



Domestic Violence Cases: The Differences Between The Criminal and Civil Process

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Best practices for safeguarding the interests of the victim and protecting the rights of the defendant and the differences between criminal stay away orders and civil domestic violence injunctions.

Injunctions are powerful legal tools that aim to maintain order and protect individuals. Criminal Stay Away Orders are meant to achieve the same goals in a criminal context. While their overarching purpose is to prevent harm, the key distinction lies in the nature of the proceedings and the parties involved.

It is important to recognize that anyone, regardless of gender, can be a victim of domestic violence. Domestic Violence can affect individuals of any gender. It can be in the form of physical, emotional, psychological, or economic abuse, as well as coercive control. One challenge in understanding the true prevalence of domestic violence is underreporting, social stigma and cultural norms. Many victims, regardless of gender, may not come forward due to fear, shame, or other barriers. Cultural and societal norms can influence whether domestic violence is reported or acknowledged. In some cases, gender roles or societal expectations can also affect reporting. Research and surveys on domestic violence often show a complex picture. It is crucial to encourage all victims to seek help and report abuse, regardless of their gender, and to promote awareness and education to prevent domestic violence and support survivors.

[Read More](#)

Message From Outgoing KidSide Chair



My Dear KidSide Community,

As the year draws to a close and we reflect on the journey we've taken together, it is with mixed emotions that I bid farewell to my role as the Chair of KidSide. It has been an incredible privilege to serve alongside such dedicated and passionate individuals who are committed to our shared mission of supporting children and families.

I want to take this moment to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you. Your unwavering support, hard work, and collective efforts have made a profound impact on the lives of countless children in our community. Together, we've made KidSide a place of hope, healing, and positive change.

During my tenure as Chair, I have had the privilege of witnessing the remarkable growth of our organization. This year we began funding two new projects: Free and reduced fee Social Investigations for those in need, as well as partnering with The Advocate Program to assist in funding referrals made through Family Court Services to Bridging Families & Communities. We've expanded our programs, reached more families in need, strengthened our partnerships within the community, and hired an Executive Director. None of this would have been possible without the dedication and collaborative spirit of our board members, staff, volunteers, and donors.

I am confident that KidSide will continue to thrive under the capable leadership of the incoming Chair Janelle Fernandez, our new Executive Director Jessica Munch-Dittmar, and our dynamic board and staff. The passion and commitment that drive this organization are boundless, and I have no doubt that we will continue to make a lasting difference in the lives of children and families for years to come.

While I may be stepping down from my role as Chair, please know that my support for KidSide remains steadfast. I will continue to be an advocate for our mission and look forward to contributing to our cause in new ways.

As I bid farewell, I am filled with gratitude for the privilege of serving as your Chair. Thank you for the trust you have placed in me and for being part of this incredible journey. KidSide holds a special place in my heart, and I look forward to witnessing its continued growth and impact in the future.

Wishing you all a joyful holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

With warm regards,

Patricia Young
Outgoing Chair, KidSide

Introducing Our New Executive Director



Dear Friends,

I hope this message finds you enjoying the holiday season amongst those you love most.

My name is Jessica Munch-Dittmar and I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Executive Director for KidSide, Inc. I join KidSide with over 16 years of nonprofit experience, primarily in the arts. In my previous roles, I have served as the Education and Community Engagement Director for two professional orchestras and as the Executive Director for the Greater Miami Youth Symphony where I was responsible for the organization, implementation, administration and promotion of education and artistic programming. Additionally, I have extensive experience with long-range strategic planning, partnership cultivation and creative fundraising. Over the years I have also served as a consultant for various nonprofits helping to manage grant proposals, create marketing plans, develop sponsorship packages and advance successful fundraising campaigns.

While I am a musician by trade, I look forward to using my nonprofit skills in a different light through providing thoughtful and visionary executive leadership that is inclusive, transparent, empowering and guides the KidSide mission as defined by the Board of Trustees. I am inspired by the passion of KidSide volunteers, donors and partners. Because of your generosity and dedication, the organization has been able to help numerous families in high-conflict court cases navigate another year filled with challenges and uncertainty. I am excited to continue a legacy of giving and service that everyone can be proud of while recognizing that there is still so much more work to be done.

