Abstract

Discussions about procedural justice often focus on procedural justice for defendants in the criminal justice system, and specifically on the constitutional amendments that award defendants certain rights. What is often missing from this discourse is that procedural justice exists for victims of crime as well, and it often has a large impact on the way that victims of crime view the criminal justice system and how it affects their recovery. There are many topics and aspects to procedural justice that affect the overall discussion, including how cultural competence and community policing fit into the conversation on what is fair and just. This outline seeks to examine the role that procedural justice plays in a victim’s experience with the criminal justice system and how it can further impact the trauma victims experience. To do so, this training examines the definition and history of procedural justice, the concept of fairness and trust within communities, and the impact of the criminal justice system on victims to explore how procedural justice can further help victims of crime.
Learning Objectives

- Define concepts such as procedural justice and fairness; and identify examples of them in the criminal justice system
- Recognize and identify the difference between community-oriented policing and problem-oriented policing and the impact that they have on law enforcement interactions with the public
- Identify the five aspects of fairness: voice, respect, trust and neutrality, understanding, and helpfulness
- Summarize how victims’ experiences with the criminal justice system can be impacted by proper procedural justice tactics
- Understand the secondary traumatic impact that the criminal justice system can have on victims and identify ways to alleviate that trauma
- Understand how a lack of procedural justice in the criminal justice system can also be a source of secondary trauma for victims.

Methodology

The principles on which this training is centered on were developed by assessing training tools and resources that focus on various aspects of domestic violence prevention and prosecution, including research conducted by the Center for Court Innovation and the New York Civil Liberties Union, among others. This training will cover these principles using topics and videos to present the material in an engaging format, and conclude with a wrap-up designed to summarize and critically think about a number of topics covered. This training is designed to be presented as a whole or in parts as deemed most relevant to the site that it is being provided to, and can be presented in person or in an electronic format via webinar or other available methods.

Agenda

- Defining Procedural Justice
- Community-Oriented Policing vs. Problem-Oriented Policing
- Examining the Concept of Fairness
- Building Trust with Communities
- Victims' Experiences with Procedural Justice
- Criminal Justice Involvement and Victim Health
- Procedural Justice and Trauma in Victims
- Resources