

# The Advocate

Renewal House, Fall 2018

## When “good men” are not good at all

National Bulletin on Domestic Violence Prevention, June 2018, by Jessica Klein

I wanted to take some time this month to reflect on bad men who have done good things. As the media reveals more of these undercover bad guys, most of us have to adjust our perceptions and attitudes toward people we once applauded (or at least did not hold in the highest contempt).

The latest of these, as I am writing on May 8, is New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman. He is an amazing contradiction: A lawmaker who introduced the state’s 2010 bill that made “strangulation into unconsciousness” a violent felony also strangled his multiple victims, former intimate partners, who all feared the repercussions of going up against the state’s most powerful law enforcement official. The ally of women and other liberal Democrats, Schneiderman condemned serial predator and racist Harvey Weinstein while terrorizing the women closest to him.

I read the lengthy *New Yorker* story in which a few of his victims spoke out, two by name, today. The story included many hallmark aspects of DV and made me wonder how we can reconcile an abuser with the good deed he has done.

First of all, abusers having public vs. private personas is common. They hide in plain sight by presenting themselves favorably in public, ingratiating themselves with others, including their victims’ friends and family members, so that when (if) the victims go public,

others are less likely to believe them. *But he’s such a good guy!* In this case: *But he created harsh penalties for strangulation in New York!*

So is this a case of “separating the art from the artist,” the art being Schneiderman’s strangulation penalties? Like asserting that we still appreciate Woody Allen movies even though he may have sexually assaulted his seven-year-old step-daughter? I, for one, cannot watch Woody Allen now. As for Schneiderman, if his law results in his own punishment, then he would be an artist indeed—a man who created perfect poetic justice.

Schneiderman’s outing as a serial abuser also calls to mind a classic trope, that of *I didn’t think it could happen to me*. The women he abused tended to be independent and accomplished in their careers. They were not trapped with him financially or out of obligation to family or religion or because they were illegal immigrants dating U.S. citizens. He trapped them using typical abuser tactics of coercive control.

In fact, everyone is susceptible to seduction by a violent person—to the point that everyone was seduced. The media favorably covered Schneiderman for years as a fighter for women’s justice. The public, at least in New York, knew him as such, and other Democrats supported and valued him. In this way, we were all stuck in a duplicitous, toxic relationship with this dangerous man. We should have known better—he was outed well after Bill Cosby, “America’s dad,” became “America’s rapist.” It is scary to think that our most powerful, most trusted male figures may be undeniably bad.

When one of Schneiderman’s former girlfriends disclosed his abusive actions to her friends, according to the *New Yorker*, “a number of them advised her to keep the story to herself, arguing that Schneiderman was too valuable a politician for the Democrats to lose.” Their idea must have been that the good he was doing on the statewide level was worth the sacrifice of a few unlucky women becoming victims of his personal terrorism.

In addition to being obviously deplorable, such an idea is based on flawed logic. One of Schneiderman’s accusers cited Rob Porter—former White House staff secretary who left his post following DV accusations from his two ex-wives—saying Porter’s former wives speaking out helped encourage her to speak out against Schneiderman. This shows that there really is a ripple effect, a strong one, when it comes to exposing dangerous abusers. When one woman says something, others get not only the courage, but also the moral impetus to do the same. *If he did this to me, he probably did it to others, and will probably continue to do it*. Speaking out is not just cathartic for the survivor doing it, but it saves potential future victims—not just from their same abuser, but from the abusers of other women who are in turn encouraged to speak out.

Just because someone has done something to protect women, that does not mean women do not need to be protected from them. Speaking out is never about protecting one person: It is about protecting all victims—current, former, and potential—from abuse.

## Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month in New York State and across the nation.

It is a time for collective action, a time for communities to unite and mourn those who have died as a result of abuse, celebrate those who have survived, connect those who work to end violence, and raise public awareness about domestic violence.

### Annual Dinner—October 10th, with Silent Auction

We invite the community to join us on **Wednesday, October 10th** at the Gran-View Restaurant in Ogdensburg for our annual recognition dinner.

Cocktails will begin at 5:30 p.m. with dinner served at 6:30 p.m. Our program, **Embrace Your Voice**, will immediately follow.

The cost is \$50 per plate and the entree choices are:

Prime Rib

Roasted Stuffed Boneless Breast of Chicken

Broiled Seafood Platter (shrimp, sea scallops and haddock)

Vegetarian (grilled confit portabella mushroom or a pasta dish)

Please let us know your dinner choice when you reserve your seat.

