

**Smith, Angela**

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**From:** robincastle@bresnan.net  
**Sent:** Monday, January 04, 2016 7:43 PM  
**To:** HHS CFS PMK Comment  
**Subject:** PMK Comment Received

First Name: Robin

Last Name: Castle

Email: [robincastle@bresnan.net](mailto:robincastle@bresnan.net)

Comment: Sub-committee meetings need to be published at least 10 working days in advance. The past two have been announced with two or three days notice which is totally unreasonable for working Montanans to arrange to attend. These are not broadcasted.

File Upload: <http://dphhs.mt.gov/Portals/85/Documents/ProtectMontanaKids/FileUploads/>

File Link: [FileLink]

**Smith, Angela**

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**From:** markamw@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 05, 2016 6:28 PM  
**To:** HHS CFS PMK Comment  
**Subject:** PMK Comment Received

First Name: Mark  
Last Name: Supanich  
Email: markamw@yahoo.com

Comment: I mentioned I would post this at the last sub-committee meeting. I surely hope we try something NEW to save children's lives. For any further questions please feel free to email me at above. System Improvements I have been trapped in the legal system (criminal and family courts) for eight years, therefore, I have the experience to offer suggestions to improve the current dysfunctional system. If the government agencies responsible would have actually investigated the reports made concerning [REDACTED] safety, these eight years of horrific agony would have been avoided. Let me begin by saying most people don't have the money to protect their rights; all it takes is one biased, unethical social worker to put any protective parent's life on a roller coaster ride that destroys the lives of the innocent children involved. After the social worker makes a determination to usurp the protective parent's rights, the case ends up in court. Once the first commissioner or judge makes a ruling, even if it's one of the few mistakes he or she makes that day, the decision has been made. The battle continues as we go back into court usually in front of a new judge or commissioner that has no idea what went on at the last hearing. Consequently, that judge or commissioner believes the previous judge or commissioner is competent, wise, unbiased, law abiding and has made the best decision possible for specific, objective reasons. The legal community is extremely connected and judges/commissioners don't overturn each other's decisions. Solutions to this problem would include having the same judge/commissioner hear the same case to provide consistency. This would stop the cycle of miscommunication between previous judge's/commissioner's rulings. The next hearing would have all necessary facts documented by evidence. Also, time wouldn't (and shouldn't) be a consideration i.e. not ten minutes per parent but a few hours if needed. This would stop the need for an additional thirty plus hearings over the course of several years, wasting enormous sums of money and the destruction of sacred childhood which is priceless. If a parent is found to have BROKEN the law for example obstructing justice, perjury, tampering with evidence, it can be discovered quickly. The jails and prisons are full, which is common knowledge, but many who are incarcerated are not guilty (1). If people were warned that it was unacceptable to break the law after raising their hand in court and swearing to tell the truth, many would at least stop and think, including people that think they're immune. After the last hearing the judge can take a close look at the case again and make sure there is no bias occurring and if there is, put a stop to it. This would free up considerable time and resources. Parents could actually receive justice before their children were grown or so psychologically destroyed that they turn to drugs, or need a life time of therapy, or commit suicide. These few ideas could start a positive snowball effect. The domestic violence (DV) protection laws have also been misused and distorted and cost in the billions of dollars per year (2). For example ask any police officer if that piece of paper, a restraining order, that is easier to obtain than trying to cash a two party check, actually stops a real abuser. Yes DV is a big problem, but issuing unnecessary restraining orders wasn't intended to become a business, that created thousands of good paying jobs with considerable retirement packages. All this money should be used to keep CHILDREN, WOMAN AND MEN safe!!!! The same for Child Protective Services (CPS). It isn't working. Every year the media reports that thousands of children die in this country from child abuse. If more accurate statistics were kept the numbers would be larger. In the past twenty years after a nationwide promise from the United State's government to change the system there has been between forty thousand, to one hundred thousand children that have lost their lives from child abuse (3). There are many possible solutions to this problem; such as operation SAFE HOUSE. We should have safe homes with staff that can protect the children from abuse. If there are only accusations

being made and not actual abuse this would be a good safe place to discover what was really happening to the child. This could also prevent children from being beaten, starved, burned or whatever the case, to death. This would still provide jobs but more than one case worker would be in place, to make decisions that could save lives and families. The children and parents could all stay together in places like this instead of being torn apart for no reason, which happens all too often. If the parents didn't get along they could stay at different times or if they needed treatment it could be available on site. Funding for a new approach like this could come from money spent on CPS, drug and DV programs, that only have about a five percent success rate. They could incorporate the two programs together, since all too often abuse and addiction go hand in hand. Sincerely, Mark Supanich 1. The Innocence Project, info@innocenceproject.org. 2. Domestic Violence: The Secret Killer that Costs \$8.3 Billion; FORBES, Dec. 2013. 3. National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Dec., 2015. Washington, DC.

