
13	Referral Date	Date the referral was submitted.	<i>Date</i>
14	Referral Source Type	The type of agency or person that referred the incident.	<i>Police Prosecutors Parents School (including SRO) Health officials Other</i>
15	Referral Source Detail	The specific agency or person that referred the incident to court.	<i>Text</i>
16	Intake Decision Date	Date the intake decision was made.	<i>Date</i>
17	Intake Decision	Decision of how to proceed with the case after intake assessment.	<i>Dismissed (lack of legal sufficiency) Referral to another agency Counseled and released Non-petitioned supervision Petitioned to juvenile court Petitioned for transfer to criminal court.</i>
18	Living Arrangement	Living arrangement of the youth at intake.	<i>Both parents One parent One parent with other adult(s) Kinship care Foster family Out-of-home placement Independent</i>

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
			<i>Guardian Other (youth's friends)</i>
19	Diversion Eligibility Flag	Flag to indicate the youth was eligible for pre-petition diversion at intake.	<i>Yes No</i>
20	Assessment Flag	Flag to indicate an assessment/evaluation/screening was conducted prior to adjudication. This includes risk assessments, trauma screening, psychological evaluations, etc.	<i>Yes No</i>
21	Waiver Decision	The decision to waive the youth proceedings to adult criminal court.	<i>Granted</i>
22	Pre-adjudication Detention	Flag to indicate the youth was placed in detention prior to adjudication	<i>Denied</i>
23	Pre-adjudication Detention Reason	Reason the youth was taken into custody or determined to need to remain in custody.	<i>Yes No</i>
24	Detention Type	Type of detention the youth was placed in.	<i>Secure Non-secure</i>
25	Placement Decision	Decision to change residential placement of the youth.	<i>Yes No</i>
26	Placement Type	Specific type of residential placement.	<i>Custody of juvenile Justice agency Detention center Shelter Foster care Reception or diagnostic center Group home Boot camp</i>

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
			<i>Ranch/wilderness camp</i> <i>Residential treatment center</i> <i>Long-term secure facility</i> <i>Adult prison/jail</i> <i>Other</i>

Tab 11: Diversion

If a domestic violence situation results in criminal charges, the case management system should capture data related to diversion in the criminal case. Data gathered in the criminal case may have implications for a related family case. However, given the unique dynamics of cases with domestic violence, the [U.S. Department of Justice](#) identifies the automatic use of pre-trial diversion programs in cases of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking as an activity that may compromise victim safety and recovery and undermine offender accountability.

Table 11: Diversion

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
1	Diversion Entry	Date of entry into a problem-solving court docket or other diversion program	<i>Date</i>
2	Diversion Exit	Date of exit from a problem-solving court docket or other diversion program	<i>Date</i>
3	Diversion Program	The name or type of diversion program or problem-solving court docket	<i>Text</i>
4	Diversion Program Point of Entry	Point in the case in which defendant signs consent to enter diversion program, or agrees in court to enter	<i>Pre-Trial</i> <i>Post-Adjudication/Plea</i>

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
5	Diversion Exit Type	The program outcome achieved	<i>Successful Completion Neutral Unsuccessful</i>

Tab 12: Civil Judgements

In situations with domestic violence, one party may seek a civil judgment against another party. This may involve compensation for injuries, lost income, or other damages. The case management system should capture the following data elements.

Table 12: Civil Judgments

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
1	Judgment Date	Date on which judgment was entered	<i>Date</i>
2	Prevailing Party ID	Which party prevailed?	<i>Plaintiff (only plaintiff[s] on initiating complaint) Defendant (only defendant[s] on initiating complaint) Mixed (combination of plaintiff[s] and defendant[s] on initial and/or other claim[s])</i>
3	Personal identifier(s) of prevailing party(ies)	Personal identifier(s) of prevailing party(ies)	
4	Judgment against	Party(ies) against whom judgment was entered	
5	Monetary Damages	Total amount of damages awarded on all claims	<i>Dollar Amount</i>
6	Costs	Costs and fees, including attorneys'	<i>Dollar Amount</i>

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
		fees, awarded on all claims	
7	Non-monetary relief awarded	Was non-monetary relief awarded?	Yes No

Tab 13: Sanctions

If a domestic violence situation results in criminal charges, the case management system should capture sanctions given in the criminal case. Data gathered in the criminal case (such as sentence type and conditions) may have implications for a related family case.