So here's to another amazing year! I sincerely thank you for your commitment to our cause and I look forward to building relationships with many of you in the coming months.

Happy Holidays!

Jessica Munch-Dittmar

Executive Director

KidSide, Inc.

Taking the kid's side in high-conflict court cases.

jessica@kidsidemiami.org

Parent Testimonial



The testimonial below is from an anonymous parent who received therapy sessions paid for by KidSide:

This testimonial is from the mother of a young boy with gratitude for the outstanding impact the therapist had with my child.

The therapist was able to get my child to open up, to which he had never done before. At that moment it became clear that we found a skilled and very compassionate therapist.

I am truly grateful to KidSide for funding the services that helped provide the treatment my child needed. It took the financial aspect of which was a true concern to myself and my family, KidSide was able to take that stress and worry away from me and I was able to focus on the welfare of my child.

I would recommend supporting KidSide because they fund the services that families like mine need.

Services Funded in November 2023



Thank you to all of our partners and everyone who donated to KidSide that helped make 2023 an amazing year for KidSide. With your help we were able to make a tremendous impact in our South Florida community. We will be working to make an even bigger impact in 2024.

Make a Tax Deductible Donation Today

Consider making a tax deductible end of the year gift as an individual or business by becoming a KidSide Partner to support families in need awaiting court ordered services. The sooner you become a partner the more exposure you will receive: social media posts, e-blasts, newsletter recognition, and your logo/name included in all our event emails, flyers as well as at the event itself.

[Donate Here](#)

Thank You KidSide Best Friends



Taking the kid's side in high-conflict court cases.

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Thank you to the Best Friends Amplifying Impact program we are able to fund free therapy to families in need. No child should be on a waiting list to see their parent or to receive counseling services due to financial difficulties. KidSide is funding the supervision of several skilled doctoral level psychology clinicians to provide these services.

The Best Friends Amplifying Impact program provides recognition to those who donate annually to KidSide. Donations of any amount are appreciated and will help us to support the work of Amplifying Impact. For annual gifts of \$2,500 and higher, [please see our KidSide Partner Program.](#)

[Donate Here](#)

Judicial Reception Tickets On-Sale Now

Judicial Reception 2024
Attendance expected from the following judges and general magistrates

Judge Christine Bandin	Judge Javier Enriquez	Judge Carlos Lopez
Judge Scott Bernstein	Judge Christopher Green	Judge Jorge Perez Santiago
Judge Marcia Caballero	Judge Carlos Guzman	Judge Orlando Prescott
Judge Carmen Cabarga	Judge Richard Hersch	Judge Mavel Ruiz
Judge Donald "DJ" Cannava	Judge Zach James	Judge Samantha Ruiz Cohen
Judge Miesha Darrough	Judge Carroll Kelly	Judge Nushin Sayfie
Judge Vicky del Pino	GM Steven Lieberman	Judge Diana Vizcaino
Judge Jason Dimitris		Judge David Young

You're Invited
Salt Waterfront Restaurant
Tuesday, February 20th - 5:30pm-7:30pm
Tickets cost \$125, increase to \$150 on January 27

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[Get your tickets now](#) to join KidSide at the 2024 Judicial Reception. This year's Judicial Reception will be hosted at Salt Waterfront Restaurant located within the University of Miami's RSMAS Campus (next to the Miami Seaquarium).

Tickets cost \$125 each. 10 ticket packages are available for \$1100. This price is valid until January 26th. Limited space, secure your tickets now.

[Tickets Here](#)



to our newsletter authors

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the KidSide newsletter this year. With your help we published fresh and relevant content for all of our readers on a monthly basis during 2023. If you missed any of the articles from our newsletters this year you can read them on our website right now.

[Read Here](#)

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Make a difference in your community today. [Join KidSide as a partner](#) and get recognized in the KidSide newsletter and on social media, plus other fantastic benefits.

Thank you to all of our existing partners for their continued support of KidSide.

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