



THE Georgia FAMILY VIOLENCE Resource Newsletter

A PUBLICATION OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS' COUNCIL OF GEORGIA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAM WITH FUNDING FROM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Our Mission

The goal of PAC's Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program is to effectively assist and be a resource to prosecutors, law enforcement and victim advocates across Georgia; to improve the effective adjudication of domestic and sexual violence cases; and to reduce such crimes across our state.

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feature article

Domestic Violence from the Hispanic Community's Perspective

Having the ability to communicate with a victim of crime helps enhance victim safety by fostering the trusting relationship between prosecutor and victim that leads to a successful prosecution.

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Domestic Violence from the Hispanic Community's Perspective

By Norma Mendoza, Multicultural Program Director, Cherokee Family Violence Center

Georgia has one of the highest rates of growth in Hispanic populations in the country. The total Hispanic population in Georgia is 880,000, ranking it as the 10th highest state in terms of Hispanic population in United States.¹ The Hispanic or Spanish speaking population in Georgia is 9 percent (853,689) of the total population, which is 9,687,653.² It is estimated that in 2013, 353,061 of the Hispanics in Georgia were born in Spanish speaking countries of Central America and 276,426 from Mexico.³

According to these numbers and estimations, there are a large number of Hispanic communities in Georgia, each having their own language, culture, traditions, beliefs, religion and even dialect languages. These growing numbers of diverse communities throughout Georgia demonstrate the need for language access, more culturally specific services, and programming to meet the needs of these sometimes marginalized and underserved communities. The state in general would benefit by creating more accessible services and improving cultural competency of established service programs.

Domestic Violence in the Hispanic Community

In 2014, Georgia's certified domestic violence agencies received 61,415 crisis calls. Additionally there were 117 domestic violence fatalities.⁴ Approximately 1 in 3 (29.7% to 37.1%) of Hispanic women have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime and 1 in 12 (8.1%) of Hispanic women experienced this violence in the previous 12 months.⁵

In addition to the usual obstacles of leaving an abusive relationship, research has found that Hispanic victims also have unique barriers that English-speaking, American born victims do not face. These barriers include, economic issues, difficulties with language, immigration status, or concerns about their children. As

a result, many Hispanic victims tend to stay longer with their abusers; and are less likely to report incidents of domestic violence. Many domestic violence agencies may not have access to educational materials about domestic violence in Spanish, leaving victims with fewer resources and information available to them. Some organizations may also lack the cultural competency to fully assist them.

In addition to physical abuse, many Hispanic victims may suffer emotional abuse when their batterers use threats about their victims' immigration status to manipulate them.⁶ These tactics can include calling immigration authorities to have the victim deported, and refusing to file immigration papers to legalize the victim's immigration status. Victims may also experience threats to harm their family members in their home country or threats to remove their children from the United States. Misinformation about the court system may also be used to lead the victim to believe that if she seeks help from the courts, she will lose custody of her children.

Many Hispanic victims may have great fear of reporting crime to the police because of their negative experience with the police in their home country. They may have also experienced corruption and political instability which has caused them to distrust or fear the government.

Many immigrant victims may fear the violation of cultural mores that may not exist in American Society. Many Hispanic cultures have strong sanctions for women who abandon their families:

Given these strong family values, many Latinas believe that families are supposed to stay together no matter what and that children are supposed to grow up with two parents. Many think that a Latina who cannot keep her family together is a

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failure. In fact, it is very important to note that, in Mexico, a law called “*abandono de hogar*” (abandonment of home) punishes women who leave their homes, even to flee violence. Women convicted of “abandoning the home” often lose custody of their children. Some Mexican women who immigrate to the U.S. erroneously believe that this same law applies here.⁷

Hispanic victims may face being ostracized by their family or community for divorcing or leaving their spouses. Victims may also experience pressure from their religious community,

friends, or family to stay with their abuser. Because reporting a crime to the police involves discussing private family matters, a victim who comes forward

to report abuse may face the untenable situation of leaving the abuse but also losing the support of his or her family.

