

MCADSV supports maintaining spousal privilege statutes

Q What is the Coalition's position on spousal privilege laws?

A MCADSV supports the current state laws that give married persons the right to refuse to testify in court against their spouses and has consistently advocated against attempts to delete them from Missouri law. These spousal privilege laws have their origins in "chattel laws" that once defined a married woman, her children and any livestock of the family as the personal property of her husband. Ironically, these same laws that once denied women's legal autonomy are now used to provide legal protections to married women who fear retribution for testifying in court against their abusive and violent husbands. Spousal privilege laws give a married woman the right to make her own decision about whether or not she wishes to testify against her husband.

FAQs
frequently asked questions

Many prosecutors support repealing the privilege laws as they want married domestic violence victims to testify in every criminal case they bring to court. However, it is the Coalition's position that the removal of the legal rights of spousal privilege is harmful to battered women because it would force a battered woman to testify whether she wanted to or not and would subject her to the possibility of contempt of court charges, or even being physically forced by law enforcement to attend and testify in court proceedings.

In summary, MCADSV's position is that it is not the job of an individual woman to put herself at risk so a court proceeding can move forward, nor is it the job of an advocate to seek system-smoothing changes in law that cannot be counted on to result in the protection of women victimized by their violent spouses.

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alliance opportunities

MCADSV REGIONAL MEETINGS

Location	Date/Time	Regional Rep.
CENTRAL	April 14	Tracie Lawson
Lebanon	11:30 A.M.	(573) 875-1369
KANSAS CITY	May 15	Beth Savitzky
Independence	12:30 P.M.	(816) 561-0550
NORTHEAST	May 21	Donna Rodenbaugh
Fulton	10:30 A.M.	(660) 642-1418
NORTHWEST	April 15	Debbie Wallace
Lexington	Noon	(660) 886-9880
ST. LOUIS	April 14	Melissa Dann
Safe Connections	9:00 A.M.	(314) 533-1313
SOUTHEAST	April 2	Brenda Smelser
Cape Girardeau	11:30 A.M.	(636) 931-2700 ext. 196
SOUTHWEST	April 3	Larry Copelin
Springfield	11:00 A.M.	(417) 869-8332

UPCOMING MCADSV TRAININGS

Date/Time/Location	Information
SUCCESSFULLY PROMOTING YOUR PROGRAM	
April 23	MCADSV
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	(888) 666-1911
MCADSV office, Jefferson City	
GROW YOUR FUNDRAISING PROGRAM	
May 7	MCADSV
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	(888) 666-1911
Courtyard Marriott, Columbia	
INTRODUCTION TO ADVOCACY INSTITUTE 2009	
April 8 & 9	MCADSV
9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., day 1	(888) 666-1911
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., day 2	
Midtown Carnegie Branch Library, Springfield	
INTRODUCTION TO ADVOCACY INSTITUTE 2009	
May 12 & 13	MCADSV
9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., day 1	(888) 666-1911
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., day 2	
Moberly Area Community College Activity Center, Moberly	

the latest

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

Federal Stimulus Funds to Support Victim Services Programs

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, or the federal stimulus package, contains several funding programs supporting domestic and sexual violence services. The federal stimulus total allocated for Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors (STOP) grants is \$140 million, with \$2.6 million coming to Missouri. The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) will receive \$100 million, with about \$1.8 million appropriated for Missouri programs. Victims services and Crime Victims' Compensation will each receive approximately \$900,000. Both programs will be administered by the Missouri Department of Public Safety and will operate under the same guidelines as traditional STOP and VOCA grants. Significantly, match requirements for VOCA and STOP will be waived. Since the purpose of the Recovery Act is to stimulate the economy, the Department will be prioritizing proposals that retain and create jobs but will also review requests for equipment, supplies, etc. The VOCA contract period will be from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, and STOP grants will run from July 1, 2009 to April 30, 2011. Applications for both grants are due on April 17. For the VOCA and STOP applications, or more information, please visit www.dps.mo.gov/CVSU/Main/CVSUhome.htm.

The stimulus funding also includes \$43 million for the Transitional Housing Assistance Program. This is a discretionary grant program with applications made directly to the federal Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women. This program provides funding for transitional housing, including operational expenses to manage transitional housing programs; short-term housing assistance, including rental or utilities payments; and support services for those receiving transitional housing, such as childcare, transportation and counseling.

The Homeless Prevention Fund has been allocated

federal legislation

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IRS expands annual tax Form 990

The Internal Revenue Service has redesigned its non-profit annual tax form, Form 990, to put more emphasis on an organization's program and mission instead of focusing solely on its financial information. The IRS reports that a well-governed charity is more likely to obey the tax laws, safeguard charitable assets, serve charitable interests and operate more effectively and consistently by giving the IRS and the general public a snapshot of the organization's governing policies and procedures.