**Guest speaker is: Gary Pasqua**, St. Lawrence County District Attorney. Gary was born and raised in Westchester County, NY. He graduated from the University of Rochester in 2003 and continued at Albany Law School of Union University, graduating with a Juris Doctorate in 2006. In 2007, Gary began his legal career in the North Country as a Criminal Defense Attorney at the Franklin County Conflict Defender Office representing indigent defendants. In 2008, he accepted a position in the Franklin County District

This year, the national **Wear Purple Day is October 18th**. You can wear purple any day during the month, or all month long! Please tell people why ending domestic violence is important to you. You could even turn it into a fundraiser for Renewal House. Please join us in any way you can. Tell us (Renewal House) what you're doing by posting on our Facebook page

Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney. During that time, he gained experience and knowledge while earning the respect of his peers and superiors such that he was rewarded with a position of higher authority and greater responsibility. In 2015, Gary was promoted to Chief Assistant District Attorney of Franklin County.

Gary handled thousand of cases in Supreme Court, County Court and local justice courts. He prosecuted cases involving homicides, sex crimes, violent crimes, drug offenses and DWI offenses. He spent two years as the lead prosecutor in the Integrated Domestic Violence Court of Franklin County.

On November 7, 2017, Gary was elected St. Lawrence County District Attorney.

**Honoree is: Judith M. Trimboli.**

Judie is a native of Massena, graduated from SUNY Plattsburgh and joined the New York State Police in 1987. She has risen through the ranks serving as a Uniform Road Trooper, Academy Training Officer and Basic School Instructor, and is currently assigned to the New York State Police Campus Sexual Assault Victims Unit.

In March 2016, Judie was selected as one of eleven Senior Investigators from across the state to be assigned to the newly formed Campus Sexual Assault Victims

or send us an email at [renewalhouse@verizon.net](mailto:renewalhouse@verizon.net). You could be helping to save a life. Don't fail to act!

Renewal House will have information tables set up during the month at: Department of Social Services, in the County Court House lobby and at Community Bank, Main Street in Canton.

Unit, to Troop B. This Unit was formed at the direction of Governor Andrew Cuomo to help combat sexual violence on college campuses. Her duties include working closely with Renewal House in teaching prevention education to college students, and working with college administrators, Title IX Coordinators, campus police and safety and security officers, as well as local law enforcement on how to better respond to sexual violence on college campuses.

**Please RSVP by October 4th.**

If you are interested in **reserving a table of 8**, please call Ilene at 315-379-9845.

A **silent auction** will be taking place throughout the evening.

Also on display will be The Purple Purse designed by Serena Williams. This is a limited edition, solely for the 2018 Purple Purse Challenge, which will be available for auction. All proceeds from this item will be donated directly to the Renewal House Purple Purse Campaign, helping to empower victims of financial abuse.

If you would like to donate an item or items for the **silent auction**, please contact Ilene or Shari.

All money collected will go directly to assisting victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in St. Lawrence County.

## The Purple Purse Challenge, October 2 - 31st

We have exciting news! For the second year running, Renewal House has been selected to participate in the Allstate Foundation's Purple Purse Challenge.

### What is the Purple Purse Challenge?

The Purple Purse Challenge is an online fundraising competition between nonprofits that provides financial empowerment services to victims and survivors of domestic violence, such as Renewal House. The Challenge takes place from October 2—31, in accordance with Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

During the Purple Purse Challenge, nonprofits reach out to their community of supporters and raise as much money as possible. Participating nonprofits keep all the money they raise and Allstate Foundation is providing \$800,000 in prizes to fuel the

competition and provide much needed funds for organizations like Renewal House. In addition, during each week throughout the Challenge, there are also Weekly Bonus Promotions. These mini competitions are designed to give every nonprofit more opportunities to win additional monetary prizes.

### Why is this important?

Renewal House believes that addressing financial abuse and encouraging economic empowerment is essential to the healing process, helping individuals move from domestic violence victim, to survivor, to "thriver." Last year Renewal House raised \$6,348.45. This money has been used to purchase the *Moving Ahead Through Financial Management* economic empowerment curriculum booklets and to assist Renewal House clients who have experienced financial abuse with car repairs and insurance, rental costs and moving expenses, and

other basic necessities such as food, gas, and phone minutes.

### How can I help?

You can help Renewal House reach our goal of \$10,000 by contributing to our Purple Purse Challenge, beginning on October 2, 2018. If you would like to donate, please visit our team page at <https://www.crowdrise.com/o/en/campaign/renewalhouse-purplepurse2018>.