Table 13: Sanctions

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
1	Sentence Type(s)	Type(s) of sentence(s) the defendant was mandated to serve	<i>Death Penalty Life in Prison State Prison Jail Lifetime Supervision Extended Supervision/Split Sentence Probation Fine Restitution Community Service Time Served Other</i>
2	Sentence Length	Length of sentence imposed by the court, by term	<i>Numeric</i>
3	Unit of Sentence Length	Timeframe of sentence imposed by the court	<i>Hours Days Months Years Lifetime</i>
4	Sentence Conditions	Additional conditions imposed at sentencing	<i>Text</i>

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
5	Concurrent/ Consecutive Sentence Flag	Flag to indicate the sentence is to be served concurrently or consecutively	Yes No
6	Time Served Credit Length	Length of time (in days) spent in pretrial detention that was credited toward the sentence the defendant was mandated to serve	<i>Number of days</i>
7	Monetary Penalty Type	A type or category of obligation, e.g., fee, fine, damages, court costs, special funds, liquidated damages	<i>Fees Fines Damages Court costs Special Funds</i>
8	Monetary Penalty Amount	Total dollar amount of each monetary penalty type	<i>Currency</i>
9	Monetary Penalty Amount Balance to Date	Dollar amount of penalty(ies) owed at the time of data extraction	<i>Currency</i>
10	Restitution Amount	Dollar amount of the restitution	<i>Currency</i>
11	Restitution Amount Balance to Date	Dollar amount of the restitution owed at the time of data extraction	<i>Currency</i>
12	Alternative Fine Indicator	Was there a sanction or alternative to fine, such as community service	Yes No
13	Payment Plan	Flag to indicate a payment plan was established for fees/fines	Yes No
20	Disposition Type(s)	Type(s) of disposition(s) the youth was mandated to serve	<i>Monetary Penalties: Fine, Forfeit, Costs, Restitution Community Service Monitored Diversion</i>

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
			<i>Court-Ordered (formal) Supervision Placement Dismissed Transferred to Another Agency Transferred to Criminal Court Other</i>
21	Disposition Conditions	Conditions imposed or programs recommended by the court at disposition	<i>No Contact Curfew Suspension/ Revocation of Driver's License Sex Offender Registration Positive Youth Development Activity Mentoring Tutoring Family Treatment Mental Health Services Drug/Alcohol Treatment</i>
22	Community Service Hours	Number of community service hours ordered to serve	<i>Numeric</i>

Tab 16: Post-trial

If a domestic violence situation results in criminal charges, the case management system should capture post-trial activity in the criminal case. Any probation violation may have implications for a related family case.

Table 16: Post-trial

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
1	Probation Violation	A probation violation was filed	<i>Date</i>

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
2	Failure Type	Defendant has been found to have failed to comply with legal obligation to pay, attend, or follow other court orders	<i>Failure to Pay</i> <i>Failure to Comply</i> <i>Failure to Appear</i>
3	Violation Type	Type of probation violation. Technical violation may include any failure to comply.	<i>Technical</i> <i>New Offense</i>
4	Violation Outcome	The outcome of the individual's violation	<i>Revocation</i> <i>New Charges Filed</i> <i>No Action</i>

Tab 17: Alternative Dispute Resolution

Alternative dispute resolution (ADR) is common in family and dependency justice cases in many jurisdictions. As long as the court ordered ADR, the case remains on active status within the court.

The inherent power imbalance present in relationships with domestic violence presents challenges to a balanced ADR process. Thus, courts must consider the power and control dynamics in the case to identify whether ADR is appropriate. ADR programs can take steps to ensure safety, such as requiring mediators to participate in training on domestic violence dynamics, learning best practices for mediating in cases with domestic violence, allowing survivors the opportunity to opt-out if they do not feel safe, and assuring survivors there is no penalty for not participating.

Referral date, ADR date, type of ADR, and results of the ADR are all data elements that should be collected.

Table 17: ADR

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
1	Referral Date	Date of referral to ADR/ODR	<i>Date</i>

Element #	Data Element	Definition	Values
2	ADR Date	Date on which ADR/ODR event was scheduled	<i>Date</i>
3	Court Ordered	Was ADR court-ordered?	<i>Yes No</i>
4	Type of ADR	Type of ADR	<i>Arbitration Mediation Settlement Conference On-line Dispute Resolution (ODR)</i>
5	ODR Facilitation	Type of on-line dispute resolution facilitation	<i>None Machine Human</i>
6	Report Date	Date when ADR was completed/ADR report filed	<i>Date</i>
7	Result of ADR	Result of ADR event	<i>Settled in Whole Settled in Part No Settlement Not Held</i>
8	Associated Parties	Parties ordered to participate in ADR	<i>Text</i>
9	Hearing/Event Outcome	Outcome of hearing or event	<i>Held Continued Cancelled Postponed/ Rescheduled FTA</i>
10	Continuance/ Postponement Reason	Reason scheduled event was continued or postponed/ rescheduled	<i>Transportation Evaluation Illness Court Closed Party/Witness not Available/FTA Lack of Notice Insufficient Time Incomplete Discovery/Crime Lab Delay Other</i>