

“...The Good Fight”

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With so much bad news about the economy and our depressed fiscal outlook, it's extra special to find out that there are communities in Oregon that are receiving funds to improve responses and resources to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault cases. Jefferson County has recently received such funding. Find out all of the amazing things they are doing within their community!

Spotlight: Jefferson County District Attorney's Office Receives Domestic Violence Grant

Article by Brad Mondov, Jefferson County Parole and Probation Officer

In September 2011 Jefferson County District Attorney's Office received notification that they were approved for two grants. The first grant was a Rural Domestic Violence grant and the second grant was an Arrest grant. The applications were submitted by Twila Rosenberg, Director of Victim Assistance Office.

The grants totaled \$1.3 million dollars. The Rural grant is for three years and the Arrest grant is for two years.

The main goals of the grants are to enhance the coordinated community response in Jefferson County. The goals and objectives include the following:

- Collaborate with all community partners to review current DV and Sexual Assault practices;

- Implement protocols and update current dv and sexual assault protocols including establishing a full faith and credit protocol with Warm Springs;
- Expand and strengthen victim service programs;
- Strengthen offender accountability by supervising misdemeanor DV and Sex abuse cases;
- Increase awareness and education in the community in order to prevent domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and sexual assault;
- Enhance services for sexual assault victims by increasing the availability of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners and improving their equipment.
- Upgrade the existing computer system used by local law enforcement for better collaboration between agencies.

- Enhance investigation by employing a Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Investigator, plus starting a Crime Scene Interpreters Program.

The positions filled include a Grant Coordinator, a Domestic Violence Investigator (housed in the District Attorney's Office), Victim Assistance staff, an advocate in a local non-profit program (Saving Grace), and a Probation Officer to supervise misdemeanor DV and Sexual Assault cases.

The grants will enable Jefferson County to make improvements in our community to address Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault problems.

For more detailed information on the grants, please call Twila Rosenberg, Director of Victim Assistance Office at 541-475-4463.

February

Teen Dating Violence
Awareness and
Prevention Month

Update: Strangulation

Article by Erin Greenawald, Sr. AAG, Oregon Department of Justice

Prior abuse in the context of an ongoing Domestic Violence relationship is a strong indicator of lethality or potential lethality. The majority (67-80%) of intimate partner murders of women by a husband, boyfriend or ex-husband or ex-boyfriend involve physical abuse of the female prior to the murder, no matter which partner is killed.¹ Beyond just the occurrence of "physical abuse," the occurrence of strangulation or "choking" is highly indicative of increased potential lethality. In a Chicago study of 57 women who were killed by a male partner in 1995-1997, 53% of the victims had experienced strangulation in the preceding year and 18% of those killed had been strangled to death.² In yet another study of women victims, it was found that 45% of victims of attempted homicide and 43% of homicide victims had been strangled in the past year by their male partner, as compared to 10% of the victims who were abused in a manner not including homicide or attempted homicide.³

Until January 1, 2012, commission of the incredibly dangerous and potentially lethal act of strangulation was punishable in Oregon only as a misdemeanor. The Oregon legislature passed HB2940 (<http://www.leg.state.or.us/11reg/measpdf/hb2900.dir/hb2940.en.pdf>) during the 2011 session and it went into effect the first day of this year. While not perfect, the new statute recog-

nizes the lethality of the crime of Strangulation by elevating it from a misdemeanor to a felony in certain circumstances.⁴

Given this new "tool," it is now up to us, the criminal justice system, to do a better job of holding offenders accountable when they commit the crime of Strangulation. In the past, our conviction rates for Strangulation have been dismal—only 22% in 2009. Since all of us understand that Strangulation is significant—significant for chronic (past) abuse and significant for future danger—we need to do everything we can to improve every stage of a Strangulation case, from the initial call for help (if there is one), through the investigation and prosecution, to sentencing and supervision. And what cannot be lost in this process is remembering and being sensitive to the fact that strangulation victims may have been victimized for a long period of time and suffered long-term emotional, psychological, and/or physical harm that could keep them from fully participating in the process.

There are a lot of training material and resources to help in our effort toward improved offender accountability and victim safety. These resources can provide tips, techniques and ideas on executing better and more thorough investigations, obtaining successful prosecutions, and maintaining effective supervision. Here are some of those resources that are available to you:

- FREE Strangulation Training by Kris Karcher, DME for Coos County on March 5 and March 6, 2012:



SANE flier for distribution.pdf

- Strangulation Powerpoint(s) w/ numerous supporting materials for multi-disciplinary presentations (contact: Erin Greenawald at erin.greenawald@doj.state.or.us)
- On-line resources on the Family Justice Center website: <http://www.familyjusticecenter.org/Strangulation-Training/strangulation-resources.html>
- Your colleagues! A lot of you know a lot about this topic. Talk to one another!

1. Campbell, J.C., Research Results From a National Study of Intimate Partner Homicide: The Danger Assessment Instrument. 2004, 2007.

