



**Superior Court of California
County of Orange**

NEWS RELEASE

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Fourth Annual Domestic Violence Training and Awareness Conference

Irvine, CA - Community leaders and more than 500 teachers, guidance counselors and psychologists will gather to learn about domestic violence and how to detect, report, and become more pro-active in helping students who are victimized by the cycle of abuse. The Fourth Annual Conference on Domestic Violence, organized by the Orange County Superior Court, Harbor Justice Center - Laguna Niguel Facility, will be held **August 29, 2001, at the Irvine Marriott Hotel at 18000 Von Karman, in Irvine.**

“We are very proud to be involved with Orange County Supervisors Wilson, Spitzer and Smith and the school districts in order to further the cause of violence prevention and child abuse prevention,” said Orange County Superior Court Judge Pamela Iles, who presides over a domestic violence calendar at the Harbor Justice Center - Laguna Niguel Facility. She added, “National statistics show that 60% of children in a violent home become victims of physical abuse and molestation.”

The conference is designed to inform and empower teachers, who are mandated to report child abuse, methods of detection and introduce them to the various agencies that become involved after the teacher or counselor makes the initial report.

Program speakers include Alyce LaViolette, a renowned authority on domestic violence will discuss how anyone can become a victim of domestic violence. Dr. Jill Murray, an expert in the field of teen dating violence who has also appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show, will present information on helping teens who may be in abusive dating relationships. Dr. Michael Bucaro from Child and Youth Services will talk about the effects of domestic violence on children, and Social Services will provide educator’s responsibilities in the mandated reporting of violence in the home.

The Domestic Violence Training and Awareness Conference is a collaboration of the William Gillespie Foundation, Orange County Board of Supervisor’s Office and Tom Wilson, Capistrano, Saddleback Valley, Irvine, Newport-Mesa and Laguna Beach Unified School Districts, the Orange County District Attorney’s Office and the Orange County Sheriff’s Office.

For more information, contact Leslie Howard at (949) 249-5175.

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