

FREE LEGAL TRAINING

Represent Domestic Violence Survivors in Hearings

Staff at Alaska's domestic violence shelters are invited to apply for a 10-week remote training designed to build practical skills to support survivors in domestic violence protective order (DVPO) hearings.

TRAINING INFORMATION

Training includes weekly live Zoom sessions, reading assignments, and courtroom observation opportunities.

Participants will build:

- Foundational legal knowledge
- Skills in drafting effective petitions
- Understanding of stages of litigation
- Evidence and case development skills
- Client communication techniques
- Courtroom presentation skills

Those who complete the full training may represent survivors in court hearings under Alaska Bar Rule 43.5 on a limited scope basis.

PROGRAM DETAILS



July 8 - September 9, 2026

10-week remote training program



Weekly live Zoom + self-paced learning

Approx. 3 hours per week commitment



Apply by Wednesday May 27, 2026

Email: cjwrc@alsc-law.org



Learn more: www.alsc-law.org/cjw/partnership_training

DV Shelter Partnership Training Outline

The time commitment is approximately three hours per week, including a one-hour live Zoom session and additional self-paced learning. Below is the weekly overview:

Week 1: Orientation and Foundations

Program overview, expectations, and introductions. Role of the Community Justice Worker in DVPO representation. Training materials and court observation requirements

Week 2: Survivor-Centered Representation

Trauma-informed advocacy, dynamics of domestic violence, and ethical considerations. Introduction to client interaction and role clarity.

Week 3: DVPO Basics and Legal Framework

Core elements of a DVPO case, burdens of proof, and court structure. Filing process and local court procedures.

Week 4: Petition Drafting I (Foundations)

Drafting effective DVPO petitions, identifying legally sufficient facts, and reviewing and revising petitions. Introduction to stalking and sexual assault protective orders.

Week 5: Petition Drafting II and Case Framing

Refining petition narratives and developing case theory. Preparing clients for hearings and understanding respondent-side considerations.

Week 6: Pre-Hearing Preparation and Evidence

Building a case timeline and gathering evidence, including reports and witness statements. Preparing clients and understanding courtroom logistics and safety planning.

Week 7: Evidence in Practice and Opening Statements

Admitting exhibits, handling objections, and strengthening case theory. Drafting and presenting opening statements through live exercises.

Week 8: Direct and Cross-Examination Skills

Structuring direct examination and conducting effective cross-examination. Integrating evidence into testimony through continued simulations.

Week 9: Motions, Discovery, and Case Development

Drafting discovery requests and understanding motion practice. Applying procedural rules and preparing for a full mock hearing.

Week 10: Mock Hearing and Trial Preparation

Full DVPO hearing simulation, including openings, examinations, and closings. Real-time use of exhibits and objections with feedback.

Final Session: Mock Trial and Skills Integration (in-person)

Comprehensive mock trial experience with integrated skills and instructor feedback.