



NEW REQUIREMENT FOR CHILD CUSTODY PROFESSIONALS

ASSEMBLY BILL 1974 TAKES EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, 2024

WHAT THE NEW LAW DOES: Court-connected child custody mediators and evaluators must participate in continuing education programs on domestic violence issues. AB 1974 adds the ***risks associated with access to firearms and ways to reduce those risks*** to the topics that must be covered in those education programs.

Reducing Risks Associated with Firearm Access

A Toolkit for Legal Decision-making in Child Custody and Visitation Cases

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WHY IT MATTERS: One in three Californian women and nearly as many men experience some form of domestic violence during their lifetimes. **When a firearm is present during an incident of domestic violence, the risk of homicide increases by at least 400%.** Nearly **60 percent** of intimate partner violence-related homicides involve firearms, often involving children.

WHO NEEDS TO KNOW: Family court professionals working with families are in an excellent position to provide information about risks associated with access to firearms when domestic violence, child abuse, contested child custody litigation, and other crises may be impacting a family.

HOW DO WE IMPLEMENT AB 1974: Training providers can begin incorporating the risks associated with firearms training events and become familiar with existing resources on this topic including, for example, Reducing Risks Associated with Firearms Access: A Toolkit for Legal Decision-making in Child Custody and Visitation Cases highlighted above. It is available at piercespledge.org/toolkits. Resources for

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healthcare providers, meanwhile, are available at bulletpoints.org.