

# Get Child Support Safely

## *Developing a Community Collaboration*

The purpose of this worksheet is to help family violence advocacy organizations develop a community-based child support collaboration. As you contemplate such a collaboration, keep in mind that each local community faces unique challenges and has unique resources at its disposal. **The Texas Council on Family Violence Policy team is available for technical assistance at 1-800-525-1978.**

### Internal Assessment

- How can this collaboration benefit survivors?
- What do we hope to accomplish?
- What challenges do we anticipate? What can we do to address these challenges?
- What are the existing partnerships in the community that would also benefit from this collaboration?
- Who are the primary and secondary contacts for the collaboration?
- With whom do we want to collaborate?
- Are there organizations that would be indirectly affected?
- Are there environmental (political, cultural, etc.) factors to consider?
- Is our agency able to allocate resources? If so, what kind? (Staff time, funding, transportation, volunteers, etc.)
- What are the agency's next steps?

### Working with the OAG

- Call the main OAG phone number 1-800-252-8014 and ask to speak with the local office regarding a community partnership
- Offer to set up a meeting to discuss ways your agencies can work together to support survivors in the child support process
- Ask if it would be ok to observe court in order to gain a better understanding of the process and the roles of OAG and court staff
- Identify next steps
- Identify a primary point of contact at the main office (office manager, supervisor, ombudsman or managing attorney)
- At an initial meeting, ask the OAG representative if there are ways your program staff or services might be of assistance
- Ask what an ideal collaboration would look like to the OAG representative

### Working with the IV-D Court

- Identify the location of the local IV-D court
- Identify the court coordinator for the local IV-D court
- If assistance is needed reaching out to the judge or court staff, consider asking the OAG representative to make an introduction
- Ask what an ideal collaboration would look like to court staff or the judge.
- Identify next steps
- Identify the IV-D associate judge who hears cases in your area
- Reach out to the associate judge and local court staff and offer to set up a meeting to discuss opportunities to collaborate
- Ask what resources your organization can offer to the court and its personnel
- Explore safety measures and strategies with local court personnel