### **All Purple Purse donations must be done online via debit or credit card**

in order for them to officially count and keep us in the running for any of the additional monetary prizes. You can also follow us on Facebook for weekly updates, bonus challenge announcements, and more information about financial abuse and economic empowerment.

If you would like more information, contact Kat Manierre at [renewalhouse\\_advocate1@verizon.net](mailto:renewalhouse_advocate1@verizon.net).

## In Her Shoes, October 19th

*In Her Shoes* is an immersive, interactive, choose your own adventure-style activity designed to help participants feel what it's like to walk in the shoes of someone who has experienced domestic violence. The stories reflected represent the complex and dynamic nature of domestic violence, while also illustrating the more specific barriers that victims face when they are poor, or become poor, as a result of the domestic violence. Renewal House has taken this activity to the next level in the sense that you will be putting yourself in the shoes of a survivor as you are actually walking from station to station around Canton, completing their story.

The scenarios in *In Her Shoes* are all based on true stories of women who have experienced abuse at the hands of their partners. In this activity you will have the opportunity to walk in one of these character's shoes. At times you will have difficult choices to make and we urge you to make a decision based on what feels right to you.

This FREE event will take place on October 19, 2018, starting at 3 Chapel Street, Canton. There will be a registration table located outside of the Renewal House office. You may choose the time to participate, either 9am-12pm or 2pm-5pm.

Please call Kat or Ilene to register in advance.

Donations are always accepted. If you make a donation by credit/debit card, you can support our Purple Purse Challenge, \$10 minimum.

Plan on this event taking between 2 -3 hours to complete, depending on the survivor story you receive at registration and the choices you make.

Parking may be limited, but we suggest the following locations: public parking between Hodskin and Court Streets, or possibly parking on Chapel Street across from Renewal House

This event will be held outside and require quite bit of walking, so we suggest bringing: comfortable walking shoes, weather-appropriate clothing/layers, water/snacks.

**Adopt a Family during the Holiday Season—call Renewal House for details!**

## Services Offered at Renewal House

**Renewal House** provides a variety of services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in St. Lawrence County. All services are free and confidential. Services include:

**24-hour Crisis Hotline:** Staff and volunteers are available 24 hours a day by calling **315-379-9845**.

Regular office hours are 8 am - 5 pm, Monday through Friday. If it is not an emergency and you would like **to leave a message**, call **315-379-9878**. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

### Individual Counseling/Emotional Support:

Short-term individual counseling in a non-judgmental atmosphere that acknowledges a person's ability and right to make choices. Help is available to consider options and plan for safety. Home visits are provided if needed.

**Support Group:** A facilitated self-help group for victims and survivors of domestic violence providing mutual support and understanding from others who have been abused and who share something in common. It has helped many victims feel less isolated, get useful information, and develop a safety plan. Transportation is provided if needed.

### Economic Empowerment Program:

Staff facilitate *Moving Ahead Through Financial Management*, a 5-module economic empowerment curriculum designed to identify and address financial abuse, develop budgeting strategies, and encourage financial security and independence.

### Children's Program:

Recreational/Support Group to help children understand what abuse is and to give them a safe space to talk about their feelings. Children are reassured that the abuse is not their fault. Individual counseling is also provided.

**Safe Housing:** 24-hour intake for emergency, temporary shelter for domestic violence victims.

**Advocacy:** Assistance in obtaining orders of protection, pressing criminal charges, and working with law enforcement. We also help in obtaining emergency assistance from Department of Social Services, Office of Victim Services and other community programs.

### Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners:

Specially trained medical professionals providing compassionate, knowledgeable assistance to a victim of sexual assault.

### Community Education and Outreach:

Presentations are available for any public or private group, school, business, or agency.

### Campus Advocacy

Our Campus Advocate provides direct service, trainings, and presentations for all colleges in St. Lawrence County. We are currently at four colleges that are generously sharing their space with us:

Clarkson University, Tuesdays, 8:30—4:30pm, Education Resource Center (ERC),

Student Health and Counseling Center (SHAC), Suite 1300

SUNY Potsdam, Wednesdays, 9—5pm, Van Housen Ext, Room 390

SUNY Canton, Thursdays, 9—5pm, Payson Hall, Room 207

St. Lawrence University, Fridays, 9—5pm, Bewkes Science Hall, Room 323

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Although we do not have a dedicated space, we are currently providing training to all students, staff and faculty. All services are available upon request.

*Renewal House prohibits the discrimination or harassment of any person based on race, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, religion and national origin.*

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# Community Support

## Donor Appreciation Report

*Thank you for your support!*

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Gollinger, Barbara	Pizza Hut	
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Haenel, Lizette	Poor, Laurie	

Renewal House recognizes the businesses, organizations, and community members who generously support the adults and children who seek services at Renewal House by donating money, items, or time. The names listed on this report are from donations received since our last newsletter.

