

Eleventh Annual Domestic Violence Conference

Working Together: The Key to Ending Domestic Violence

When:	Friday, October 27, 2017, Registration from 8:00 am - 8:30 am, Conference from 8:30am - 4:15pm
Where:	Rock Bridge Church, Stage 123 Address: 123 Gordon St. Dalton, GA
Cost:	\$40 (\$50 as of 10/24/2017) (Please Note: Lunch is not included with registration. Lunch will be on your own.)
CEUs:	Forthcoming
Purpose:	To provide information/training to professionals, community organizations, faith communities, and families in order to increase understanding, dispel myths, and assist attendees in effectively identifying/responding to Domestic Violence.
Directions:	From I-75 South take exit 333 and go east on Walnut Avenue. Turn left onto S Thornton Ave. Turn Right onto W Cuyler St. Turn Left onto S. Pentz St. Turn Right onto Gordon St.
Parking:	Free public parking downtown (See website for a link to maps)
Lodging:	Lodging: Please visit, http://www.visitdaltonga.com/dalton/comfy-beds-await-you/ , for a list of options.
Schedule:	
8:00 - 8:30 am	Registration
8:30 - 8:45 am	Welcome and opening remarks
8:45 - 10:00 am	Keynote Address - The Crime of Stalking
10:15 - 11:30 am	Morning Breakout Sessions (choose one): A. Cyber and Electronic Stalking B. Investigation of Intimate Partner Assault C. When Females Commit Crimes of Domestic Violence
11:30 - 1:00 pm	Break for Lunch
1:00 - 1:20 pm	Program
1:20 - 1:30 pm	Award presentations (See page four for award descriptions and nomination information.) The Betty Higgins Domestic Violence Victim Advocate Award and The Jackie Williams Criminal Justice Award
1:30 - 2:45 pm	Plenary Address - Stalking as a Lethality Indicator
3:00 - 4:15 pm	Afternoon Breakout Sessions (choose one): A. Intervention Techniques in Stalking Cases B. Sexual Assault and the Separation Connection C. The Effects of Child Abuse on Child Development and Life Outcomes

REGISTER ONLINE: <http://cfvaconference2017.eventbrite.com>

QUESTIONS regarding registration?

Email: cfvaconference@gmail.com

(Please allow 2 business days for a reply)

PAY ONLINE: Discover, MasterCard, American Express, VISA

OR

PAY BY CHECK: Make check to Conasauga Family Violence Alliance. Mail to DV Conference 2017, PO Box 984, Dalton, GA 30722.

Note: If paying by check, you must still register online. (Choose "show other payment options" and "pay offline" options.)

COST: Regular Registration: \$40; (\$50 as of 10/24/2017) (Note: Lunch is not included with registration. Lunch will be on your own.)
Student Registration: \$10; First 30 students to register will be free. (Valid Student ID required at registration desk on 10/27.)

NO REFUNDS! However, participant substitutions are accepted by email (cfvaconference@gmail.com) through 10/24/2017 for guaranteed CEU credits.

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BETSEY RAMSEY

Betsy Ramsey serves as the Community Response Coordinator for the SAFE program in Union and Towns Counties. She has founded and served as executive director of Securus House in Clayton County. She has been a Victim Advocate with the Spalding County Sheriff's office as well as the Coordinator of Victim Advocates with the DeKalb County Solicitor's Office. Ms. Ramsey has travelled throughout North America to present on stalking as well as training law enforcement through the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. She has trained over 10,000 officers. She is the author of *Stalker – A Guide for Targets and Armor of Light – Survive a Crisis and Thrive*.

APRIL PARKER

April Parker is currently an Investigator and Assistant to District Attorney Bert Poston in the Conasauga Judicial Circuit. She formerly served as the Domestic Violence Investigator for the Whitfield County District Attorney's Office for 14 years and 8 months, and has been a Certified Peace Officer for 21 years. During her time as a Domestic Violence Investigator she did follow-up investigations on all Domestic Violence arrest cases opened by the Whitfield County District Attorney's Office, including interviewing defendants, victims and witnesses, and gathering evidence. Ms. Parker has worked with law enforcement agencies by training officers in several aspects of investigating Domestic Violence cases. She also testified in several Domestic Violence trials as an expert in multiple areas of Domestic Violence. Ms. Parker attended 3 multi day trainings in the area of Domestic Violence and Strangulation through the National District Attorneys Association as well as several state and local Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse trainings. Ms. Parker has served on the Northwest Georgia Crisis Center Board of Directors.