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# Innocence Project

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Innocence Project** is a non-profit legal organization that is committed to exonerating wrongly convicted people through the use of DNA testing and to reforming the criminal justice system to prevent future injustice.<sup>[1]</sup> The Innocence Project was founded in 1992 by Barry Scheck and Peter Neufeld. To date, the work of the Innocence Project has led to the freeing of 329 wrongfully convicted people, including 18 who spent time on death row.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Contents

- 1 Founding
- 2 Mission
  - 2.1 Wrongful convictions
- 3 Work
  - 3.1 Funding
- 4 Innocence Network
  - 4.1 Worldwide
- 5 Causes
- 6 In popular culture
  - 6.1 Film
  - 6.2 Literature
  - 6.3 Stage productions
  - 6.4 Television
- 7 See also
- 8 Notes
- 9 External links

## The Innocence Project

### INNOCENCE PROJECT

<b>Founded</b>	1992
<b>Founder</b>	Barry Scheck and Peter Neufeld
<b>Location</b>	New York, NY
<b>Budget</b>	not disclosed
<b>Website</b>	www.innocenceproject.org (http://www.innocenceproject.org/)

## Founding

The Innocence Project was established in the wake of a landmark study by the United States Department of Justice and the United States Senate, in conjunction with the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, which found that incorrect identification by eyewitnesses was a factor in over 70% of wrongful convictions.<sup>[3]</sup> The original Innocence Project was founded in 1992 by Scheck and Neufeld as part of the Cardozo School of Law of Yeshiva University in New York City. It became an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in 2003 but maintains strong institutional connections with Cardozo.<sup>[4]</sup> The current Executive Director of the Innocence Project is Madeline deLone.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Mission

The Innocence Project primarily exonerates people for whom DNA evidence is available to be tested or retested. DNA testing is possible in 5 to 10 percent of criminal cases.<sup>[6]</sup> Other members of the Innocence Network also help to exonerate those in whose cases DNA testing is not possible.

In addition to working on behalf of those who may have been wrongfully convicted of crimes throughout the United States, those working for the Innocence Project perform research and advocacy related to the causes of wrongful convictions.

Some of the Innocence Project's successes have resulted in rescuing innocent people from death row. The successes of the project have fueled American opposition to the death penalty and have likely been a factor in the decision by some American states to institute moratoria on judicial executions.<sup>[7]</sup>

In the decision of *District Attorney's Office v. Osborne* (2009), US Supreme Court Chief Justice Roberts wrote that post-conviction challenge "poses questions to our criminal justice systems and our traditional notions of finality better left to elected officials than federal judges." In a court opinion, another justice wrote that forensic science has "serious deficiencies". Roberts expressed an opinion that post-conviction DNA testing risks "unnecessarily overthrowing the established system of criminal justice." The law professor Kevin Jon Heller wrote: "It might lead to a reasonably accurate one."<sup>[8]</sup>

## Wrongful convictions

As of June 2014, 316 people previously convicted of serious crimes in the United States had been exonerated by DNA testing since 1989, 18 of whom had been sentenced to death.<sup>[2]</sup> Almost all (99%) of the convictions proven to be false were of males,<sup>[9]</sup> with minority groups also disproportionately represented (approximately 70%).<sup>[2]</sup> The National Registry of Exonerations lists 1,579 convicted defendants who were exonerated through DNA and non-DNA evidence from January 1, 1989 through April 12, 2015.<sup>[10]</sup> According to a study published in 2014, more than 4% of persons sentenced to death from 1973 to 2004 are probably innocent.<sup>[11]</sup> The following are some examples of notable exonerations:

- In 2000, Neil J. Miller was exonerated after serving 10 years in prison of a 22-year sentence for the rape of a Boston college student.<sup>[12]</sup> The Innocence Project and Cardozo Law Student, E. Elliot Adler, took the lead in Miller's case, representing only the second inmate in Massachusetts history to be cleared on DNA evidence.<sup>[12]</sup> After Miller's exoneration, Lawrence Taylor, the true perpetrator of the crime was identified.<sup>[13]</sup>
- In 2003, Steven Avery was exonerated after serving 18 years in prison for a sexual assault charge.<sup>[14]</sup>
- In 2004, Darryl Hunt was exonerated after serving 19.5 years in prison of a life sentence for the rape and murder of a newspaper copy editor, Deborah Sykes.<sup>[15][16]</sup>
- In 2007, after an investigation begun by The Innocence Project, James Calvin Tillman was exonerated after serving 16.5 years in prison for a rape he did not commit. His sentence was 45 years.<sup>[17]</sup>