2. Block, C.R.; Devitt, C.O.; Fonda, D.; Fugate, M.; Martin, C.; McFarlane, J.; et al (2000). The Chicago Women's Health Study: Risk of serious injury or death in intimate partner violence: A collaborative project. Washington, D.C.: US Department of Justice, National Institute Of Justice.

3. Glass, N.; Laughon, K.; Campbell, J.C.; Block, R.B.; Hanson, G.; Sharps, P.S. (2008). Strangulation is an important risk factor for attempted and completed femicides. *Journal of Emergency Medicine*, 35, 329-335.

4. The Criminal Justice Commission has given Strangulation/Felony a crime ranking of "6".

OF NOTE:

A column featuring DV cases tried by local prosecutors so we can learn from each others' accomplishments, strategies, and trial challenges.

State v. Steven Crum

Article by Andrew Campbell, Sr. AAG, Oregon Department of Justice

Case prosecuted by Andrew Campbell and Matt McCauley, Sr. AAG, DOJ



On October 1, 2010, Steven Montie Crum drove his pregnant girlfriend out into a remote, isolated area in Morrow County. Once there, he shot her in the back. The blast sent her face-down into the weeds at her feet. Forensic evidence revealed that Crum then walked up to Ms. Killian, and while listening to her attempt to catch her breath, placed the muzzle of his 40-caliber gun against the back of her head and pulled the trigger—this time killing her instantly.

For three days, Jessica Killian's body lay amongst those weeds with only an empty farmhouse nearby. Finally, On October 4, 2010, her body was discovered by farmworkers who then called 911. A Morrow County Sheriff's Office deputy responded to the call. With him was a reserve deputy. That reserve deputy's name? Steven Montie Crum.

To understand how and why Jessica ended up dead at such a remote location, one must understand a little more about the man who murdered her.

Steven Crum was the youngest of the three children born to a wealthy farmer in the small town of Lone, Oregon. Crum enjoyed a privileged childhood on the rolling hills of his family's 17,000-acre property, stretched across three counties. Even when he found out that his long-time girlfriend was pregnant during their senior year in high school, his life remained promising. He married his high school sweet heart and set about life as a young family man, well-embraced and supported by his community. He was well known as a volunteer fire fighter and ambulance driver, eventually becoming a reserve sheriff's deputy.

While his wife took great pains to ensure the children were well cared for, the

house was clean, and that Crum was able to come and go as he pleased, Crum developed an addiction to online gambling and pornography. Crum occupied himself with multiple affairs with women from surrounding areas. One such woman was a waitress named Jessica Killian. Killian, the single mother an 8-year old daughter who remained with her father in Hawaii, met Crum at the bar and restaurant where she worked in Hermiston. She had no idea she was beginning the final chapter in her life.

Killian described her relationship with Crum in a diary later recovered from her computer. She was immediately attracted to Crum, a rough and tumble farmer who protected his community by volunteering as a firefighter and sheriff's deputy. An emotional connection quickly followed and Crum began sending her emails about running away with him.

Continued ...

OF NOTE: State v. Crum

Eventually the affair turned physical, culminating in a pregnancy – Crum was faced with another unplanned pregnancy.

Faced with the possibility of his carefully separated lives colliding, Crum hatched a murderous plan. Sensing Killian's loneliness and dissatisfaction with life in Hermiston, Crum told her that he had a secret residence on the Caribbean island-nation of Barbados. Together, Crum said, they could steal away and live out their lives in paradise.

There was only one problem, the ruse continued, Killian needed to steal \$7,500 from her employer, the bar, to finance covert passage to Barbados. As described in Killian's journal, knowing that she was pregnant with a married man's child, faced with a dead-end job in Hermiston, 6,000 miles away from her daughter, Killian was easily manipulated into Crum's plot.

So on Friday October 1, 2010, at 7:45 in the morning, Killian met Crum outside her work in Hermiston.

Quietly, she loaded two suitcases packed full with her whole life, into Crum's pick-up truck. Perhaps she noticed that Crum did not have any luggage of his own? Then, while Crum waited, she walked into the restaurant, and after some customary greetings, Killian removed over \$9,000 in cash from the business's safe, and strolled out the back door where Crum was waiting. Crum drove her to an empty farmhouse owned by his family on a remote piece of land – so remote that the house is not visible from any public road. Killian had to have been wondering why they were turning down the long gravel road, marked only with the numbers 67604. It wasn't too long after that fateful turn, that Steven Crum murdered Jessica Killian.

After realizing that a woman with whom he was having an affair with had turned up dead on his family's property, Crum decided it was only a matter of time before he was arrested, so he fled the state. However, he didn't make it far before

he started pulling over and checking in on his Facebook account. Almost as quickly as Crum fled, word of his disappearance spread through the community; and friends, family, and police were quickly communicating with Crum via the internet. Once taken into custody he quickly confessed – in four different interviews. He even took officers bearing a video camera, back to the scene and participated in a "walk through" of the crime. While he continuously minimized his conduct, he admitted that he deliberately shot and killed Jessica Killian.