MIKE MERTZ

Mr. Mertz is a P.O.S.T. certified law enforcement officer and P.O.S.T certified trainer and has been training on issues regarding violence against women for almost fifteen years. Prior to operating C&M, Mike was employed by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police as a Domestic Violence consultant/trainer and grants program administrator. In this role Mr. Mertz worked to develop statewide training curriculum of response to crimes of family violence and sexual assault. Mr. Mertz worked closely with law enforcement agencies and state non-profits to ensure training in keeping with national best practice recommendations. Mr. Mertz currently serves in as a consultant to United States Air Force, Georgia Commission on Family Violence and Georgia Public Safety Training Center as well as several local law enforcement and nonprofit agencies. He served with the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office as the division Commander of the violence against women unit. In this capacity, Mr. Mertz was also in charge of Federal grant application, grant program development, and personnel and fiscal compliance of the Federal grant programs. He was a driving force in the Judicial Circuit Family Violence Task Force and served as a Board member for several non-profit organizations.

KYLEE ELLIOTT

Kylee Elliott is the Legal Advocacy Program Manager at live SAFE Resources in Marietta, Georgia. As a Legal Advocate she supports the Domestic Violence, stalking and sexual assault victims of Cobb County in a variety of legal venues, from guiding them through the Temporary Protective Order process to supporting them through difficult divorce, legitimation and the criminal victim/witness process. During her tenure with the Cobb County Temporary Protection Order office it has become recognized by many in the legal community at one of the busiest and most progressive TPO advocacy departments in the State of Georgia. As a Sexual Assault Advocate she provides victims of Cobb, Cherokee and Paulding Counties with support during the physical examination as well as on-site crisis counseling following the sexual assault medical examination. Further, Ms. Elliott speaks frequently in the community to provide victim centered training to attorneys, law enforcement, the military and the general public. She frequently offers training and technical assistance on issues related to family violence and stalking victimization to advocates across the state, and is a Certified Professional Trainer on Stalking Victimization by the National Stalking Resource Center. She has been qualified as an expert witness in the area of family violence and is an active member of the Cobb County Domestic Violence Task Force and its Fatality Review Committee. Ms. Elliott received Bachelor's degrees in Criminal Justice and English from the University of Georgia and prior to becoming a victim advocate, she worked in the legal field as a paralegal and had an extensive career in the nonprofit field as a fundraising, development and operations director.

DR. NATALIE JOHNSON, PhD

Dr. Natalie Johnson is an Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at Dalton State College in Dalton, GA. She holds a PhD and a Master of Science in Sociology with a concentration in Criminology from the University of North Texas and a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Midwestern State University. While she teaches a wide variety of courses, Dr. Johnson's primary research and teaching expertise and passion is in family violence and victimology, particularly intimate partner homicides, stalking, as well as the effects of child abuse on child development and life outcomes. She is also very active in teaching for study abroad programs and has previously taught in London, Madrid, China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Dr. Johnson serves as President for the Board of Directors for the Northwest Georgia Family Crisis Center (NWGFCC) and serves as a member of the Conasauga Family Violence Alliance, as well as serves as a member of the RESOLV board (Recognizing, Exposing, and Stopping Our Learned Violence).

NIKI LEMESHKA

Niki Lemeshka is the Fatality Review Coordinator at the Georgia Commission on Family Violence. In that capacity she oversees the Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Project, conducts reviews of Domestic Violence related fatalities and near fatalities with multi-disciplinary teams across the State of Georgia, co-authors the Project's Annual Report and provides technical assistance to task forces as they implement Project recommendations. Previously, she filled the roles of Outreach Coordinator and Legal Advocate at Cherokee Family Violence Center (Canton, GA) and was employed in Child Protective Services. Ms. Lemeshka previously served on the State of Georgia's Protocol Development Committee for co-occurring cases of Domestic Violence and child maltreatment, and is the former chair of both the Cherokee County Domestic Violence Task Force and the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit Domestic Violence Fatality Review team. She regularly provides training and technical assistance on issues related to family violence and stalking victimization, is a Certified Professional Trainer on Stalking Victimization by the Stalking Resource Center, a QPR Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Instructor, and is co-chair of Georgia's STOP WAWA Training Initiatives implementation Subcommittee. Ms. Lemeshka is a Georgia Women's Policy Institute Fellow (2017).

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SCHEDULE and SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

8:00 - 8:30am - Registration

8:30am - 8:45 am - Welcome and Opening Remarks

8:45 - 10:00 am

Keynote Address: The Crime of Stalking

- Betsey Ramsey

Stalking takes many forms and can be performed by members of any demographic. This session will put you into the mindset of a stalker. Ms. Ramsey will review the difference between stalking and other crimes as well as types of stalking. She'll speak about persons who stalk whether they be men, children or women and, in addition, discuss their targets. And finally, Ms. Ramsey will speak on assessing the fatal intent of a stalker.