Finally, Hispanic victims may also face economic abuse from their batterers. Many victims are forced by their abusers to work “illegally” without a work permit. They may then experience threats to report him or her to immigration authorities for working “under the table,” or without proper work documents. Another means of exercising power and control over the victim is for a batterer to refuse to allow the victim to get education or job training. Forcing a victim to sign important court papers, IRS forms, or immigration papers in English that she may not understand is another form of intimidation. A victim may so fear contact with the legal authorities and possible deportation under these circumstances, that they may fail to report “any” crime committed against them.

Nonprofit organizations and government agencies that serve victims of domestic violence can play an important role in removing these barriers. By providing services that incorporate the underlying beliefs and cultural mores they can provide services that can realistically help a victim out of a dangerous situation. Providing educational materials and other necessary forms for victims in their native language also can help to relay important information to communities that may be isolated due to language barriers.

Language Access

Language access to individuals who are Limited English Proficient can help to address the barriers that Hispanic victims face in the criminal justice system. Based on the 2000 census, over 26 million individuals speak Spanish.⁸ These

individuals have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English; they are Limited English Proficient, (LEP).” While some may be bilingual, they may not possess the language skills necessary to navigate the court system. An interpreter, on the other hand, is a trained professional, who conducts official communications. Unlike a bilingual person, an interpreter possesses the skills necessary to make a simultaneous interpretation. Many serious problems can arise from using nonprofessional interpreters such as family, friends or community members to interpret for LEP crime victims. These individuals may be untrained, prejudiced, and interpret incorrectly. They can also pose confidentiality and safety risks. It is also important

to avoid subjecting children to trauma by using them to translate matters that have occurred between their parents. Using a professional interpreter can avoid these pitfalls

by allowing victims to meaningfully participate in the court process, thereby upholding the integrity of the court system.

Providing more language access to victims also assists prosecutors and law enforcement in better serving victims by helping them to correctly identify the victim and perpetrator, facilitating the LEP person in following law enforcement directions, and allowing prosecutors to communicate effectively with all victims. Having the ability to communicate with a victim of crime helps enhance victim safety by fostering the trusting relationship between prosecutor and victim that leads to a successful prosecution.

Immigration Resources Available For Victims That Improve The Criminal Justice Response To Violence Against Women

U visa

The U nonimmigrant status (U visa) program is intended to strengthen the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute certain crimes against victims,⁹ who have suffered mental or physical abuse and are helpful to law enforcement or government officials in the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity. This program has been an effective tool in allowing undocumented victims of violent crimes the freedom to come forward and testify against dangerous individuals. Some of the qualifying crimes include: domestic violence, sexual crimes, child molestation, human trafficking, murder, prostitution and kidnapping.¹⁰ A victim who has been helpful in the detection, investigation, prosecution of criminal activity or the, conviction or sentencing of defendants can be granted a U visa. This U visa will allow the victim to receive legal status for up to four

years, and to live and work in the United States during that time. The U visa is an important tool for law enforcement officials and government agencies in pursuing criminal activity and achieving trust and permanent relationships with their local immigrant community. Domestic violence victims may also seek assistance under the Violence Against Women Act.¹¹ 

Endnotes

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5. Breiding, M.J., Chen J., & Black, M.C., *Intimate Partner Violence in the United States*, (2014), Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Center for Disease Control and Prevention.
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7. Julieta Barcaglioni, *Domestic Violence in the Hispanic Community*, Safe Harbor Blog (August 31, 2010), citing, (“Latinas and Domestic Violence,” www.mujereslatinasenaccion.org) available at <http://www.uscis.gov/archive/archive-news/fact-sheet-uscis-issues-guidance-approved-violence-against-women-act-vawa-self-petitioners>.
8. United States Department of the Interior, *Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Person*, Office of Policy, Management and Budget/Overview/LEP Guidance, (Retrieved October 21, 2015) <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eeo/LEP-Guidance>.
9. NIWAP, *U visa and LEP Training for Law Enforcement and Prosecution*, Miami, February 7, 2015. DOJ Sample p. 1-2 – Policy.
10. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, *Victims of Criminal Activity: U Nonimmigrant Status*, (Retrieved 10/21/15), <http://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/victims-human-trafficking-other-crimes/victims-criminal-activity-u-nonimmigrant-status/victims-criminal-activity-u-nonimmigrant-status>.
11. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, *Fact Sheet: USCIS Issues Guidance for Approved Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Self-Petitioners*, (April 11, 2008), <http://www.uscis.gov/archive/archive-news/fact-sheet-uscis-issues-guidance-approved-violence-against-women-act-vawa-self-petitioners>.
12. Barcaglioni.