- In 2007, Lynn DeJac's 1994 conviction was reversed on the basis of DNA evidence. She had been convicted of murdering her daughter Crystallynn Girard on February 13, 1993. She was the first woman to be exonerated of murder on the basis of DNA evidence.<sup>[18]</sup>
- In 2007, Floyd Brown was exonerated for the murder of an 80-year-old woman in Wadesboro, NC. Brown had served 14 years in Dorothea Dix Hospital and had the mental capacity of a 7-year-old. He had been convicted solely on the basis of a false confession by a State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) agent, who claimed that Brown had dictated the confession to him; however, Brown's mental state precluded that possibility. Brown sued the state of North Carolina following his release.<sup>[19]</sup>
- In December 2009, James Bain was exonerated by DNA testing for a kidnapping, burglary, and rape he did not commit. Bain's appeal had previously been denied four separate times. His 35-year imprisonment made him the longest-incarcerated victim of a wrongful conviction to be freed through DNA evidence.<sup>[20][21]</sup>
- In June 2010, Barry Gibbs was awarded the largest civil rights settlement by the City of New York to that time of \$9.9 million.<sup>[22]</sup> He received an additional \$1.9 million settlement from New York state in late 2009. He was wrongly convicted of the 1986 murder of Brooklyn prostitute Virginia Robertson based on coerced testimony by a witness during the investigation by NYPD detective Louis Eppolito, who was later convicted for serving as a mob hit man on the side. Gibbs's original sentence was 20 years to life, of which he served just under 19 years. Gibbs had been repeatedly denied parole because of his lack of admission of guilt. Gibbs was exonerated in 2006 with help from the Innocence Project.<sup>[23]</sup>
- In September 2010, days before he was to be executed, Kevin Keith was granted clemency by Ohio Governor Ted Strickland,<sup>[24]</sup> thanks in part to the Ohio Innocence Project.<sup>[25][26]</sup>
- In February 2010, Greg Taylor was exonerated for the murder of a North Carolina prostitute after serving 17 years in prison. Taylor had been convicted without physical evidence, and the SBI failed to report all of their testing results during Taylor's original trial. Taylor described his experience as "the perfect storm of bad luck."<sup>[19]</sup>
- In 2014, Glenn Ford was exonerated for the murder of Isadore Newman. Ford, an African American, was convicted by an all-white jury without any physical evidence linking him to the crime, and with testimony withheld. He served 30 years on death row in Angola Prison before his release.<sup>[27]</sup>

## Work

In the history of the United States (as of June, 2011) there have been 307 post-conviction exonerations due to DNA testing.<sup>[2]</sup> According to the Innocence Project these statistics were found on those exonerated:

- The average sentence served 13 years.<sup>[2]</sup>
- 70 percent exonerated are a part of minority groups.<sup>[2]</sup>
- 40 percent of these DNA cases were able to find the actual person who committed the crime.<sup>[2]</sup>
- About 50 percent of those exonerated through DNA testing have been financially compensated for their time in prison. The federal government, 27 states, and Washington D.C. have passed laws providing some level of financial compensation to wrongfully convicted people.<sup>[2]</sup>
- The Innocence Project has had to close 22 percent of its cases because DNA evidence was missing or had been destroyed.<sup>[2]</sup>

- There have been exonerations in Washington D.C and 35 states. There are innocence projects in the majority of the 50 states.<sup>[2]</sup>

The Innocence project originated in New York City but accepts cases from any part of the United States. The majority of clients helped are of low socio-economic status and have used all possible legal options for justice. Many clients hope that DNA evidence will prove their innocence, as the emergence of DNA testing allows those who have been wrongly convicted of crimes to challenge their cases. The Innocence Project also works with the local, state and federal levels of law enforcement, legislators, and other programs to prevent further wrongful convictions.<sup>[1]</sup>

About 3,000 prisoners write to the Innocence Project annually, and at any given time the Innocence Project is evaluating 6,000 to 8,000 potential cases.<sup>[28]</sup>

All potential clients go through an extensive screening process to determine whether or not they are likely to be innocent. If they pass the process, the Innocence Project takes up their case. In roughly half of the cases that the Innocence Project takes on, the clients' guilt is reconfirmed by DNA testing. Of all the cases taken on by the Innocence Project, about 43% of clients were proven innocent, 42% were confirmed guilty, and evidence was inconclusive and not probative in 15% of cases. In about 40% of all DNA exoneration cases, law enforcement officials identified the actual perpetrator based on the same DNA test results that led to an exoneration.<sup>[29]</sup>