10:15 - 11:30 am

Morning Breakout Sessions (choose one of three):

A. Cyber and Electronic Stalking

- Betsey Ramsey

More and more, stalking is moving into the electronic age. Ms. Ramsey will discuss electronic methods stalkers use to terrorize their targets. She'll cover recommendations for both law enforcement and prosecution to pursue these cases as well federal and state laws in place to assist in that pursuit.

B. Investigation of Intimate Partner Assault

- Mike Mertz

This session will provide participants with investigation strategies in keeping with national best practices and that are in compliance with state and federal statute regarding intimate partner violence.

C. When Females Commit Crimes of Domestic Violence

- April Parker

Although most Domestic Violence involves male offenders, there has been an increasing awareness of female offenders as well. This presentation should help law enforcement officers, advocates and others to more accurately identify female aggressors, recognize the different dynamics involved in cases in which females commit crimes of Domestic Violence, understand how some women evolve from being victims to being aggressors, and to receive some instruction for working with female Domestic Violence offenders. The presentation will include information about how to identify female offenders, characteristics of female stalkers, and signs of females controlling their partners. Discussion will include how a female can be a victim and then become an aggressor and how law enforcement and other community agencies can avoid "re-victimizing" an abused woman and provide services to females who commit acts of Domestic Violence.

11:30- 1:00 pm – Lunch

1:00 - 1:20 pm – Program

1:20 - 1:30 pm – Presentation of Awards: The Betty Higgins Domestic Violence Victim Advocate Award
The Jackie Williams Criminal Justice Award

1:30 - 2:45 pm -

Plenary Address: Stalking as a Lethality Indicator

- Niki Lemeshka and Kylee Elliott

This multimedia workshop will review Georgia's stalking statute, the components of stalking in intimate partner violence cases, and how stalking is often overlooked as a lethality indicator. Using case studies and local statistics, participants in this advanced workshop will examine the real life impact of stalking on Georgia's communities. Finally, the workshop will take an in-depth look at the latest technologies used to stalk and illustrate best practices for responding to reports of stalking.

3:00 - 4:15 pm

Afternoon Breakout Sessions (choose one of three):

A. Intervention Techniques in Stalking Cases

- Betsey Ramsey

Stalking, like many other interpersonal crimes, occurs in cycles and is carried out through numerous means. Ms. Ramsey will describe how to recognize those cycles and discuss types of stalkers. She'll cover victim safety and how victim advocates can help.

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B. Sexual Assault and the Separation Connection

- Mike Mertz

This session will define the four categories of sexual violence commonly experienced by women who are attempting to separate from their intimate partner. Mr. Mertz will discuss the Department of Justice findings on intimate partner sexual assault, the characteristics of male offenders. He will describe challenges to investigation and successful tactics for investigation of the offences.

C. The Effects of Child Abuse on Child Development and Life Outcomes

- Dr. Natalie Johnson

As we discuss the intergenerational cycle of domestic violence, we often hear the question, "Can't people just forget about being abused as a child and move on?" This question is the wrong question to ask for many reasons. This session will explore the many complexities of child abuse including a brief overview of the many types of abuse and how those types of abuse can lead to the intergenerational cycle of domestic violence. Participants will learn how abuse can have a direct effect on child brain development (even in the womb). As quoted in a documentary titled, Broken Child, "A hurt child becomes a damaged adult, who then hurts his/her children...generation to generation, the cycle is passed on." Finally, this session will explore possibilities for prevention of the intergenerational cycle of domestic violence.

NOMINATIONS SOLICITED FOR ANNUAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARDS

For questions about awards or to request a nomination form, email: cfvconference@gmail.com

Two awards are presented at the conference to honor community members who demonstrate excellent service to Domestic Violence victims or offenders in Whitfield or Murray Counties. While award recipients are not required to be residents of Whitfield or Murray County, it is important that the majority of the nominee's work is accomplished within the Whitfield/Murray judicial circuit.

The Betty Higgins Domestic Violence Victim Advocate Award is intended for professionals or community members who are victim advocates and who work for community awareness of Domestic Violence, who provide services or education, or who work to hold offenders accountable. It is named for the late Betty Higgins, former director of the Northwest Georgia Family Crisis Center, for her exemplary service and commitment to the field.

The Jackie Williams Criminal Justice Award is intended for criminal justice professionals, including but not limited to: judges, probation/parole officers, law enforcement, and District Attorney's office employees who work for community awareness of Domestic Violence, who provide services or education, or who work to hold offenders accountable. It is named for the late Jackie Williams of the Whitfield County Sheriff's Office who was committed to justice for all Domestic Violence victims in Whitfield and Murray Counties.

Displays are Welcome

Register at cfvconference@gmail.com to bring displays/brochures/cards – No charge for space!



Georgia
Commission on
Family
Violence



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