About the Author

Norma Mendoza is the Multicultural Program Coordinator for the Cherokee Family Violence Center (CFVC) located in Canton, Georgia.

Norma graduated from Law School in Mexico and has a Masters Degree in European Studies from the Autonomous University of Barcelona. She has participated in several seminars and trainings, organized by international organizations such as the United Nations, the International Court of Justice, the Organization of American States, UNIDROIT, UNIFEM, PNUD, and INSTRAW. Ms. Mendoza began her advocacy with immigrant victims of domestic violence. She has worked with different domestic violence task forces in many counties and has organized and developed awareness events for immigrants on domestic violence and other topics. Ms. Mendoza worked for the Mexican Government for 12 years and joined the CFVC team in 2015 as the Multicultural Program Director, which has served immigrant victims of domestic violence from over 59 different countries of origin. ^{GFV}

GEORGIA AT A GLANCE

HISPANIC POPULATION

880,000

HISPANICS AS PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION

9%

MEDIAN AGE OF HISPANICS

25

MEDIAN ANNUAL PERSONAL EARNINGS, HISPANICS 16+

\$18,300

POVERTY RATE, HISPANICS 17 AND YOUNGER

41%

HISPANICS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE

45%

HISPANIC HOMEOWNERSHIP

41%

HISPANICS AS PERCENT OF ALL K-12 STUDENTS

12%

Pew Hispanic Center, Demographic Profile of Hispanics in Georgia, (2011), <http://www.pewhispanic.org/states/state/ga/>.

CaseLaw Update

By Sharla D. Jackson

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resource Prosecutor
Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

Mohamud v. State **S15A0586, June 15, 2015**

The defendant was convicted by a jury on the charges of malice murder, felony murder, aggravated assault and possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony. The defendant appealed the trial court's denial of his motion for new trial, asserting among other grounds, that the trial court erred in excluding evidence of specific acts of violence by the victim against third persons, pursuant to *Chandler v. State*, 261 Ga. 402 (1991).

The facts are as follows: the defendant, along with two other people, went to a gas station in his female friend's car, to meet someone at a convenience store. A short time later, a blue car drove into the store's parking lot. The victim, who had shot and robbed the defendant on a previous occasion, was seated in the front passenger seat of the blue car. The defendant and his companion approached the car in which the victim was seated. The driver of that car immediately put the car into reverse and attempted to drive off. The defendant shot into the car, killing the victim. After an investigation, the defendant was arrested and charged in connection with the shooting.

The defendant argued that the trial court erred by excluding evidence of a violent robbery previously committed by the victim. The defendant had no knowledge of this robbery prior to the shooting of the victim. The Court of Appeals affirmed the conviction, holding that the evidence was not admissible to support the defendant's claim of justification. The Court held that while *Chandler* created an evidentiary exception which permitted a defendant claiming justification to introduce evidence of specific acts of violence by the victim against third persons, it no longer applies under the new Evidence Code. This evidence is now properly considered under O.C.G.A. § 24-4-404 and O.C.G.A. § 24-4-405, which relate to character evidence. Addressing the rule set out in *Chandler*, which allowed such evidence, the Court held that since these code sections require that proof of character, "shall be made by testimony as to reputation or by testimony in the form of an opinion," rather than by evidence of specific bad acts, that the rule in *Chandler* is no longer viable under the new Evidence Code.

