

Currently, appellate, district, and county court judges must take at least 30 hours of instruction prior to or within one year of taking office. 12 of these hours must be dedicated to human trafficking, sexual abuse, child abuse, and gender bias. Current laws do not require family violence training for judges.

HB1475 reserves one hour of training specifically on family violence within the existing 12 hours of specialized instruction for all judges. For judges primarily involved with family law, HB 1475 requires two hours of family violence training for every two years the judge remains active in family law.

Domestic violence permeates every level of society. Because of its pervasiveness, it is imperative that our judicial system can recognize the signs of domestic violence and can recommend the appropriate resources for victims.

## Domestic Violence in Texas

- 1 in 3 Texans will experience domestic violence in their lifetime
- Harris County had 42 women killed by intimate partner violence, 17 in Bexar County, 16 in Dallas County, 7 in Tarrant County, and 6 in Travis County
- 143 law enforcement officers were assaulted while responding to family violence incidents
- Over 10% of all major injuries from family violence involved broken bones
- Over 17% of all major injuries involved losing consciousness

## How You Can Help

By expanding current judicial training to include one hour of topics related to family violence for all judges and two hours of recurring family violence training for judges specifically responsible for family law, we can mitigate harm to children, officers, and victims.

Topics to be covered in the training include the nature, extent, causes, and effect of family violence; signs of family violence; procedures designed to promote the safety of the victim and other household members; resources available to domestic violence victims and perpetrators, and the lethality of domestic violence.

When survivors of family violence interact with the legal system, they are often afraid to reveal their abuse. By helping judicial officials increase their knowledge of safe practices for victims, recognize the warning signs, and understand family violence's effects, judges can help prevent ongoing dangerous circumstances before they become lethal.

Including relevant domestic violence training in the onboarding process for new judges will provide clarity in judicial discretion for cases that do not explicitly include domestic violence. Because the training is provided by non-profits, the cost is minimal. Saving our community before domestic violence turns deadly is essential in the fight to maintain law and order.

## Questions?

Please contact either of our staff members below for more information.

### Noor Saleh

Government Relations Coordinator  
[noor@minaretfoundation.com](mailto:noor@minaretfoundation.com)

### Abigail Levine

Policy Analyst  
[abigail@minaretfoundation.com](mailto:abigail@minaretfoundation.com)

**In Partnership With:**