## Funding

The Innocence Project receives 45 percent of its funding from individual contributions, 30 percent from foundations, 15 percent from an annual benefit dinner, 7 percent from the Cardozo School of Law, and the rest from corporations.<sup>[30]</sup>

## Innocence Network

The Innocence Project is a founder of the Innocence Network, an organization of law and journalism schools, and public defense offices that collaborate to help convicted felons prove their innocence.<sup>[1]</sup> 46 American states along with several other countries are a part of the network. In 2010, 29 people were exonerated worldwide from the work of the members of this organization.<sup>[31]</sup>

## Worldwide

The Innocence Network brings together a growing number of innocence organizations from across the United States as well as includes members from other English-speaking common law countries: Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.<sup>[32]</sup>

In South Africa, the Wits Justice Project investigates South African incarcerations. In partnership with the Wits Law Clinic, the Julia Mashele Trust, the Legal Resource Centre (LRC), the Open Democracy Advice Centre (ODAC), and the US Innocence Project, the Justice Project investigates individual cases of prisoners wrongly convicted or awaiting trial.<sup>[33]</sup>

## Causes

There are many reasons why wrongful convictions occur. The most common reason is false eyewitness identification, which played a role in more than 75 percent of wrongful convictions overturned by the Innocence Project. Often assumed to be incontrovertible, a growing body of evidence suggests that eyewitness identifications are unreliable.<sup>[34]</sup>

Unreliable or improper forensic science played a role in some 50 percent of Innocence Project cases. Scientific techniques such as bite-mark comparison, once widely used, are now known to be subjective. Many forensic science techniques also lack uniform scientific standards.<sup>[35]</sup>

In about 25 percent of DNA exoneration cases, innocent people were coerced or threatened into making incriminating statements or false confessions. Of the 292 people freed by the Innocence Project, 28 actually pled guilty to crimes they did not commit (usually to avoid a harsher sentence, or even the death penalty).<sup>[36]</sup>

Government misconduct,<sup>[37]</sup> inadequate legal counsel,<sup>[38]</sup> and the improper use of informants<sup>[39]</sup> also contributed to many of the wrongful convictions since overturned by the Innocence Project.

## In popular culture

### Film

- *After Innocence* (2005) is a documentary that features the Innocence Project.
- *Conviction* (2010), is a film about the exoneration of Kenneth Waters, who was a client of the Innocence Project. Hilary Swank plays Waters' sister Betty Anne, who went to college and law school to fight for his freedom, and Sam Rockwell plays Waters. Barry Scheck is portrayed by Peter Gallagher.

### Literature

- In the non-fiction book, *The Innocent Man: Murder and Injustice in a Small Town* (2006), John Grisham recounted the cases of Ron Williamson and Dennis Fritz, who were assisted on appeal by the Innocence Project and freed by DNA evidence, after being wrongfully convicted of the murder of Debra Ann Carter.

### Stage productions

- *The Exonerated* (2002) is a play by Erik Jensen and Jessica Blank about six people who had been wrongly convicted and sentenced to death, but were exonerated.

### Television

- *In Justice* is an American TV series with a similar premise.

- *The Innocence Project* is a television drama series created by BBC Northern Ireland and originally broadcast on BBC One in 2006–07. The series is based on a UK version of the Innocence Project, which refers to the non-profit legal clinic in the United States.<sup>[40]</sup>
- The Innocence Project was discussed in season 2, episode 9 of *The Good Wife*, "Nine Hours" (December 14, 2010). Innocence Project co-founder Barry Scheck played himself in the episode, which was largely based on the actual Innocence Project case of Cameron Todd Willingham. Cary Agos, a recurring character on *The Good Wife*, is said to have worked for the Innocence Project after law school (and is a family friend of Scheck's).<sup>[41]</sup>
- Janet Reno and her sister, Maggy Reno Hurchalla, donated the fees paid by being guest voices on *The Simpsons* episode "Dark Knight Court" (March 17, 2013) to the Project.<sup>[42]</sup>

