

## **Video Protective Orders – Safety for Domestic Violence Victims West McDowell Justice Court**



Justice of the Peace Rachel Torres Carrillo hears protective order requests from the hospital by video on her computer

This pioneering program has helped victims to remotely obtain orders of protection while at the county hospital. A Domestic Violence Advocate at the hospital assists victims like Mary with court forms. This permits Judge Carrillo to interview Mary via a video connection into the courtroom and allow Judge Carrillo to issue and sign the order.

In most cases a police officer is standing by to serve the order.

To date this program has served 33 victims needing Orders of Protection.

"Mary" is a victim of domestic violence (not her real name) and has been hospitalized for treatment. She has no means to journey to a court to obtain the Order of Protection she desperately needs.

Judge Rachel Torres Carrillo and the West McDowell Justice Court have established a video link with the county hospital. Domestic violence victims like Mary no longer have to jeopardize their safety or compromise their medical condition, in order to seek a protective order by traveling to court.



Judge Carrillo prepares to video link with the hospital