### Center Finds Abusers More Often Than Not Strangle Victims

Oklahoma City's Family Justice Center reports that a stunning 70% of the DV victims it serves have been strangled by their abuser. Often, when police arrive, the strangulation leaves no marks but the abuser sports injuries caused by the victim's desperate attempt to get free. The Center has launched a campaign to educate victims, police, prosecutors, and doctors about strangulation. *Source: News9.com, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

### Vermont Judges Issue Almost All Requested Temporary Protective Orders

In Chittenden County, Vermont, 515 temporary protective orders were sought in 2017. Judges granted about 89% of them. They only lasted for two weeks before another hearing was required, giving a chance for the temporarily restrained to contest the order. The number of longer term orders that followed was only 212. The majority were denied, usually because the petitioner did not pursue the order. No one investigated to see whether the temporary order had only intensified the abuser's threats, violence and/or intimidation, this time successfully keeping the victim from court; or the temporary order had convinced the abuser to leave the victim alone; or the parties had reconciled for better or worse. *Source: Burlington Free Press, Vermont*

### Hiring Abusers Haunts Police, Endangers Victims

Ryan Dews, a Columbia County, Oregon Deputy, escaped DV prosecution because the misdemeanor assault's time had run out by the time the

investigation was turned over to a different county to investigate. The prosecutor still could have gone forward on a felony charge, but said the victim was not "cooperative." Prior to his being hired as a Deputy, Dews had a drunk driving arrest and an earlier DV related assault arrest. He beat up a man who sent his girlfriend flowers. After being hired, he got into trouble for assaulting a driver at a traffic stop until other officers restrained him. As the Oregon State Police announced when it put its Captain on unpaid leave for DV charges, it condemns DV, noting it is "...especially alarming and disgraceful when involving a police officer. Conduct of this nature is grossly unacceptable and employees that engage in these actions have no place in law enforcement." Police can begin by screening out abusers in the hiring process. *Source: Columbia County Spotlight, Oregon*

### Tennessee Mandates 12-Hour Hold of Those Arrested for DV Injuries or Weapons

Tennessee law now requires judges and magistrates to hold arrested abusers for 12 hours before allowing them out on bond if the alleged abuser caused serious bodily harm or used or displayed a deadly weapon. It also requires victim notification and issuance of a no contact order as a condition of subsequent bail. Previously, judges and magistrates had discretion which resulted in a scandalous release of a dangerous abuser that made headlines. *Source: Fox13, Memphis, Tennessee*

### New York Republican Legislators Propose DV Bills

Republican legislators in New York released a series of proposed bills to strengthen DV laws, declaring DV to represent a public health crisis. After conducting hearings across the state, they concluded that DV crimes

should be treated like hate crimes. One proposal would enhance penalties if the DV crime is committed with children present. They also called for more funding to help women and children escape violent abusers. One of the proposed bills calls for panic buttons so that victims can alert police if the abuser has control over the phones. *Source: Times Union, Albany, New York*

### Fostering Safer Workplaces for Everyone, OPDV Bulletin/Summer 2018, Eesha Bhave, Program Specialist, Futures Without Violence

Five years ago, the University of Maryland St. Joseph's Medical Center, an institution that promotes healing and recovery, was rocked by two domestic violence-related deaths. An administrative assistant was fatally shot by her estranged husband, and shortly thereafter, a nurse was stabbed to death by her son. While the St. Joseph's Medical Center has a rich history of helping patients with violence and its aftermath, there were no policies or procedures in place for St. Joseph's employees to reach out for help at their workplace. And they aren't the only employees who find themselves in that situation.

For most, the workplace is not the first place that comes to mind when thinking of domestic violence. But we bring our whole selves and lives to work, and many of us spend the majority of our waking hours in the workplace. Domestic violence has a significant impact on the workplace, limiting a worker's earning potential, productivity and safety. Domestic violence costs a national estimate of \$728 million a year in lost productivity: usually from taking time off to attend court hearings and to seek services for recovery. When women - who

already face gender-based economic barriers in the workplace, such as a lack of pay equity with male coworkers - have the added burden of domestic violence, they often don't have the financial means to leave abusive situations.