## See also

- List of wrongful convictions in the United States
- Northern California Innocence Project
- Capital punishment in the United States
- Innocent prisoner's dilemma
- List of miscarriage of justice cases
- Medill Innocence Project, Illinois
- Miscarriage of justice
- Michael Morton (Criminal Justice)
- Phantom of Heilbronn
- The Justice Project (Australia)
- Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted (Canada)
- Other persons exonerated by Innocence Project efforts
  - Cornelius Dupree, exonerated by the Innocence Project
  - Douglas Echols, exonerated by the Innocence Project
  - Benjamin LaGuer, defended by the Innocence Project
  - Anthony McKinney, considered for the Medill Innocence Project
  - Anthony Porter, exonerated by the Medill Innocence Project
  - Ken Wynnemko, exonerated by the Innocence Project
  - Ryan Ferguson, defended by Missouri Innocence Project
  - Clarence Elkins, defended by Ohio Innocence Project
- Investigating Innocence

## Notes

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## External links

- The Innocence Project home page (<http://www.innocenceproject.org/>)
- The Innocence Network's projects (<http://www.innocenceproject.org/about/Other-Projects.php>)
- Times Online article about Innocence Projects in the UK ([http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life\\_and\\_style/education/student/student\\_life/article1685105.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/education/student/student_life/article1685105.ece))
- Griffith College Dublin – Innocence Project in Ireland (<http://www.gcd.ie/innocenceproject>) (Irish: *Tionscadal Neamhchiontachta na hÉireann*)
- "On the Trail of the Innocent" (<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/features/2009/0526/1224247402072.html>) by Michelle McDonagh, *Irish Times*, Tuesday, May 26, 2009.
- The Innocence Project page on BestFutureLawyers.com (<http://bestfuturelawyers.com/innocence-project/>)

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Categories: Government watchdog groups in the United States

| Legal advocacy organizations in the United States | Non-profit organizations based in New York City

| Overturned convictions in the United States | Wrongful conviction advocacy

| Criminal defense organizations

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Robert Pearl, M.D. Contributor

I cover the business and culture of health care every Thursday.

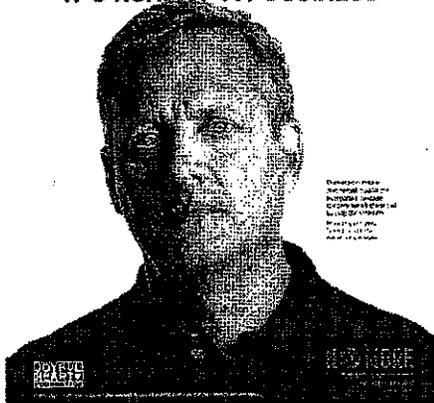
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# Domestic Violence: The Secret Killer That Costs \$8.3 Billion Annually

## NO MORE

"IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS"



*Designed to increase awareness and action to end domestic violence and sexual assault, the NO MORE symbol is spreading the message nationwide. It asks supporters to join in saying "NO MORE silence, NO MORE violence and NO MORE excuses." Learn more at [nomore.org](http://nomore.org).*

A woman comes to the doctor with depression, fatigue and insomnia. A co-worker stays late in the office even when there is not much to do. A sales associate appears tired and distracted.

For each of these individuals, domestic violence – physical, sexual, verbal, emotional or psychological abuse against an intimate partner – could be the underlying cause of distress. Historically, domestic violence has been viewed as a criminal issue – according to police records, almost 1 in 3 female homicide victims are killed by an intimate partner.

But today we know it as a social, business and health priority, as well. Not only does it cause personal suffering, but domestic violence also reduces productivity, leads to absenteeism and drives up health care costs. And unless people are

trained to look for it and ask about it, domestic violence is rarely identified.

**The statistics are staggering**

Domestic violence is all around us. It affects our families, our friends, our coworkers and our neighbors. Most of the time, we are not aware it's happening.

In the U.S., 24 percent of adult women and 14 percent of adult men have been physically assaulted by a partner at some point in their lives. It is the most common cause of injury for women ages 18 to 44. And it leads to an increased incidence of chronic disease: Abused women are 70 percent more likely to have heart disease, 80 percent more likely to experience a stroke and 60 percent more likely to develop asthma.

Nearly a quarter of employed women report that domestic violence has affected their work performance at some point in their lives. Each year, an estimated 8 million days of paid work is lost in the U.S. because of domestic violence.

Domestic violence costs \$8.3 billion in expenses annually: a combination of higher medical costs (\$5.8 billion) and lost productivity (\$2.5 billion).

Addressing this issue could save thousands of lives and billions of dollars. But as long as the symptoms and consequences of domestic violence go unnoticed or overlooked, nothing changes.

**Addressing domestic violence starts with raising awareness**

A growing number of health care professionals and business leaders understand the importance of recognizing and addressing domestic violence. But they remain in the minority. Most doctors don't take the time to learn about and use established screening techniques. And unless domestic violence can be identified, we can't help victims deal with the abuse or reduce the long-term consequences.

