

# GREENBOOK INITIATIVE

## BUZZWORDS

**Accountability:** an obligation or willingness to accept responsibility or to account for one's actions. A guiding principle of the Greenbook is that communities hold violent perpetrators responsible for their abusive behavior and provide a variety of legal interventions and social services to stop the violence.

**Best Practices:** standards or benchmarks for performance that have shown positive outcomes for clients or consumers. Greenbook recommendations are based on the experiences of agencies that have developed new and effective interventions in responding to the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment.

**Child maltreatment:** the physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse of children (“acts of commission”) and the physical neglect, emotional neglect or deprivation of children (“acts of omission”).

**Child witnesses to domestic violence:** encompasses a wide range of experiences for children whose mothers are being abused physically, sexually, or emotionally by an intimate partner. It includes the child who actually observes abuse; overhears, but does not observe the abuse; or is exposed to the aftermath of the abuse, e.g. mother's bruises or visible injuries.

**Collaborate:** work as the associate of another; perform work together.

**Community Collaborative:** an interdisciplinary group, with representatives from partner agencies, that works together toward a common vision in implementing the goals and objectives of the Greenbook Initiative throughout the greater St. Louis area.

**Consult:** ask advice or opinion as a guide to one's own judgment. The Initiative will promote consultation to enhance cross training and the overall expertise among partners regarding effective ways to respond to the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment.

**Cooperate:** work with mutual efforts to promote the same objective. The Community Collaborative will encourage cooperation among and between partners to achieve Greenbook objectives.

**Coordinate:** bring entities into causal, complementary, parallel, or reciprocal relationship; to harmonize. The Initiative will facilitate coordinated interventions within and between partners.

**Cross training:** process in which members of one system learn about the basic policies and practices of another system through training. Cross training is used to improve cooperation and communication between professionals who traditionally have had little contact with each other. In the context of the Initiative, the three key partners will provide ongoing cross training for each other on a periodic basis.

**Cultural competency:** the ability of practitioners to function effectively in the context of racial, ethnic, religious, or cultural differences by responding the unique strengths and concerns of families.

**Domestic violence:** pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors, including physical, sexual and psychological attacks, as well a economic coercion that adults or adolescents use against their intimate partners.

**Egalitarian:** assert and promote the view regarding the equality of people and the equality of partners in the collaborative.

**Family Violence:** a broader concept than domestic violence that can include child abuse and maltreatment, child-to-parent violence, or sibling violence.

**Greenbook:** shorthand for *Effective Intervention in Domestic Violence & Child Maltreatment: Guidelines for Policy and Practice* (green cover) published by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. This resource provides 16 principles and 67 recommendations for system change within the courts, child protection, domestic violence services, and the larger community.

**Initiative:** a new measure or course of action: introductory. The Greenbook Initiative introduces to the community an opportunity for a bold new coordinated approach to improve outcomes for battered women and their children.

**Paradigm Shift:** a belief system or attitudinal change that takes on a new model or pattern to govern thinking and behavior. The Greenbook Initiative challenges all three systems to change policies and procedures based on Greenbook principles and best practices.

**Partner:** an associate; sharer; participant. Three key partners in the Initiative are the Family Court of Saint Louis County, lead agency; Missouri Division of Family Services, St. Louis County Children's Services; and area Domestic Violence service providers. Other agencies that join the Community Collaborative will also be partners in the Initiative, including law enforcement, children's agencies, schools, health and human service agencies, the faith community, and others.

**Principle:** a governing law of conduct. Guiding principles for the implementation of the Initiative are to keep battered women and their children **SAFE**.

**S**afety, stability and well being for victims; keep children with their non-offending parent

**A**ccountability for the abuser

**F**amily-friendly interventions that respect differences and build on strengths

**E**ntry points for service are accessible and provide a range of options

**Safety:** condition of being safe; freedom from danger or hazard. The Greenbook Guiding Principles and recommendations identify key systemic changes that need to be institutionalized within the Courts, child protection and domestic violence services to keep battered women and their children **SAFE**.

**Stability:** to make stable, steadfast, or firmly established. The Initiative recommends coordinated interventions by partners that will provide the consistency, predictability, and on going support that children and battered women need to function effectively.

**Steering Committee:** provides leadership and governance for the St. Louis County Greenbook Initiative. Representatives from the three partner agencies serve on the Committee.

**System Change:** the Initiative seeks to institutionalize change by having partner agencies formally adopt (codify) the policies, procedures, screening protocols, best practices, cross training, case management, and other Greenbook recommendations that effectively address the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment.

**Well being:** condition of being well, comfortable, happy and content. The Initiative challenges partners to go beyond providing physical safety to victims to supply those interventions that will promote the social, emotional and psychological health of victims.