In some cases, the entire workplace's safety may be at risk. One study found that 67 percent of victims of domestic violence indicated that their perpetrator came to the workplace, and another study found that 87 percent of victims of domestic violence received harassing phone calls at work. Often, these visits end in violence against the victim or coworkers, negatively impacting the safety and well-being of all. As exemplified in the case of St. Joseph's Medical Center, it is in the best interest of employers to help create supportive workplaces for employees experiencing domestic violence.

### Best Practices

Futures Without Violence leads *Workplaces Respond to Domestic and Sexual Violence: A National Resource Center (Workplaces Respond)*, the only center of its kind dedicated to addressing the workplace impacts of domestic and sexual violence and stalking. *Workplaces Respond* provides resources, training and tools for employers, advocates, and survivors to create a prevention-focused approach to reducing the impact of domestic violence, sexual harassment and assault, and stalking in the workplace.

A workplace can serve as a resource for victims and survivors if there are clear lines of communication and resources available. To that end, employers should develop and implement workplace policies on domestic and sexual violence in the workplace. Having

a policy in place signals that this issue is important to the organization, and that it is ready to act on issues as they arise, and to support employees who may be experiencing violence. A policy is an effective way to create structure and support for individuals to feel comfortable asking for resources through an employee assistance program (EAP), a local victim services program, the National Domestic Violence Hotline, the New York State Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline, or others. In the case of St. Joseph's Medical Center, we worked closely with their leadership and staff to develop a workplace policy to better guide responses to violence experienced by staff.

A policy can come to life with ongoing, in-person trainings for all employees. Training on the impacts of domestic violence in the workplace should go beyond reviewing the law and liability involved in addressing these situations. Instead, employers can adopt a focus on prevention within these trainings by providing real-life scenarios that emphasize survivor safety and support, and peer support. At *Workplaces Respond*, we have developed model trainings for various industries, including healthcare, restaurant, and agriculture, that may offer a good starting point for what a prevention-oriented training can include.

Employers do not need to develop these policies and supports alone. Local domestic violence/sexual assault service providers can collaborate with employers in developing the policies, trainings and best practices for safety in the workplace. Working collaboratively can help ensure that the policies and trainings are victim-centered

in their approach and improve the safety of the workplace overall.

### Moving Forward

Since most people spend the majority of their waking hours on the job, it is no wonder the short and long-term effects of domestic violence carry over to the workplace. Whether the violence occurs inside or outside of the workplace, an employer can foster a work environment that focuses on support and prevention. Taking these steps can help the workplace feel more like a community and safe place to find support. At St. Joseph's Medical Center, the implementation of these policies and support mechanisms has given coworkers and supervisors the tools to respond effectively to domestic violence in a more forward-thinking and thoughtful way.

Improving our responses to the impacts of domestic violence in the workplace can keep both the employer and employee moving toward safer, healthier and more productive workplaces.

### **Smart Technology Used by Abusers to Intimidate, Harass Their Victims**

The *New York Times* found in more than 30 interviews that abusers are using apps on their smart phones connected to internet-enabled devices that remotely control everyday objects in the house to watch, listen, scare, and demonstrate the abuser's power over his victim. Commented one shelter administrator, victims report thermostats suddenly kicking up to 100, speakers turning on to blast music, door codes changed daily. Victims feel they are losing control of their home. Legal recourse is limited as the laws have not caught up with the new

technology. If an abuser uses video from security cameras, that could violate a state's revenge porn laws. *Source: New York Times, New York*

**Spyware for DV Advertised and Available on the Net,** National Bulletin on Domestic Violence Prevention, July 2018

Even not-so-tech-savvy abusers now have unexcelled access to their victims' digital lives, increasing their coercive control over, and violence against, their partners. Researchers have found that it is increasingly easy to deploy spyware in a variety of devices.

Abusers often have physical access to their partners' devices, and they either know or can guess their passwords, PINs, or have forced or cajoled disclosure. Once they gain access, they can install software that can covertly monitor their victims, even remotely record video and audio.

A whole industry has grown up to assist. There is even a website called "track my girlfriend" that provides how-to guidance. Spy apps include FlexiSpy and Hello-Spy. The latter explicitly promotes DV, showing a man grabbing a woman with bruises about her face. There are less offensively marketed products, including "find my friends" apps or child safety apps that often include GPS-powered tracing and other monitoring features. Abusers can repurpose these programs.

In 2010, the Federal Trade Commission restricted how CyberSpy Software could advertise "RemoteSpy" software and required it to disable features including the ability to disguise an innocuous photograph. However, these past efforts to control spy

programs have just made companies be more discreet. Google also has taken steps to stop serving advertisers for abuse-related searches. It has updated its play store policies to be more restrictive about apps that market themselves for abusers.