Some businesses have taken action and seen results. Companies like Verizon, Allstate, Prudential, Avon, Mary Kay, Macy's and Home Depot have trained their employee assistance teams to screen for domestic violence. They've provided necessary information to their staffs and, most importantly, they've seen the rate of identification increase significantly.

Several years ago, I had the chance to speak at a conference on domestic violence hosted by Liz Claiborne, now Fifth & Pacific Companies. The meeting was well attended by executives from across the industry. As part of the program's goal to raise awareness, we heard from the victims about their experiences. Their heart wrenching tales of fear and abuse reinforced this nation's need for early intervention.

We've seen some progress since then, but the silence remains deafening.

**Everyone has a role in curbing domestic violence**

While there are significant differences in the roles that colleagues, health care professionals and friends can play, the secret nature of domestic violence requires vigilance from everyone.

*The role of the employer*

Employed individuals spend the majority of their waking hours at work. That's why employers are ideally suited to spot the symptoms of domestic violence and intervene. In fact, providing resources and support is part of a company's requirement for ensuring a safe work environment.

Senior executives can promote a culture that includes domestic violence awareness and prevention. Information about domestic violence should be shared at every employee orientation. It should be addressed at every occupational health visit. It can be incorporated into workplace wellness activities. When the issues of domestic violence are brought front and center in as many venues as possible, we have a better chance of breaking the silence.

Employee assistance counselors and human resource professionals need to be ready to respond to inquiries, refer victims to advocacy services, engage with law enforcement when appropriate and offer security assistance when necessary.

Managers need to understand that domestic violence may explain absenteeism and ongoing health problems. They should be trained to recognize potential signs of domestic violence, including signs of depression and evidence of physical harm. They should be trained to ask about it with confidence and without judgment. They should know where to refer individuals who are victims of domestic violence, including

employee assistance programs (EAP) and community resources.

Without a stable job, most victims are unable to remove themselves from a dangerous domestic arrangement and escape the long-term consequences of abuse.

*The role of the clinical team*

The Affordable Care Act identifies domestic violence screening as a national health priority, alongside smoking cessation, exercise, nutrition, substance abuse reduction and the provision of mental health services.

Health care professionals play an important role in identifying victims of domestic violence. When women talk with their physicians about domestic violence, they are four times more likely to receive the needed services and end the abusive relationship.

Physicians need to pay attention to physical and behavioral signs of potential abuse. They should ask about domestic violence as a potential cause of unrecognized medical problems. They need to be trained to communicate in ways that are supportive and non-judgmental. And when patients ask for help, they should be aware of the available community and national resources.

*The role of family, friends and colleagues*

Family members, friends and colleagues are often the first to hear that someone they know is a victim of domestic violence. When people are educated about the frequency of domestic violence, they are more comfortable talking with others. Being able to offer support can mean the difference between life and death. A simple statement like "I'm sorry this is happening to you" is a start. Offering to help the victim obtain assistance – whether through the national domestic violence hotline, a company EAP or a local domestic violence advocacy organization – is a crucial next step.

**Putting an end to domestic violence has broad implications**

Regardless of who helps identify the problem or which agency provides the care, the majority of individuals who end violent relationships do not experience another one. The victims of domestic violence are just that: victims. They don't want to be in abusive situations. They just are. And we all need to recognize the role we can play in helping them.

When we fail to provide the training and infrastructure needed to address domestic violence, the individual suffers. But so do the individual's children, business colleagues and all of us. As we search for ways to improve this country's health while lowering costs, shedding light on domestic violence and protecting the victims of abuse is a great place to start.

**RECOMMENDED BY FORBES**

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[The Richest Person In Every State](#)

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## OUR MISSION

*The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) is the voice of victims and survivors. We are the catalyst for changing society to have zero tolerance for domestic violence. We do this by effecting public policy, increasing understanding of the impact of domestic violence, and providing programs and education that drive that change.*

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE? (/NEED-HELP/WHAT-IS-DOMESTIC-VIOLENCE)

GET HELP (/NEED-HELP/GET-HELP)

RESOURCES (/NEED-HELP/RESOURCES)

STATISTICS (/LEARN/STATISTICS)

GET INVOLVED (/ACT/DONATE)

## IN THE KNOW

---

### Domestic Violence: The Secret Killer That Costs \$8.3 Billion Anually

ig- (<http://www.forbes.com/sites/robertpearl/2013/12/05/domestic-violence-the-secret-killer-that-costs-8-3-billion-annually/>)

A woman comes to the doctor with depression, fatigue and insomnia. [Read more](#)

(<http://www.forbes.com/sites/robertpearl/2013/12/05/domestic-violence-the-secret-killer-that-costs-8-3-billion-annually/>)...



