

By law, not all advocates are considered mandated child abuse reporters

Q: Am I considered a mandated reporter of child abuse and neglect because I am a domestic and/or sexual violence advocate?

A: By Missouri law, not all advocates are considered mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect. "Mandated reporter" is a legal term. Legally mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect, as identified in 210.115 RSMo, are: "Any physician, medical examiner, coroner, dentist, chiropractor, optometrist, podiatrist, resident, intern, nurse, hospital or clinic personnel that are engaged in the examination, care, treatment or research of persons, and any other health practitioner, psychologist, mental health professional, social worker, day care center worker, juvenile officer, probation or parole officer, jail or detention center personnel, teacher, principal or other school official, minister as provided by section 352.400 RSMo, peace officer or law enforcement official, or other person with responsibility for the care of children."

FAQs
frequently asked questions

Programs should have policies that address the specific procedures by which staff who are legally mandated to report child abuse and neglect will comply with the mandated reporting provision of Missouri law 210.112 RSMo. These policies should take into account the provisions for such reporting in compliance with the strict confidentiality requirements for the shelter service information and records in Missouri law 455.220 RSMo.

Before making a report to the Department of Social Services Children's Division, it is important to carefully consider what and who the report is being made about and to contemplate possible outcomes and unintended consequences that may arise from making a report. Advocates should consider the safety and well-being of the mother and/or victims in any situation requiring a report.

alliance opportunities

MCADSV REGIONAL MEETINGS

Location	Date/Time	Regional Rep.
CENTRAL Jefferson City	June 5 1:30 P.M.	Rita Westermann (417) 533-5201
KANSAS CITY Hope House	May 31 10:30 A.M.	Beth Savitzky (816) 561-0550
NORTHEAST Moberly	July 12 10:30 A.M.	Donna Rodenbaugh (660) 886-9880
NORTHWEST Maryville	June 20 Noon	Debbie Wallace (660) 886-9880
ST. LOUIS St. Louis	June 12 9:00 A.M.	Melissa Dann (314) 533-1313
SOUTHEAST Cape Girardeau	June 7 11:30 A.M.	Brenda Smelser (636) 931-2700 ext. 196
SOUTHWEST Springfield	June 1 11:00 a.m.	Christna Paul (417) 782-1772

UPCOMING MCADSV TRAININGS

Date/Time/Location	Information
LEGAL MATTERS: ADVOCACY & TEENS June 11 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Courtyard Marriott, Columbia	MCADSV (888) 666-1911
FOUNDATIONS FOR EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY June 26-27 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Courtyard Marriott, Columbia	MCADSV (888) 666-1911
CAMPUS DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE July 11 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Courtyard Marriott, Columbia	MCADSV (888) 666-1911
ADVOCACY IN PRACTICE July 31-Aug. 1 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Courtyard Marriott, Columbia	MCADSV (888) 666-1911



REGISTER ONLINE

Visit www.mocadsv.org/membership to register for statewide and regional trainings. Need your user name and password? Call MCADSV at (888) 666-1911.

the latest

May - June 2007

a bulletin for the members of the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

in **this** issue

Shirley Lute and Lynda Branch released from prison in early May after decades

Shirley Lute, 77, and Lynda Branch, 56, were both released from prison in early May after serving 29 and 21 years respectively for killing their husbands after enduring years of abuse. Both women were in the group of 11 incarcerated, formerly battered women for whom clemency petitions were filed seven years ago by the Missouri Clemency Coalition, comprised of MCADSV and the four Missouri law schools. Shirley was represented by Jane Aiken, attorney and law professor at Washington University School of Law. Lynda was represented by Mary Beck, attorney and law professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law.

missouri clemency coalition

Formerly battered women find justice after serving more than 20 years in prison.

Both Shirley and Lynda have settled with family in the mid-Missouri area. As an additional condition of her release, Lynda is required to serve four months of house arrest.

The original 11 petitions for clemency were delivered to Governor Mel Carnahan just days before he died in 2000. The Clemency Coalition worked with both the Wilson and Holden administrations to seek clemency. In 2004, Governor Bob Holden granted clemency to only Shirley and Lynda, commuting their sentences of 50 years without parole and ordering parole hearings, believing they would soon be released. But, the Parole Board refused, citing the seriousness of the crimes. The women appealed to the Missouri Supreme Court, which in April ordered Lute's release and told the Parole Board to consider whether Branch was ready to re-enter society. On April 30, the Parole Board ordered both women be freed.

While the nine other women represented by the Clemency Coalition never received clemency actions, five have since been paroled. Four remain in prison, and the Clemency Coalition continues its efforts to bring them justice.

