

### **Domestic Violence Victim Impact Panel**

The DV VIP is the Domestic Violence Victim Impact Panel, where survivors of domestic violence come and tell about how family members (including children) were killed because of domestic violence and how the defendants' behavior affects the children in the home and the community in general. The Panel is essential to help survivors in their healing process. It is more for the survivors telling their story than it is for the people who are court ordered to attend.

I have enclosed some of the evaluations completed by the people who have attended to let you know what they learned. It seems to give a few of them a 'light bulb' moment that no matter what the other person may or may not have done; you could have chosen a different path.

Cost is \$40.00 - all funds collected go to the DV CCRADV non-profit organization to give victims of violence immediate funds to move, for transportation, gas, electric, phone, etc. Please review website [www.ccradv.org](http://www.ccradv.org) for detailed information.

The Panels are held in a courtroom in the evening, where an officer is present and checks them through, no hats, no cell phones, no magazines. This is not a social occasion. Respect is to be shown to the speakers. No respect. You must leave. The officer is responsible for order, respect, alcohol or drug influence, counting the money with one of the volunteers, etc.

People who attend are told that they must hold on to their Certificate and make copies because it is the only one they will receive to show proof that they have attended. It is part of the accountability. (In the past people have called and said they lost their certificate or the court or probation calls and says a person attended. We do not give out second certificates. If they don't have proof, they must attend again and pay the \$40).

The panels are held in:

- **Auburn** - on the **Third Thursday** of every *OTHER* month beginning February 19<sup>th</sup>, April, June, August, October and December.
- **Federal Way** - on the **Fourth Saturdays** of January, March, May, July, September and November.

The Auburn, Federal Way and Pierce County judges order most dv perpetrators to attend this one time class, as well as the one year dv tx program. Most of the dv programs have the defendant attend the panel as part of the dv program. The Impact Panel does not replace counseling; it is an *enhancement* to counseling. It talks about how the behavior and choices that are made are affecting the children, the community, as well as their loved ones.

Hope this information is helpful. Also, if anyone would like to attend to see what it's all about, you can attend for free. Call me to schedule.

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