

**HIGHLIGHTING THE INTERSECTION BETWEEN TECHNOLOGY AND DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE**

October 26, 2018

10:30 a.m.

City of Duarte Community Center

Domestic violence is a problem that affects millions of people regardless of race, gender, ethnic group, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, or age. In the United States, an estimated twenty-three percent of adult women and fourteen percent of men have experienced an act of severe physical intimate partner violence within their lifetime. In California, the numbers are even higher.

At the same time, technology is becoming an increasingly integral component of everyday life. Not only does technology shape and inform the way we work, shop, and carry out daily activities, it also affects the way we interact with one another and build relationships. With the increase of new communication, surveillance, and internet-connected technologies, it is increasingly easy to contact and monitor the whereabouts and actions of an intimate partner or family member. While this can enhance convenience and personal connection, it also presents a new and complex set of challenges and dangers.

This informational hearing was organized in anticipation of the need to address these issues with future action, including potential legislation. To that end, the Assembly Select Committee on Domestic Violence and the Committee on Privacy & Consumer Protection, together with the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, have arranged for a number of panelists with expertise in the intersection of domestic violence and technology to educate both members and the public about the complexities surrounding domestic violence and the misuse of technology as well as expound upon the following questions:

- How do individuals misuse technology and social media to inflict harm?
- What tools are available to survivors who have been harmed by the misuse of technology?
- Does existing law cover this misuse or are new laws needed to expressly cover these abusive behaviors?
- Are California's domestic violence prevention laws being applied as broadly as they should be?
- What are the best practices being used by organizations, both public and private, to ensure that the privacy and security of individuals are adequately protected?
- Does technology offer tools that individuals, law enforcement, and the courts can use to better protect intimate partners and family members from harassment and abuse?