The reporting requirements on the new Form 990 include specific information about: an organization's mission; documents and by-laws; governing body; executive compensation; potential conflicts of interest; investments; fundraising practices; document retention and destruction; ethics and whistle-blowing policies; and financial statements.

The new Form 990 is effective for the 2008 tax year and will be phased in over three years to give organizations time to adjust. The tax year in which an organization will file the new Form 990 will depend on its financial activity. Visit www.irs.gov for more information.

The new form can be viewed and printed at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f990.pdf. To view a short and informative mini-course on the redesigned Form 990, visit www.stayexempt.org/mini-courses/newform990/player.html.

"Making Work Pay" reduces taxes

The "Making Work Pay" payroll tax reduction provision is one of the tax provisions included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 with the purpose of getting funds into the bank accounts of eligible American workers. The stated goal of the change is to decrease federal tax withholding rates, and allow individual workers to take home more pay in each paycheck. The extra take-home pay will increase taxable income at the end of the year but, the "Making Work Pay" tax credit should offset any additional taxes owed. The IRS has released newly updated tax tables at its Web site, www.irs.gov. The IRS is asking employers to "start using these new tables as soon as possible but not later than April 1." For more information, go to www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=204447,00.html.

MCADSV Board adopts Strategic Plan for Coalition priorities

The MCADSV Board of Directors in March adopted the Coalition's Strategic Plan for 2009-2011. In a two-day planning session in December 2008, the MCADSV Board and staff looked closely at the Coalition's strengths and weaknesses, as well as external opportunities and challenges. As a result, the core strategies in the areas of Mission, Finance, Administration and Governance were identified as the Coalition's priorities during the next three years in its work to end violence against women and their children.

MCADSV will focus on these core strategies as Coalition goals and objectives are established:

- Embrace MCADSV's role as a dual coalition, working to end both domestic and sexual violence, with a focus on long-term systemic change;
Maintain sound financial health while diversifying funding sources for long-term financial stability;
Evaluate the structure of the MCADSV staff to balance supervisor to staff and staff to program ratios in order to ensure long-term viability and growth; and
Build capacity for exemplary Board governance through Board development training and recruitment of diverse members.

The Board also set its own fundraising goal of \$2,500 and the Coalition staff set a goal of \$1,000.

MCADSV Regional Legislative Advocacy Days involve Advocates

A record number of advocates participated in MCADSV's Regional Legislative Advocacy Days in February. Seventy-four advocates met with their state legislators to talk about the importance of domestic and sexual violence services and the need for additional resources to support that work. More than 22 of the 34 Senators received a visit from an MCADSV member program, and 67 of the 163 Representatives met with advocates. MCADSV hosted eight trainings to update advocates on pending legislation and to provide tips on building a relationship with lawmakers.

In a year with a difficult budget climate, these visits were a critical component of MCADSV's legislative strategy to protect funding in the state budget.

Coalition to participate in national DV prevention program

The Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence is one of 19 state coalitions to be selected to participate in the DELTA PREP Project through the Center for Disease Control's Division of Violence Prevention (CDC).

DELTA PREP is a three-year, capacity-building project to help state-level domestic violence coalitions incorporate primary prevention strategies into their overall domestic violence programming. The project builds on the success of a current CDC program, Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancements and Leadership Through Alliances (DELTA), through which the CDC funds 14 state-level domestic violence coalitions to conduct prevention efforts in their states and local communities.

In the recently approved MCADSV Strategic Plan for 2009-2011, primary prevention of violence against women was identified as an area of focus for the Coalition's work. The DELTA PREP project will provide the Coalition with technical assistance, training, strategic planning and networking opportunities that will help MCADSV to meet its goals in prevention efforts.

In year one, training and technical assistance will focus on primary prevention content and planning for organizational change. In years two and three, the focus will broaden to planning for community and state change and sustaining primary prevention efforts.

This project is funded through the CDC Foundation, which received a \$3.2 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to help prevent domestic violence.

Federal stimulus funds

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

\$1.5 billion nationally, with Missouri receiving approximately \$27 million. The Emergency Shelter Grant formula will be used to disburse funds but funding cannot be used for typical ESG activities. Preliminary guidance suggests that these funds can be used for rental assistance, moving expenses, utility costs, case management related to homelessness prevention, and mediation between landlords and tenants. The Homeless Prevention funding likely will need to be spent within three years.

Programs will have to describe in grant applications and quarterly reports how all stimulus fund grants are being used to create jobs, maintain jobs or stimulate the economy. Funding also will need to be separately tracked and identified in a grantee's accounting system.

MCADSV will continue to provide programs with information on the stimulus funding as that information becomes available.