However, as researchers at Cornell who have studied "The Spyware Used in Intimate Partner Violence" conclude: "We...need accountability. We should develop corporate policy mechanisms, legal frameworks, and investigatory practices for punishing developers that clearly facilitate abuse. Government agencies such as the FTC, the Justice Department, and the FBI could play a role in helping discover and punish bad actors... (T)echnologists can and should do much more to help abuse survivors—as well as vulnerable people who are not yet victims."

Their report can be found at [https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/public\\_comments/2017/11/00045-141903.pdf](https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/public_comments/2017/11/00045-141903.pdf).

**Revenge Porn Now a DV Norm,** National Bulletin on Domestic Violence Prevention, May 2018

Revenge porn is becoming a new norm in DV abuse, especially for youth, despite initial and failed efforts to stop it by Google, Facebook and other platform providers. As Stephanie Nilva, the executive director of Day One, an anti-dating violence agency serving youth, declares to *Gizmodo*, "We really don't see clients anymore (who) aren't experiencing some sort of abuse that isn't based in the use of technology."

Victims must confront a patchwork of laws and legal processes to defend themselves when they

find non-consensual use of intimate photos. They must also rely on tech companies. Between January and June of 2017, according to Kate Conger, writing in *Gizmodo*, Microsoft only removed content in 57% of the revenge porn reports it received. If victims can file copyright take-downs they are more successful. In the first half of 2017, Microsoft honored almost all of these requests.

Other victims have found release going to court to obtain restraining orders. Trying to proceed criminally against abusers has proven more difficult as police often do not understand the issue of revenge porn. There is continuing debate and confusion whether the issue is covered by cyberbullying, harassment, copyright, or free speech laws.

Teens are particularly vulnerable to revenge porn, both in terms of girls having nude photos taken and then boys using them for revenge after relationship breakups.

Some legal experts propose that the issue should be seen as a privacy problem. These photos should be considered like medical or financial records: private. This will make it less complicated to deal with issues of intent and harassment when the photos are used as revenge porn.

Advocates also propose tech companies become more diligent and schools educate and warn students about the abuse technology can facilitate. Facebook is starting a pilot program where victims can submit photos preemptively to prevent them from being used as revenge porn.

Currently, some DV shelters specifically ask about revenge porn in intake forms because so

many victims will not mention it because it has become so common that they ignore it, focusing on physical abuse, stalking, and non-technologically inspired abuse.

**Schools Need Extra Tutoring in Responding to Dating Violence**

Although almost half of American states have some type of law asking schools to address adolescent dating violence, a study had found a serious lack of formal training in dealing with it by schools. While most school principals, counselors, and nurses reported assisting victims of dating violence in the past two years, more than half were unaware of best practices for responding to it.

*Source: J. Khubchandani, et al. (Feb/Mar 2018). Adolescent Dating Violence Prevention: Perspectives of School Personnel in the United States." Domestic Violence Report 12(3).*

**New York Considers Mandating Hairdresser DV Training**

New York is considering a bill to require DV training for all professionals in New York's cosmetology industry. Workers would be educated how to recognize DV and what to tell victims to do about it. They will not be mandated to report DV to law enforcement. Illinois has such a law already. Cut It Out, a program affiliated with the Professional Beauty Organization, has promoted such education since 2003. In Illinois, more than 3,500 salon professionals received DV training at an industry conference last March. *Source: CNN*

**Connecticut Police Continue**

**Arresting DV Victims**

Connecticut police continue to make three times as many dual DV arrests as the rest of the country, 20% to 7%. The State DV Coalition expressed shock at the newly reported stats, but Connecticut has long led the country in dual DV arrests and the Coalition has opposed Primary or Predominate Aggressor legislation. Historically, Connecticut police chiefs supported the state's DV mandatory arrest law, not so much to protect battered women, but to protect cities and towns from lawsuits as a result of allowing responding officers' discretion not to arrest. Unfortunately, police have over-interpreted mandatory arrest to mean arrest everyone in sight. *Source: NBC Connecticut*

**New York Expands Gun Bans for Abusers**

New York has expanded firearm bans to include persons convicted of more misdemeanor DV crimes. Also persons wanted on felony charges, but not convicted, would be banned from obtaining or renewing firearm licenses required in New York. It also extends the mandatory waiting period for firearm purchase approval if the National Instant Criminal Background Check System is not completed. *Source: WPTZ, New York, New York*

