

*Office of Attorney General Terry Goddard*

# **VICTIMS' RIGHTS BRIEF**

**For Arizona's Justice System Administrators, Practitioners, and Advocates**

**Vol. VIII No. 4 October 2005**

## **October 2005: Domestic Violence Awareness Month *CUT IT OUT***

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Attorney General Terry Goddard will focus on Arizona's *CUT IT OUT* program, a joint effort of the Attorney General, the Arizona State Board of Cosmetology and Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence to help combat the tragedy of domestic violence in Arizona.

*CUT IT OUT* is a national campaign that builds awareness of domestic abuse and trains salon professionals to recognize warning signs and safely refer clients to local resources. The national *CUT IT OUT* Program is sponsored by Southern Living At HOME, Clairol Professional and the National Cosmetology Association, and has developed educational materials for salon professionals to use in reaching out to clients who may be victims.

The Arizona State Board of Cosmetology is distributing informational materials to approximately 4,500 salons in Arizona. The Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence will conduct training sessions at Arizona's cosmetology schools and hair shows.

"These women are likely to visit salons more often than a healthcare professional. Partnering with salon professionals provides an additional opportunity for intervention and community education."

Leah Meyers, Director of Domestic Violence Services, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Throughout the month of October, the Office of the Attorney General will focus on getting information about the program to the public.

- Information on the Arizona *CUT IT OUT* program will be featured at the Southwest Beauty and Nail Show on October 9-10 at the Phoenix Civic Plaza.

For additional information about *CUT IT OUT* or how to participate in *CUT IT OUT*, contact Jane Irvine at the Office of the Arizona Attorney General at 602-542-6903, or visit the Attorney General's Web Site at [www.azag.gov](http://www.azag.gov).

### **More Important Domestic Violence Awareness Information:**

- September 28 - Maricopa Association of Government (MAG) Domestic Violence Kickoff. 10:00 am at the Phoenix Family Advocacy Center, 2120 N. Central, Phoenix.
- October 1 - "Unite for Life" - 1<sup>st</sup> Annual African American Response to Domestic Violence Event. Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church, 1401 E. Jefferson St., Phoenix. 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Workshops focus on raising awareness of domestic violence with community, religious leaders and advocates. Keynote speaker: Dr. Oliver Williams. Open to the community.
- Visit the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence Web site at [www.azcadv.org](http://www.azcadv.org) for more events throughout October.
- Visit the Maricopa Association of Government Web site at [www.mag.maricopa.gov/dv](http://www.mag.maricopa.gov/dv) for more events.

## **The Reality of Domestic Violence:**

- The Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence reports 80 deaths in Arizona during 2004 stemming from domestic violence.
- 60 percent of DV incidents are witnessed by children who are often seriously traumatized by the event or events.
- In Arizona, every 5 minutes a law enforcement officer responds to a domestic violence call; every 39 minutes one or more children witness a domestic violence incident.

## **OVS Announces New Additions to Staff:**

Mel Burton is our new Victims' Rights Enforcement Officer. She joins our team after working in a variety of social service agencies. Originally from Michigan, she attended the University of Michigan, studying civil rights and sociology. Mel moved to Illinois for graduate studies in Social Service Policy at the University of Chicago. While there, she spent a year with the Illinois Attorney General's Office as a Program Development Specialist, focusing on domestic violence and women's issues. Her experience covers juvenile justice, child protective services, domestic/dating violence and special education.

As the Enforcement Officer, Mel is responsible for responding to and mediating situations where victims feel their rights have been violated in the criminal/legal process. Her responsibilities also include statewide monitoring for agencies with victims' rights programs funded through the Victim Rights Program (VRP). "It is my great pleasure to have the opportunity to work with the criminal justice system and victims of crime toward a more victim conscious process. I look forward to assisting in making the Office of the Attorney General and Arizona a leader in victim rights awareness."

Crystal Reidy is our new State Victim Rights Trainer. She is responsible for training law enforcement, judicial, custodial, prosecutorial and correction agencies statewide on understanding victim rights and supporting their victim rights operations. "I am excited to be able to work with the many dedicated professionals throughout Arizona that work and support victims everyday."

Previously, Crystal had served the City of Tempe as a crisis responder for the CARE 7 crisis response program. She worked on scene assisting first responders with victims of crime. Most recently, Crystal deployed with the Arizona Army National Guard to Florida in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as a media engagement officer. Crystal received her BS degree in Human Services from the University of Phoenix and is currently pursuing her Masters in Counseling from Northern Arizona University.

For information regarding training dates and registration, visit the OVS Web site, [www.azag.gov/victims\\_rights/training.html](http://www.azag.gov/victims_rights/training.html).



The Victims' Rights Brief is published by the Arizona Attorney General's Office of Victim Services, which remains wholly responsible for its content. The goal in generating the Brief is to promote justice and healing for crime victims by sharing information and fostering sensitivity within the justice system. Questions regarding content can be directed to Mel Burton at (602) 542-4911. To learn more about victims' rights via the internet, visit us at [www.azag.gov](http://www.azag.gov)