Tweet

### Opinion: It's Time To Know, Report and Prevent Domestic Violence

(<http://www.wehoville.com/2014/10/01/opinion-time-know-report-prevent-domestic-violence/>)

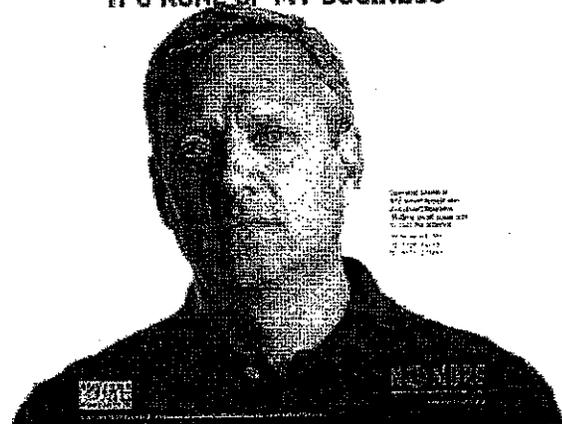
One in four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. [Read more](#)

(<http://www.wehoville.com/2014/10/01/opinion-time-know-report-prevent-domestic-violence/>)...



Tweet

**NO MORE**  
"IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS"



<http://www.forbes.com/sites/robertpearl/2013/12/05/domestic-violence-the-secret-killer-that-costs-8-3-billion-annually/> <http://www.weherville.com/2014/10/01/opinion-time-know-report-prevent-domestic-violence/>

OVER \$120,000 RAISED

# WE LOVE OUR SUPPORTERS

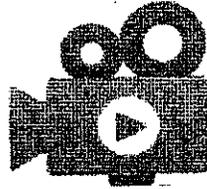
You can make the difference

**MAKE A DONATION NOW (/ACT/DONATE)**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament  
(/learn/events/event/31-2nd-annual-charity-golf-tournament)

[VIEW ALL \(/component/rseventspro/\)](#)



### NCADV ED, Ruth M. Glenn, Introduces Vice President Joe Biden



Clip

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Embed

## HOW TO HELP

Become a Volunteer

**JOIN NOW (/ACT/VOLUNTEER)**

REMEMBER MY NAME



Amanda was a beautiful, fun loving, energetic, full of life, compassionate mother! She has 2 young, lovely children that she adored & who adored her. She is deeply missed by so many!

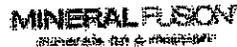
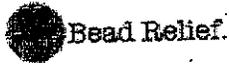


Autumn was a US Army Veteran and had two beautiful daughters that she loved more than life itself.

Amanda Cloaninger-Colley (36)  
(/programs/remember-my-name)

Autumn Elaine Entrop (36)  
(/programs/remember-my-name)

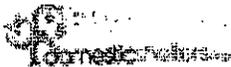
### SUPPORTERS



(http://beadrelief.com/products/national-cellular-recycler/) (http://www.mineralfusion.com/) (http://www.americarenow.com/)  
coalition-against-  
domestic-violence-  
bracelet/)



Use code: NCADV



(http://www.thepixelproject.com/) (http://flamelesscandles.com/)

(http://www.domesticshelters.org)

### TOPICS OF INTEREST

#### Mediation and Domestic Violence

(http://ncadv.org/images/Mediation\_and\_Domestic\_Violence.pdf)

(/topics-of-interest/52-mediation)Mediation assumes both parties will cooperate to make agreements work; the victim has always 'cooperated' with the abuser; abusers never cooperate, (yet are often very skilled at making others (/images/Mediation\_and\_Domestic\_Violence.pdf)...

**Women Who Use Violence**

**([http://ncadv.org/images/Women\\_Who\\_Use\\_Violence.pdf](http://ncadv.org/images/Women_Who_Use_Violence.pdf))**

(/topics-of-interest/53-women-who-use-violence)We need to encourage police discretion in the matter of women who, at first glance, may seem to be the offender. (/images/Women\_Who\_Use\_Violence.pdf)

**The Accessibility of Firearms and Risk for Suicide and Homicide Victimization Among Household Members ([http://ncadv.org/images/Women-Safety-Guns\\_research\\_2014.pdf](http://ncadv.org/images/Women-Safety-Guns_research_2014.pdf))**

(/topics-of-interest/54-firearms-and-suicide-risk)Research suggests that access to firearms in the home increase the risk for violent death. (/images/Women-Safety-Guns\_research\_2014.pdf)

Follow

**Tweets**



**NCADV** @NCADV

Do you have questions on #StopGunViolence & #domesticviolence policies announced by @POTUS yesterday? Ask @VJ44 by noon ET.

