METHODS OF ACQUIRING FAMILY VIOLENCE INFORMATION
MATRIX 3

Once a State determines the factor or factors to be used in identifying people in need of FV Indicators, the State must decide *how* it will get that information. Acquisition of family violence information is the topic of Matrix 3.

Matrix 3 relays how States obtain family violence information for two types of people -- (1) IV-D case participants and (2) people who are a part of non IV-D orders. The matrix lists the following information acquisition methods:

➤ *Victim* -- Many States rely on the at-risk person to come forward and inform the IV-D agency or the court about the safety concern. As mentioned previously, States differ about how an at-risk person can relay this information. Some will permit telephone or in-person oral reports; others require the person to report using a written format, such as a form or an affidavit, with or without supporting documentation. The *Victim* column on the following matrix identifies States that will secure family violence information directly from the person identified as the victim or from someone acting on behalf of the victim, as in the case of an at-risk child.

➤ *Good Cause Source (GC SRC)* -- This column appears only on the IV-D side of Matrix 3. As shown in Matrix 2, a number of States use the Good Cause concept, in some form, to set the FV Indicator for public assistance applicants or recipients. In those States, the information about the safety concern is passed to the responsible child support worker, either manually or electronically, by the agency (IV-A or IV-D) that accepts the Good Cause request or that grants Good Cause status. Accordingly, the *GC SRC* column on the following matrix identifies States that acquire family violence information in this manner.

➤ *Protective Order Registry (PO REG)* -- A few States have developed an electronic interface between the State protective order registry and the State Case Registry (SCR). These States use data elements, such as names, dates-of-birth, and/or Social Security Numbers to determine instances in which one person in a child support case or order has received court-ordered protection from another person in the child support matter. The *PO REG* column on the following matrix identifies States that use electronic means to identify parties to protection orders who also are involved in child support cases or orders.

➤ *Protective Order Manual (PO MAN)* -- In some States, IV-D staff and/or court personnel periodically review protection orders to determine whether any of the parties are also involved in child support cases or orders in the State. If these manual reviews yield matches, the States set FV Indicators for the appropriate victims. States opting for manual protection order reviews use various methods. There are States whose IV-D agencies receive copies of all protection orders entered; some States

forward only those protection orders coming out of certain courts; and others simply undertake the manual review for protection orders that contain child support provisions. Irrespective of the method used, the *PO MAN* column on the following matrix identifies States that use manual means to identify people in the child support population who have sought, and received, protective orders.

➢ *Other/Comment* -- Some States have developed other methods of acquiring family violence information. The *OTHER/COMMENT* column on the following matrix identifies additional standards being used to secure this information or adds special notes about the method or methods listed.

Note that, as with all of the information presented in this *State Practice Guide*, States are constantly reevaluating their placement criteria. Accordingly, this entire area is a work in progress.