



February 19, 2021

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office

(620)-275-5911
24 hour helpline

Counties Covered:
Ness; Greeley; Scott;
Kearny; Lane;
Sedgwick; Finney

Executive Director:
Hailey Knoll

Assistant Director:
Marcia Ricke

Shelter Coordinator:
Kayla Knier

To Legislators reviewing House Bill 2371:

As Executive Director of a Domestic and Sexual Violence Crisis Center, I see first hand the flaw in the system put in place with Department of Children and Families, mandating victims of abuse cooperation in pursuing child support.

When a victim of abuse is trying to get away from their abuser, it isn't because of personality disagreements. It is because of horrible, sometimes unimaginable abuse inflicted on the members of the family. Our agency specializes in helping victims seek safety, without involving the avenues that allow the abuser to not only locate their victim, but continue to threaten and literally make their life a living hell.

While we specialize in victim safety, there are a plethora of services that Department of Children and Families has to offer, that we (and many programs like us) simply don't have the resources for. DCF services are vital in the long term success of a victim of abuse. When a victim of abuse is seeking safety, the mandated quest for child support often intensifies the abuse. This is very common because to the abuser, it looks like the victim is the one on this quest. Thus, the continued threats, stalking and abuse continue. This prevents many victims to obtain the unique services DCF can provide.

Our agency of victim advocates, is asking you to consider all of those facts in your deliberations. One thing we know for sure is this. The abuse ends, when the victim has been killed. It is our mission to prevent, as best we can, homicide related to domestic violence.

Thank you for your time and deliberation on behalf of the victims of abuse,

Hailey Knoll

Executive Director; Family Crisis Services, Inc