Freeman v. State **A15A0545, July 9, 2015**

The defendant was convicted of first and second degree cruelty to children for causing disabling head injuries and leg and rib fractures to his infant son. He appealed the trial court's denial of his motion for new trial.

During a doctor's visit for routine vaccinations, the doctor observed that the victim's head was abnormally large and that it appeared that there was excessive cerebrospinal fluid in his skull. The doctor referred the infant to a children's hospital for treatment. As part of the evaluation, a doctor performed x-rays on the infant, which revealed four fractured ribs, a broken left femur and a healing fracture of his right tibia. An MRI also showed that the infant's brain had atrophied, which would result in permanent brain damage, and that his optic nerves and retina were damaged. According to the treating physician, there was no evidence of infection that could have caused the infant's injuries. The infant's sister was also examined and found to have two healing rib fractures.

Based on the medical evidence and the fact that the child and his sister were only cared for by their parents, police charged both parents with first and second degree cruelty to children, and aggravated battery.

The defendant contested the sufficiency of the evidence; the trial court's allowing the State to bring the infant, who had significant brain damage, before the jury, and venue.

The Court held that although the evidence was circumstantial, the State presented sufficient evidence to support the charges of first and second degree cruelty to children. The State's evidence showed through the testimony of the lead detective, that the defendant was aware of the infant's head swelling in July of 2009, and did not seek medical attention for him. Through the treating physician, the State presented testimony, "that with very high specificity, the injuries to the infant's ribs, which were the result of a 'squeezing force,' were the result of child abuse." The doctor also testified that leg fractures in an immobile infant with no prior history of accidental trauma also indicated child abuse. The fact that the defendant did not seek prompt medical attention and could not satisfactorily explain the cause of the injuries was sufficient to support the jury's verdicts.

The defendant also argued that it was error to allow the State to bring the disabled infant before the jury, during his foster mother's testimony, to demonstrate the nature and extent of the infant's injuries. At the time of trial, he was four years of age and was unable to walk, talk, feed or toilet himself. The defendant argued that his appearance served only to inflame and prejudice the jury. Applying Georgia's new Evidence Code, O.C.G.A. § 24-4-401, the Court held that the evidence, while

it may have been prejudicial to the defendant was admissible. Stating that, “in criminal cases, relevant evidence is inherently prejudicial, it is only when unfair prejudice substantially outweighs probative value that the rule permits exclusion.” In this case, the evidence was relevant to prove the charges of cruelty to children because evidence of injuries is relevant to prove that an assault took place.

The Court also held that the State sufficiently proved venue through circumstantial evidence. The State presented evidence that the children moved with their family to an apartment in Clayton County in April of 2009. The medical doctor, who discovered the children’s bone fractures in July of 2009, was able to place the times that the injuries occurred within two weeks to almost a few months of the time that he examined the children, which was at the same time that they were living in Clayton County. The Court found this evidence to be sufficient for the jury to find that the crimes occurred in Clayton County.

**Avila v. State
A15A0369, July 13, 2015**

The defendant was indicted on charges of statutory rape and aggravated child molestation. He pled guilty to one count of child molestation. The trial court followed the mandatory minimum sentencing provisions outlined in O.C.G.A. § 17-10-6.2(c) and sentenced the defendant to ten years to serve five in prison with the balance on probation. The defendant argued that the trial court improperly sentenced him when it found that his offense involved the transportation of the victim which, under O.C.G.A. § 17-10-6.2(c), would have triggered the mandatory minimum sentencing provisions.

The defendant met the 14 year-old victim on a dating website and agreed to meet her in person. They met at the entrance to her neighborhood at 2:00 AM while her parents were sleeping. The defendant picked her up and drove her to a church parking lot, where she performed oral sex on him, he performed oral sex on her, and he engaged in sexual intercourse with her. He then drove her back to her subdivision.

