



MEDIA RELEASE

Criminal Justice Services

Ohio Criminal Justice Services • Karhlton F. Moore, Executive Director
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OHIO TO RAISE AWARENESS DURING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

(COLUMBUS) – The state of Ohio is participating in the 24th annual National Domestic Violence Awareness Month to raise awareness of domestic violence and the impact it has on survivors, friends, family and co-workers and the community at large.

In support of this effort, Gov. John R. Kasich has declared October Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Ohio. This month of awareness is in coordination with national efforts to bring to light the issue, celebrate those who have survived and continue to encourage advocates of all professional disciplines to work together to provide coordinated services which improve the public's understanding and response to domestic violence.

"It is critical that we recognize this important month and continue to raise awareness, offer services for victims and support law enforcement and other criminal justice and community professionals in their efforts to end this horrible crime," said Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) Executive Director Karhlton F. Moore.

OCJS, a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS), is working with law enforcement and other criminal justice service agencies as well as victim advocates to create awareness about domestic violence. OCJS also seeks to create a positive social change and healthier communities. In 2010, OCJS provided more than \$9 million in grant funding to programs aimed at addressing the issue of domestic violence in our communities.

The Ohio Family Violence Prevention Center, housed at OCJS, serves as an information clearinghouse for public and private organizations as they provide assistance to victims and offers a variety of services such as providing victim advocacy/assistance, organizing workshops, giving presentations and conducting research on family violence and its impact on Ohio communities.

In addition to internal educational events and activities, OCJS has also developed a Web site dedicated to this month of awareness. The site outlines the activities and programs highlighted in October as well as resources. To access the Web page, log onto http://ocjs.ohio.gov/DVM/DVM_Home.html

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OCJS serves as the lead justice planning and assistance agency for the state. Through research, technology and grants, OCJS serves a wide variety of agencies committed to reducing and preventing crime across Ohio. OCJS coordinates and funds the efforts of DUI Task Forces and grants for local law enforcement and safety partners to combat impaired and unsafe driving and promotes educational programs, coalition-building efforts and campaigns focused on highway safety.