Expand

1h ^



**NCADV** @NCADV

Do you have Qs on #StopGunViolence? and #domesticviolence announced by @POTUS Ask @VJ44 by noon ET. Please RT!

Expand

2h



**YWCA USA** @YWCAUSA

The Violence Against Women Act will finally let Native tribes prosecute non-Native domestic abusers: [huff.to/1ReKX2a](http://huff.to/1ReKX2a) @HuffingtonPost

Retweeted by NCADV

Show Summary

19h



**Gabrielle Giffords** @GabbyGiffords

America is an extraordinary place. But this is not how we want to stand out. #StopGunViolence [pic.twitter.com/p4yaHKh2Mt](http://pic.twitter.com/p4yaHKh2Mt)

Retweeted by NCADV

19h

IN THE PAST 40 YEARS, ONLY FIVE COUNTRIES HAVE HAD MORE THAN 10 PUBLIC MASS SHOOTINGS. AND MOST OF THEM HAPPENED IN OUR COUNTRY\*

90

Tweet to @NCADV

## CONTACT US



### NCADV's Main Office

One Broadway, Suite B210  
Denver, CO 80203

☎ Phone: (303) 839-1852

☎ Fax: (303) 831-9251

✉ Email: [mainoffice@ncadv.org](mailto:mainoffice@ncadv.org) (<mailto:mainoffice@ncadv.org>)

For anonymous, confidential help, 24/7, please call

THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

1.800.799.SAFE (7233)

1.800.787.3224 (TTY)

Website issues: [website@ncadv.org](mailto:website@ncadv.org) (<mailto:website@ncadv.org>).

## GET HELP

IF YOU ARE IN DANGER PLEASE CALL 911



Find a safe place near you.

([HTTP://WWW.DOMESTICSHELTERS.ORG](http://www.domesticshelters.org))

Sign up to receive NCADV news and information.

Name

Email

City

Zip Code

State/Province

Select a state

General News and Information

Public Policy Emails and Alerts

Trainings and Events

**SUBSCRIBE**

NCADV will not share, rent, sell, or give your information to any other person or company for any reason.

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[WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE? \(/NEED-HELP/WHAT-IS-DOMESTIC-VIOLENCE\)](#)

[GET HELP \(/NEED-HELP/GET-HELP\)](#)

[FRIENDS AND FAMILY \(/NEED-HELP/FRIENDS-AND-FAMILY\)](#)

[RESOURCES \(/NEED-HELP/RESOURCES\)](#)

[DOMESTICSHELTERS.ORG \(HTTP://DOMESTICSHELTERS.ORG\)](#)

**LEARN (/LEARN/STATISTICS)**

- STATISTICS (/LEARN/STATISTICS)
- STATE COALITIONS (/LEARN/STATE-COALITIONS)
- OTHER ORGANIZATIONS (/LEARN/OTHER-ORGANIZATIONS)
- EVENTS (/LEARN/EVENTS)

**ACT (/ACT/DONATE)**

- DONATE (/ACT/DONATE)
- MEMBERSHIP (/ACT/MEMBERSHIP)
- PARTNER (/ACT/PARTNER)
- VOLUNTEER (/ACT/VOLUNTEER)
- EMPLOYMENT (/ACT/EMPLOYMENT)

**PUBLIC POLICY (/PUBLIC-POLICY/ACTION-ALERTS)**

- ACTION ALERTS (/PUBLIC-POLICY/ACTION-ALERTS)
- CONTACTING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS (/PUBLIC-POLICY/CONTACTING-MEMBERS-OF-CONGRESS)
- LEGISLATION (/PUBLIC-POLICY/LEGISLATION)

**ABOUT US (/ABOUT-US/MISSION)**

- MISSION (/ABOUT-US/MISSION)
- OUR PROGRAMS (/ABOUT-US/OUR-PROGRAMS)
- STAFF (/ABOUT-US/STAFF)
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS (/ABOUT-US/BOARD-OF-DIRECTORS)
- SPONSORS (/ABOUT-US/SPONSORS)
- CONTACT US (/ABOUT-US/CONTACT-US)

**TAKE A STAND (/TAKEASTAND)**

- TAKE A STAND: 16 WAYS IN 16 DAYS (/TAKEASTANDMAIN/16-WAYS)
- RAISE AWARENESS (/TAKEASTANDMAIN/RAISE-AWARENESS)
- CONTRIBUTE (/TAKEASTANDMAIN/CONTRIBUTE)



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<https://twitter.com/ncadv>

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