The defendant contested the trial court’s sentencing, arguing that the offense of child molestation itself did not include transportation as an element of the offense. It therefore would not trigger the mandatory minimum sentencing provision of O.C.G.A. § 17-10-6.2(c)(E) which gives a court the discretion to deviate from the mandatory minimum because, “[T]he offense did not involve the transportation of the victim.”

The Court affirmed the sentence, holding that the evidence that the defendant picked up the victim in his car from the front of her subdivision, transported her to the church

parking lot where he engaged in sexual acts with her, then transported her back to her subdivision, was sufficient to show that the offense involved the transportation of the victim under O.C.G.A. § 17-10-6.2(c)(E). The Court rejected the defendant’s argument that the statute required transportation as an element of the offense, holding that the defendant’s arguments would render the transportation language of the statute meaningless. This interpretation would have the effect of allowing that provision to only apply to the charge of enticing a child for indecent purposes which requires such evidence. The Court also held that the transportation of the child is an aggravating factor which would limit the trial court’s discretion to deviate from the mandatory minimum sentencing requirements.

**London v. State
A15A0751, July 16, 2015**

After a jury trial, the defendant was convicted on two counts of aggravated child molestation and one count of child molestation. He appealed the trial court’s denial of his motion for new trial, arguing that the trial court erred when it denied his motion to suppress a recording of a telephone conversation between him and the child.

The evidence presented at trial showed that the defendant was married to the victim’s mother and they lived together. On several occasions, the victim testified that the defendant put his mouth on her “privates” and that he placed his finger into her “private part.” The victim told her mother, who took her to the police station the following day. After interviewing the victim, a detective asked the victim to call the defendant so that they could conduct a reverse phone call, which allowed the detective to record the conversation with a video device and reduce it to a DVD format. In the conversation, the defendant admitted to the child molestation. The State introduced the DVD evidence to the jury, which convicted the defendant on all charges.

The Court analyzed O.C.G.A. § 16-11-66(b), which provides that, “the telephone conversations of a child under 18 years of age may be recorded and divulged if, upon written application by a private citizen, law enforcement agency, or prosecutor’s office, a judge of a superior court and the child consent to such taping.” The evidence showed that the idea to record the conversation originated with the police, and there was no evidence that the detectives received the victim’s consent to record the conversation. Because the victim was not informed of their intent to record the conversation, the State was prohibited from recording the conversation without first securing a court order. Accordingly, the Court held that the recording evidence should have been suppressed and reversed the defendant’s conviction.

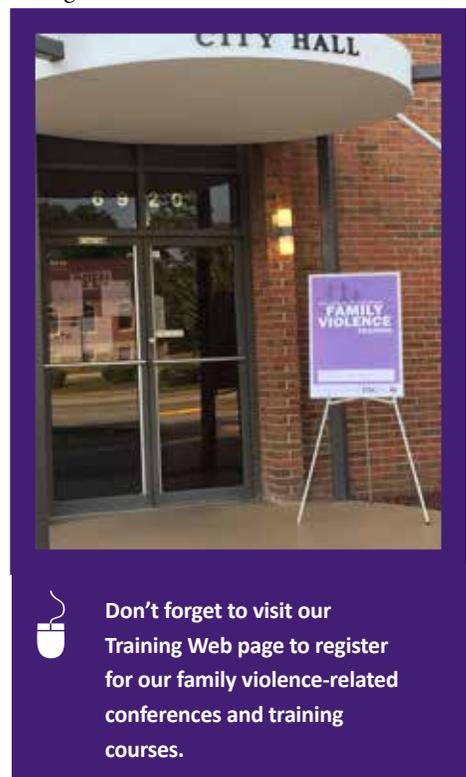
**Watson v. State
S15G0385, September 14, 2015**

The defendant was convicted on two counts of sexual battery for acts committed on his daughter and her friend who were under the age of 16 at the time of the offenses. After the Court of Appeals affirmed his convictions, the Supreme Court granted certiorari to review the trial court’s jury charge on sexual battery as it included the instruction that a victim under the age of 16 lacks the legal capacity to consent to sexual conduct.

