

CSI Meeting January 21, 2020

Discussion of Emerging issues with CSI Guest Deputy Cliver of LA Sheriff's Department. We discussed service and enforcement of ROs and EPOs. We discussed the proof of oral form that Suzi Ferrell had been working on for law enforcement. Law enforcement alone can orally serve a RO so it would only be used by law enforcement. We discussed the reemergence of the parental alienation claims against survivors. We discussed the difficulty that litigants have in seeking contempt due to its status as a quasi-criminal matter and the respondent's right to counsel as a result of the potential for jail time. It is very difficult to prove all elements of contempt and Gail believes this may be an opportunity for legislative change. We discussed the issues we are having all throughout the county with clerks giving inconsistent information about whether or not victims can maintain a confidential address on their RO pleadings. We discussed recent family law experiences with Judges trying to transfer cases to Dependency Court and leaving litigants in limbo when that "transfer" is unsuccessful. Other courtroom experiences included a Judge giving custody to a grandparent who had not been joined to the case (nor had sought joinder.) Family Law Coalition will be meeting with Supervising Judge of Family Law, Judge Riff on February 20. Gail will be in touch with Ron regarding restrictions that Death Review has for inviting legal aid staff to the meetings, and whether or not that can be changed. Gail also notes that there is a problem with preserving declarations in old RO cases. The next meeting will follow the February DV Council meeting.