**New Jersey Considers Bills to Assist Victims at Home and Work**

New Jersey is considering a bill to allow DV victims to cancel television and telephone service contracts without early termination fees. It is also considering a bill to require the Civil Service Commission to develop a uniform DV policy for all public employees that would encourage DV victims to seek confidential assistance

from human resource departments at their work. The Commission would be required to consult with law enforcement, prosecutors, social workers, crisis counselors, and DV service providers to develop its policies. *Source: The Press of Atlantic City, New Jersey*

**Colorado Law Requires Judges to Imprison Convicted Stalkers and Abusers Awaiting Sentencing**

Colorado has enacted a law denying bail for felony stalking defendants and DV defendants between conviction and sentencing, prompted by the murder of 28-year-old Janice Nam in 2016. Nam had taken out a protective order against her ex-boyfriend. He was convicted of stalking but released pending sentencing. Required to wear an electronic monitor, he simply cut it off, killed a man to steal his truck and then killed Nam. The delay between conviction and sentencing can take six to eight weeks. Competent judges hold such convicted abusers without bail and know that electronic monitoring does not safeguard vulnerable victims, but the law will stop incompetent judges from repeating what the judge allowed in the Nam case. *Source: Fox21 News, Denver, Colorado*

**Almost 300,000 Women Annually in ERs for Suspicious Head Injuries**

Researchers looked at 525,000 emergency room visits across the U.S. between 1992 and 2013, looking for cases of women with head, neck, and facial injuries, often associated with DV assaults. They found that 281,116 women visit ERs every year with these injuries. The researchers, a professor and student at San Francisco State

University, hope to create an app, mPOWERED, to help ERs recognize the symptoms of DV so that they can better respond to meet the needs of abused women. *Source: SF State News*

**Training Emergency Department Advocates**, *National Bulletin on Domestic Violence Prevention*, April 2018, by Jessica Klein

Advocating for survivors of DV and sexual assault in the Emergency Department can be a daunting task for those new to the role. Not only must these advocates prepare to counsel recently traumatized patients, but they also have to deal with medical providers and law enforcement whose professional goals may be at odds with survivors' wishes.

Stepping into this complicated position for the first time brings up a lot of questions. As an advocate for the past four years, I have had to deal with many of them. *What do I do if a police officer starts asking the patient questions that make them uncomfortable? What happens if I forget important information, like how long the hospital holds SAFE Exams (aka, "rape kits")?*

Last month, I went to help train future advocates at the hospital where I volunteer. The training session I attended marked the group's first day of three-person role-plays. Until then, role-plays had consisted of two trainees, one acting as a survivor, the other acting as the advocate. Adding a third person to the mix meant addressing more potential obstacles, like an insensitive police officer or impatient medical staff. (Side note: The aim is to pose especially tricky scenarios, not suggest professional stereotypes.)

With just two more training

classes to go, dealing with a third-party jolted many of the would-be advocates. They had just started getting comfortable with the idea of doing their job with one person in the room. Adding to the scene required juggling separate personas—speaking to a traumatized survivor requires a different voice from the one used to address a condescending cop. For many future advocates, the idea of standing up to authority figures like law enforcement officers can be intimidating. "I'm kind of a goody-two-shoes," a trainee confessed, to which several others nodded.

For me, to feel more authoritative when confronting authority, I remind myself that I am there to support the survivor, a job certainly no less important than trying to apprehend a criminal. (Also, I wear loud boots with high heels. That way, I look taller and sound louder than I really am.) I remember during my first interaction with law enforcement in the ED: the officer started by asking what I was doing there. He seemed perplexed (not to mention annoyed) by my role. He phrased questions to the survivor in a way that clearly made her uncomfortable. Finally, I had to find a way to gently remind the survivor that she could take a break during questioning, meanwhile attempting to communicate to the police officer that this would be in his best interest as well because it would help keep the exhausted survivor on point.

As long as advocates take the time to remind survivors of their rights before (if they get the chance) and during police questioning, they are doing their jobs. It can (likely, will) be awkward, but advocates must develop their own style, their own technique to make this work. My method, trying to appeal to the

police's professional goals while advocating for the survivor to take a much-needed break, often proves effective.

Some officers are very kind but still end up asking inappropriate questions. In these cases, I try to regroup with the survivor and discuss how, hey, it was not okay for that officer to ask you if you had been planning to "party hard" that night, even if done with a smile. Then, you can go out in the hall and speak privately (and kindly) to the officer about her word choice.

Another major concern voiced at the training involved being prepared. "I'm worried I'll get to the ED and forget everything I've learned over the past couple of months," said a future advocate, notebook open in front of her.

