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Recently three judges from the Seventh Judicial Court took time out of their heavy docket load to tour the Domestic Abuse Council, Inc.'s emergency shelter. The judges wanted a greater understanding of shelter services and other programs offered to Volusia County residents.

The judges, Scott C. DuPont, Dawn D. Nichols and Mathew M. Foxman all work in the Family Court Services division, which hears cases regarding on injunctions for protection, dissolution of marriage, child custody, adoption, paternity, name change, juvenile delinquency, and juvenile dependency.

While at the emergency shelter, the Judges met with the "Hugs & Love" children's case manager, the shelter manager and the legal counsel for victims of domestic violence, receiving a comprehensive overview of services and seeing where residents live while escaping their abusive homes.

"It is wonderful for the judges to see what we have to offer to victims in Volusia County and for them to learn about all of the programs we offer including our outreach services such as transitional housing. They are familiar with our court advocacy program and our legal advocacy program, so this creates a comprehensive picture for them," Cheryl Fuller, CEO of the Domestic Abuse Council, who gave the tour, said.

The Seventh Judicial Circuit is one of 20 jurisdictions in the state of Florida and its mission is to provide an effective forum for the fair, efficient and impartial resolution of legal and factual court-related matters in Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns and Volusia counties.

Both Judges DuPont and Foxman were elected to the bench in 2010. Nichols was appointed to the bench in 2014.

To learn more about Domestic Abuse Council go to www.domesticabusecouncil.com. The Domestic Abuse Hotline is 1-800-500-1119.

END



In the photo: Circuit Judges Scott DuPont (purple shirt), Dawn Nichols (in the middle), Mathew Foxman (in suit w/tie)

Services

- ❖ Emergency Shelter ❖ Transitional Housing ❖ School Based Prevention Programs ❖
- ❖ Court/Legal Advocacy ❖ Community Education and Professional Training ❖