At trial, the State presented evidence that the defendant’s daughter had a friend come over for an overnight visit. While the girls were in the daughter’s bedroom, they heard what they believed to be sexual activity coming from the defendant’s room next door. The defendant heard them laughing and came in the room, wearing only a towel. He talked with the girls about what they heard and touched both girls on their pubic areas, breasts and buttocks.

The trial court charged the jury on the lesser included offense of sexual battery. In the instruction, the court charged the jury that, “a victim under the age of 16 lacks the legal capacity to consent to the offense of sexual battery.” The sexual battery statute defines the offense of sexual battery as, “intentional physical contact with the intimate parts of the body of another person.”

The Court reversed the Court of Appeals’ ruling, holding that, because contact with a person’s intimate body parts can be incidental, such as when changing a diaper, playing on a school playground or during a breast exam at the doctor’s office, that the State is required to prove the victim’s lack of consent, regardless of the victim’s age. To construe the statute otherwise, would make the application of the statute overbroad in that it would criminalize “benign conduct.”



Don't forget to visit our Training Web page to register for our family violence-related conferences and training courses.

Resource Spotlight: AEquitas

Is There Witness Intimidation in Your Case? First Steps

Excerpt reprinted with permission from AEquitas.

[Click to download the full text of this resource including endnotes](#)

Experience has shown that criminal defendants inclined to engage in witness intimidation will take advantage of any available opportunity to do so.⁶ The longer it takes for a case to go to trial, the more likely it is that some of these attempts to intimidate will ultimately succeed. It is critical, therefore, that these cases move to trial as expeditiously as possible, with witness protection and evidence preservation at the forefront of trial preparation efforts.

As soon as a case is assigned, whether you assume responsibility for the case immediately after arrest or shortly before trial, carefully review the case for potential intimidation issues. In cases involving domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, or human trafficking, witness intimidation of some sort is a virtual certainty. Even if there has been no contact between the victim and the defendant since the defendant's arrest, the dynamics involved in these crimes usually dictate that intimidation has been occurring on an ongoing basis, long before the criminal act that precipitated the defendant's arrest. Defendants routinely intimidate their victims in these cases in order to prevent the victims from reporting what has usually been a long-standing pattern of abusive conduct. As a result, the victim may be afraid of cooperating with the prosecution, and afraid to testify, because the defendant has made it clear that speaking out will have dire consequences. Or, as a result of the defendant's emotional manipulation, the victim may be feeling guilty and responsible for the defendant's ensuing legal problems.

In cases involving organized crime—or gang-related violence, particularly those occurring in gang-dominated neighborhoods, witnesses are also predictably fearful and reluctant to testify. Intimidation in those cases is generally fear-based, involving fear of violent retribution on the part of the defendant or the gang, or fear of social disapproval as part of the “no snitching” culture of the community. Emotional manipulation may be a factor in some of those cases, too—particularly where the witness is a partner or friend of the defendant, or is a fellow gang member.

In any case where intimidation is or may be a factor, timely actions can make the difference between a successful prosecution and an unsuccessful one. As a prosecutor, you can increase the probability of a successful outcome by implementing the following strategies immediately upon assuming responsibility for a case. [GFV](#)

Continue reading the full text and endnotes at: <http://www.aequitasresource.org/The-Prosecutors-Resource-Intimidation.pdf>

Prosecutors and Law Enforcement working together at a recent Family Violence Training Session. The Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resource Prosecutor is available to provide technical assistance or training for your office. Please feel free to contact DVSARP Sharla D. Jackson at (770) 282-6300, or by email at sdjackson@pacga.org.

UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

November 10, 2015

Advanced Family Violence - Morrow
Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia
1590 Adamson Parkway, 4th Floor
Training Room
Morrow, GA 30260
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

November 11-13, 2015

2015 Fundamentals of Prosecution
Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia
1590 Adamson Parkway, 4th Floor
Training Room
Morrow, GA 30260

November 19, 2015

Family Violence - Columbus
420 10th Street
Columbus, GA 31901
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

December 3-4, 2015

2015 District Attorneys' Winter Meeting
Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia
1590 Adamson Parkway, 4th Floor
Training Room
Morrow, GA 30260

December 15, 2015

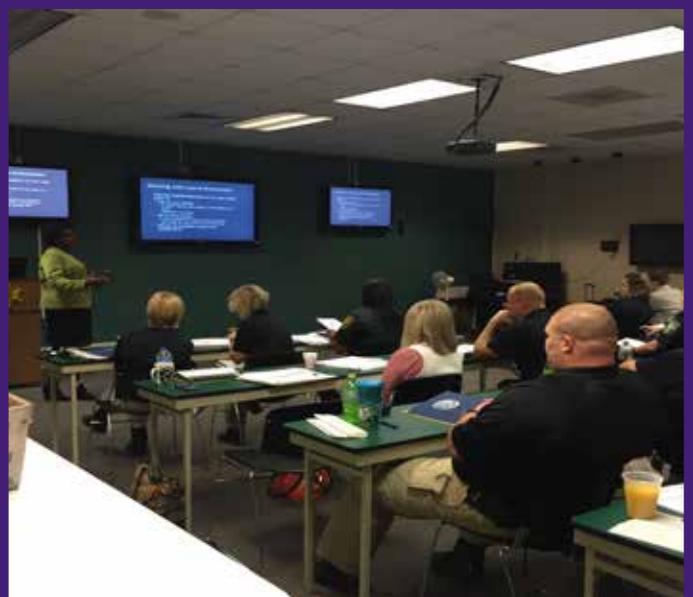
Court School for Advocates - Morrow
Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia
1590 Adamson Parkway, 4th Floor
Training Room
Morrow, GA 30260
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

January 20-22, 2016

Winter Conference
Classic Center
300 N Thomas Street
Athens, GA 30601

July 17-20, 2016

2016 Summer Conference
Jekyll Island Convention Center
75 Beachview Drive
Jekyll Island, GA 31527



RESOURCES:

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resources for Prosecutors

24/7 Domestic Violence Hotline:

1 (800) 33 HAVEN
1 (800) 334-2836 (V/TTY)

GA Criminal Justice Coordinating Council:

www.cjcc.georgia.gov

GA Cares:

www.gacares.org

GA Network to End Sexual Assault:

www.gnesa.org

Battered Women's Justice Project:

www.bwjp.org

GA Commission on Family Violence:

Provides Georgia domestic violence statistics, domestic violence protocols.

www.gcfv.org

GA Coalition Against Domestic Violence:

www.gcadv.org

Forensic Healthcare Online:

Provides links to studies on intimate partner violence and sexual assault

www.forensichealth.com

AEquitas: The Prosecutors Resource on Violence Against Women

Provides information on complex topic areas, emerging issues, and promising practices related to the prosecution of violence against women cases

www.aequitasresource.org

The Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund

www.legalmomentum.org

End Violence Against Women International

www.evawintl.org

National Sexual Violence Resource Center

www.nsvrc.org



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Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia, 1590 Adamson Parkway, Fourth Floor, Morrow, Georgia 30260-1755

GEORGIA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCE PROGRAM



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Did you know?

In Georgia, "Family Violence" also known as Domestic Violence is defined as: "the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between past or present spouses, persons who are parents of the same child, parents and children, stepparents and stepchildren, foster parents and foster children, or other persons living or formerly living in the same household: (1) Any felony; or (2) Commission of offenses of battery, simple battery, simple assault, assault, stalking, criminal damage to property, unlawful restraint, or criminal trespass. The term "family violence" shall not be deemed to include reasonable discipline administered by a parent to a child in the form of corporal punishment, restraint, or detention."

Statistics from 2012 Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Annual Report courtesy Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (www.gcadv.org) and Georgia Commission on Family Violence (www.gcfv.org)