Advocating for survivors in the ED is not about knowing everything. It entails being reasonably knowledgeable, as well as having information on hand. I bring a folder with key information, like contact information for shelters and how long after an assault HIV Prep remains effective, as I am not a walking encyclopedia. It is also important to use hospital staff as resources on medical information.

One thing I like to stress to new advocates is that our role, by its very nature, is limited. We are not to exchange contact information with survivors; we are not to accompany them anywhere outside of the hospital. If a survivor is homeless and no shelter has beds, we cannot magic up a room for them (though we can try and see how long the hospital will let them stay overnight). Sometimes, we will not be satisfied with a survivor's safety plan because going back to an address their abuser knows sounds dangerous,

but going elsewhere may be more so. Survivors are experts on their own lives. It is not an advocate's job to substitute her or his judgment.

An advocate friend of mine summed up the role best when she was talking with a non-English speaking survivor. The translator had yet to arrive, and my friend kept on trying to explain to the patient why she was there in the ED. With their limited grasp of English, the patient kept not understanding. Finally, my friend simply said, "I'm here to help," at which the patient nodded.

If new advocates can distill their role to that simple phrase, it becomes a lot less daunting.

**Prosecution of DV Stifled by Judge**, National Bulletin on Domestic Violence Prevention, August 2018

The girlfriend of San Francisco 49ers linebacker Reuben Foster recanted her prior statement that he had attacked her, leaving her with a ruptured ear drum. Instead she said that she had sustained the injuries after fighting with another woman and only called police on him because she wanted to mess up his football career. She was angry because he was breaking up with her, she explained.

The Santa Clara County District Attorney, however, continued to press the case, declaring that the evidence demonstrated that Foster hurt his girlfriend despite her later recantation. The prosecutor explained that recantation is common because victims may be scared, feel guilty, are coerced, or need money. "Whatever the cause, we move forward on cases when the victims falsely recant because we know if we don't, more victims will be hurt. Our commitment to DV survivors is

unwavering." Unfortunately, a judge, sharing neither the prosecution's knowledge of DV or its commitment to stop it, dismissed the charges against Foster.

As soon as the charges were dismissed, the 49ers took him back on the team. It may not be for long, however. Foster is also facing charges for possessing an assault rifle, although drug charges against him were also dismissed after he completed a diversion program. Foster was already in the league's drug program after failing a drug test last year.

The 49ers management has failed to recognize a fundamental truth: Batterers are not otherwise trustworthy, upstanding citizens, good parents, or individuals you can depend on to behave decently. *Source: National Bulletin on Domestic Violence Prevention, August 2018*

### **Jail Allows Inmate to Make 223 Calls to Victim**

It took a while, but finally Buncombe County jailers notified police who filed 28 new arrest warrants against Lewie Robinson, 53, for calling the victim 223 times in violation of a protective order while he was in jail for assaulting her. The sheriff stated that he allows inmates to make as many short calls as they want during "free" time, and does not prohibit calls to victims unless notified otherwise. Apparently, the sheriff's office and the court and police do not share protective orders, so the Sheriff ends up abetting multiple crimes. No one should wonder why DV victims may lack complete confidence in their criminal justice officials. *Source: Citizen Times, Asheville, North Carolina*

### **Idaho DV Shelter Closing Controversial**

The Director and another staffer of the Mini-Cassia DV Shelter in

Idaho were fired by the Advocates Against Violence Board because they failed to raise money and account for its budget, among other allegations. The board then closed the shelter and removed two families, hoping to send them to shelters in other communities, which the fired director warned were usually full. Eventually the families went to a motel. The board said it will reopen the shelter and rebuild trust in the community, although not all Board members were notified of the meeting where the decision to close the shelter was made. Board members who voted to close the shelter said they decided to close the shelter when they learned that residents suffered bug bites. They said they would raise money, change the name of the shelter and hire a new director. The shelter had previously lost \$50,000 in government funding for not meeting unspecified standards. Meanwhile, the Board was evicted from its office behind City Hall because the City of Rupert needed the space for a new Boys and Girls Club. *Source: Times-News, Rupert, Idaho*

### **Georgia Continues to Support Legal Aid for DV Victims**

The Judicial Council of Georgia has awarded \$2.4 million to eight nonprofit legal aid groups to represent low-income DV victims. Unlike some other funding for legal aid groups, this money can be used for expenses related to divorce and custody when domestic violence is an issue. The funds also can be used to help secure protective orders for victims and for other designated purposes as well be directed to those Georgia counties with fewer than 10 registered lawyers. Georgia began this annual funding in 1999. According to the Council, the state's DV shelters refer 10,000 victims for legal aid each year. *Source: Daily Report, Georgia*

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