

 European Family Justice Center Alliance 

What is a Family Justice Center?

Co-location of a multidisciplinary team of professionals who are cooperating under one roof to offer help and support to victims of family violence and their children.

A place where professionals come together and survivors come first – A SAFE PLACE

All services survivors and their children need are under one roof.



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GUIDING PRINCIPLES (1)

- **Safety comes first**
Increase safety (direct and stable)
- **Victim-centered**
Provide victim-centered services that promote victim autonomy and increases empowerment





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GUIDING PRINCIPLES (2)

- **Survivor-driven**
Shape services to clients by asking them what they need
- **Empowered**
Offer survivors a place to belong even after crisis intervention services are no longer necessary



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GUIDING PRINCIPLES (3)

- **Relationship-based**
Maintain close working relationships among all collaborators/agencies
- **Offender-accountability**
Increase offender accountability through evidence-based prosecution strategies and/or evidence-based treatment programs.

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Conditions for breaking the violence

1. Working together on safety
2. Specialized multidisciplinary approach
3. Result focused work
4. Developing an integral plan of action
5. Intensive case-management in high risk situations
6. Sharing information

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MAIN FEATURES OF FJC (1)

- Survivors don't need to tell their story to many different persons and agencies
- More information about the actions taken in the approach, the case manager has an overall view
- Reduce the number of domestic/family violence, serious incidents and murders
- Reduce child abuse incidents

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MAIN FEATURES OF FJC (2)

- Quicker response is possible when new incidents , threats or changing circumstances occur
- Security is increased within a FJC
- Within the FJC there is a clear vision about the problem

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MAIN FEATURES OF FJC (3)

- Improved access and confidence in the delivery of Justice
- Professionals learn more about the possibilities of colleagues from other agencies
- Improving working environment

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Saving Lives – Reducing Costs

1 domestic violence murder will cost approximately £1.1 million



1 domestic violence murder prevented per year would provide savings equal to the total costs required to run the Family Justice Center for a year – including all key partner agency staffing costs

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FJC's in Europe:

- The Netherlands: Tilburg
- Poland: Warsaw
- Germany: Berlin
- Belgium: Antwerpen/Hasselt/ Mechelen/Turnhout
- N. Ireland: Derry
- Iceland: Reykjavik
- Sweden: Malmö
- France: Paris



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Practice in the Family Justice Centrum Antwerpen, Belgium

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FJC Antwerpen




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On site partners of FJC Antwerp

- > Police
- > Prosecutor's office
- > Women's aid, Victim services
- > Crisis team
- > Services for child abuse
- > Social Service of Youth Court
- > Youth Care
- > Services for social welfare
- > Counseling
- > Centre for mental health
- > Services for job seeking
- > Medical services
- > Services for housing
- > Probation
- > Perpetrator programs
- > Local and national authorities



On site services:

- > Peer groups
- > Support by voluntary cooperators
- > Self-defense courses
- > Services for migrants and asylumseekers
- > Legal advice
- > Advice on debts
- > Focus groups
- > Medical examination
- > Wellness yoga
- > Social integration

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On site partners in FJC Antwerp:

- > 50 cooperators detached to the FJC
- + Experts intensive case management
- + cooperators of all services on case level



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Working on all live domains – empowerment:


<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aggression management ▪ Traumatic experiences ▪ Financial problems and debts ▪ Work related problems ▪ Relationship ▪ Housing ▪ Physical health ▪ Mental health ▪ Social network, isolation ▪ Drug and alcohol abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Migration problems ▪ Psychological problems ▪ Education and child care ▪ Gender related problems ▪ Honor related problems ▪ Undocumented and refugee status ▪ Mental disorder ▪ ACEs
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High Risk team

- A Family Justice Center needs a high risk team onsite.
- The risk assessment during the intake is an important instrument to go into the depth of the situation and the possible aftermaths of the disclosure.
- High risk cases need a strong and intensive case management, including police and justice department involvement.
- Strong and intensive case management aiming at empowerment of survivors



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Services FJC Antwerpen



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FJC Antwerp on site

- Peer groups for survivors
- Survivor support by voluntary cooperators
- Self-defense courses
- Services for migrants and asylumseekers
- Legal advice by lawyers
- Advice on debts
- Voices and storytelling
- Medical examination by trained GPs
- Wellness: yoga, sport,...
- Social integration services
- Hope project 11-17
- Counseling female genital mutilation
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2 HOW TO START A FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

10 steps to build a Family Justice Center

1. Draw Big, Start Small
2. It's not only about the building, it's about the cooperation
3. Structure your cooperation
4. It's not only about numbers, it's especially about people
5. Communication
6. Be Open
7. Safety
8. Planning and building
9. Stay on ground
10. Stay on ground

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DREAM BIG – START SMALL

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COOPERATION: SHARE A COMMON GOAL

Stop the violence,
prevent recurrence of violence
and
empower your clients

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IT'S NOT ONLY ABOUT NUMBERS, IT'S ESPECIALLY ABOUT PEOPLE

- Climate & Culture
- Trust

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VISION of the EFJCA

A future where all professionals work together to ensure safety and a better life for survivors of domestic violence, child abuse and sexual violence.

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