JUDICIAL RESPONSES THAT EMPOWER BATTERED WOMEN

PRIORITIZING WOMEN’S SAFETY:
- Asking about women’s fears.
- Asking about weapons.
- Confiscating weapons.
- Training court personnel on battering.
- Making a safe space for women to wait for hearings.

MAKING THE COURT HOSPITABLE TO ABUSED WOMEN:
- Providing a separate restraining order office.
- Informing women of their legal options.
- Providing translators.
- Making the building handicap accessible.

ADDRESSING THE ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF BATTERING:
- Asking whether women need child support.
- Connecting women with community resources around housing and financial assistance.

IMPOSING SANCTIONS ON VIOLENT MEN:
- Imposing sanctions for violating court orders.
- Refusing to joke and bond with violent men.
- Correcting institutional bias toward men.

SUPPORTIVE JUDICIAL Demeanor:
- Listening to abused women.
- Asking questions.
- Looking women in the eye.
- Recognizing the complexity of women’s circumstances and choices.

FOCUSBING ON THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN:
- Demonstrating concern for the safety of children.
- Making space in the courthouse for children.
- Recognizing the effects of battering on children.

TAKING THE VIOLENCE SERIOUSLY:
- Communicating through words and actions that the court will not tolerate battering.
- Encouraging women to return to court if they need to.

CONNECTING WOMEN WITH RESOURCES:
- Providing advocates for battered women.
- Developing relationships with shelters, batterers’ programs, and community services.

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