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the missouri coalition
MCADSV
against domestic & sexual violence

718 east capitol ave.
jefferson city
missouri 65101

(573) 634-4161
(573) 636-3728 fax
mocadsv@mocadsv.org
www.mocadsv.org

MCADSV will move to 217 Oscar Drive on June 15-25

The MCADSV office will be closed June 15 through 25 while staff move to the new Coalition office at 217 Oscar Drive in Jefferson City.

The new building has more office, meeting and storage space to meet the needs of MCADSV's growing staff. In addition, the facility has a conference space large enough to hold MCADSV Board meetings, as well as other events, at the office.

The MCADSV Resource Lending Library will also be closed for the move, beginning on June 8. It will reopen on July 9.

MCADSV seeks interns for fall

MCADSV is expanding its internship program this fall to include a legal and a communications internship in addition to its Master of Social Work internship. Legal intern candidates should be law students with an interest in domestic and sexual violence work. Communications intern candidates should be students of journalism, communications or a related field. MSW internship candidates should be in the final year of their MSW program. Contact MCADSV at (573) 636-4161 for more information.

MCADSV welcomes a third Program Development Specialist to its growing staff

MCADSV recently added a third Program Development Specialist to its staff. Marie Montano, who just completed an internship with MCADSV, stepped into her new position in early May. Marie will work with the St. Louis and Southeast Regions, while Jennifer Carter will work with the Southwest and Kansas City Regions, and Laura Zahnd with the Northwest, Northeast and Central Regions.

Marie has a Master of Social Work from the University of Missouri-Columbia. While completing her MSW, she also interned with The Shelter in Columbia and assisted with a research project to assess Missouri college and university student health centers' response to sexual assault. Originally from St. Louis, Marie worked at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri's Lasting Solutions, where she assisted with intake and crisis intervention in family law cases involving domestic violence. Marie is interested in cultural competency issues and addressing the service needs of immigrants, refugees and individuals with limited-English proficiency.

With this expansion in staff, the Coalition will be better able to meet the growing demand for training and technical assistance, resource publications, and advocacy with collaborative partners due to its expanded mission to address both domestic and sexual violence. The Program Development Specialist staff will be able to spend more intensive time with programs within their regions. In the future, staff also hopes to conduct more on-site trainings and technical assistance, as well as more site visits to member programs.

In addition, the Coalition plans to hire more staff in the near future and is awaiting word on funding to bring on a fourth Program Development Specialist. Should that funding be approved, MCADSV will be soliciting resumes from qualified individuals to join the Coalition staff in providing services to members. Those who have considered a position at MCADSV as part of their future should have resumes ready to mail to MCADSV. Please monitor the MCADSV Listserv for future hiring announcements.



Board begins work on Bylaws updates, sexual violence service standards and immigrant & refugee services in 2007

Since January, the 2007 MCADSV Board of Directors has been busy working on priority projects established by MCADSV's strategic planning process. Board workgroups have begun intensive work on MCADSV Bylaws revisions, improving domestic and sexual violence services to immigrants and refugees in Missouri, and developing standards and guidelines for sexual violence services.



MCADSV welcomes new board member

Kim Carroll of the YWCA Shelter in St. Joseph was elected to the MCADSV Board of Directors in May. She replaced Teresa Willis of St. Martha's Hall in St. Louis, who will be leaving the program to start a non-profit.

The committee also discussed requiring individual members to sign a statement of unity with MCADSV's philosophy in order to initiate membership. Workgroup members will continue these discussions at the next Bylaws Committee meeting.

The Immigrant and Refugee Services Workgroup held its first meeting in April. The group reviewed the action plan created at the Multi-State Immigration Summit, which was sponsored by Legal Momentum and held in St. Louis in November 2006. Members also set the workgroup's priorities and goals for future work.

The Services and Education Workgroup also met in April to begin developing MCADSV's Standards and Guidelines for Sexual Violence Services. Workgroup members and Coalition staff identified core service areas for sexual assault programs and discussed possible provisions to be included in these standards. Staff and workgroup members will continue to work on standards throughout the year.

Members wishing to provide input on any of these Board activities may contact their Regional Representative (see contact information on page 4) or other Board members. For a list of Board members, contact the Coalition office.



Update on DV contracts through the Department of Social Services

The Missouri Department of Social Services Family Support Division (DSS/FSD) will exercise its renewal option on both state (Domestic Violence Shelter and Related Support Services) and federal (Domestic Violence Victim Assistance) contracts ending on June 30, 2007 with domestic violence service providers. The renewal contracts will begin July 1, 2007 and end June 30, 2008.

DSS/FSD will issue an amendment with these renewals that will require contractors to participate in the Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) Outcomes Project and to provide services in accordance with MCADSV's most recent Standards and Guidelines for Domestic Violence Programs and Batterer Intervention Programs. DSS/FSD intends to issue a new Request for Offer (RFO) grant application in 2008.

SAVE THE DATE!

MCADSV Annual Conference
Freedom
November 7-9, 2007
Columbia, Missouri