On December 16, 2011 14 and a-half months after the murder, Steven Crum pled guilty to murdering a pregnant victim for the killing of Jessica Killian and Aggravated Theft in the First Degree for his role in the theft from Killian's employer. He was sentenced to life in prison and he will not be eligible for parole for at least 30 years.

Update:

Approximately one month after being sentenced to life in prison for the murder of Jessica Killian, Crum was seated in the prison cafeteria. He was approached from behind and beaten about the head by another inmate using a blunt object. Crum survived the attack, but it took over 240 staples to close the wounds on his head. The assault is still under investigation.

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. It brings national focus to the issue of teen dating violence, highlights the need to educate youth about healthy relationships, raises awareness and provides resources for communities to work to prevent the cycle of abuse.

Dating violence is a serious problem in the United States yet many teens facing the violence are afraid to speak out. Violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications by putting victims at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior and further domestic violence.

In a nationwide survey, 9.8 percent of high school students report being hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend in the 12 months prior to the survey.¹ Further, about 1 in 5 women and nearly 1 in 7 men who ever experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner, first experienced some form of partner violence between 11 and 17 years of age.²

The importance of addressing teen dating violence was highlighted by its inclusion in the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act in 2005. Then, in 2006, the federal government officially recognized the first week in February as National

Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week. In 2010, Congress announced that the entire month of February would be deemed National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. In September of 2011, Vice President Joe Biden launched the *1is2many* initiative as part of the Obama Administration's attempt to reduce violence against women, specifically teens and young women ages 16-24.³ Finally, on January 31, 2012, President Barack Obama proclaimed February 2012 as National Teen Dating



Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.⁴

More focus is being put on the implementation of prevention programs in schools. Currently 15 states have passed teen dating violence laws that urge or require school boards to develop curriculum on teen dating violence and many more are considering such legislation. Most of these laws, however, were passed without additional funding or guidance. Recently, new federal legislation has been introduced to correct this problem by allowing schools that receive federal funding for bullying and

harassment to include teen dating violence prevention.⁵

The "Stop Abuse for Every Teen Act" or SAFE Teen Act was introduced by Senators Michael Crapo (R-ID) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and U.S. Representatives Gwen Moore (D-WI) and Dave Reichert (R-WA). Under the SAFE Teen Act, schools are also encouraged to train personnel on the issue and incorporate mechanisms into school policies. The bill seeks to: expressly authorize schools to use existing grant funding for teen dating violence prevention; highlight teen dating violence prevention as part of the comprehensive, community prevention programs that already fund prevention activities; and support better teen dating violence data to understand the scope of the problem as well as having a means of measuring the impact of prevention programs and policies.

***One in four
teens will
experience
dating abuse
during this
coming year.
- Center for
Disease
Control and
Prevention***

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey

2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey

3. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/1is2many>

4. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/01/31/presidential-proclamation-national-teen-dating-violence-awareness-and-pr>

5. <http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/userfiles/file/Teens/SAFE%20Teen%20Act%20-%20Summary.pdf>

Dating Violence - State Law Report Cards



Teens often face overwhelming obstacles to receive protection from dating violence. These obstacles are often written into their state laws. To call attention to these issues, Break the Cycle, a national nonprofit organization, created the State Law Report Card which surveys the civil domestic violence protection order laws and their impact on teens seeking protection from abusive relationships. The following is a description of states earning each letter grade.

A Washington

In Washington, minors can obtain Orders for Protection and the court can issue these orders against minor abusers. The state allows minors to petition for orders on their own behalf at age sixteen. Before sixteen, the minor must have a family or household member petition on their behalf. Judges may issue the orders when the respondent has physi-

cally abused, sexually abused, threatened to physically abuse, stalked or harassed the petitioner.

B Arizona

In Arizona, minors can obtain protection orders, courts can issue them against minor abusers and people in dating relationships can seek them against their abusers. The law is unclear, however, whether minors can petition for the orders on their own behalf. An Arizona judge may issue an order if the respondent has damaged the petitioner's property; physically abused, threatened to physically abuse, stalked, harassed, or if the petitioner is under twelve, sexually abused the petitioner.

C Idaho

Similar to Washington and Arizona, minors in Idaho can obtain protection orders, courts can issue them against minor abusers, and people in dating relationships are able to seek them against abusers. The law is unclear about whether minors can petition for orders on their own behalf or if parents or guardians will be notified if the minor has filed a petition. Idaho receives a C grade because the statute fails to recognize stalking and harassment as qualifications for orders.

D Oregon

Oregon receives a D grade because under ORS 107.726, minors can obtain protective orders and people in sexual relationships can seek orders against their abusers, but the law prohibits orders against minor abusers. The report further criticizes ORS 107.726 for not specifying the age at which a minor may petition and failing to specify who may petition for an order on a minor's behalf. Break the Cycle further criticizes Oregon for failing to recognize stalking and harassment as qualifications for relief.

Oregon currently has legislation pending, HB 4077 or the Healthy Teen Relationship Act, that directs school districts to adopt policies regarding teen dating violence. For more information, see page 7 of this newsletter!

F Utah

Utah received an automatic failing grade because the law excludes all people in dating relationships from having access to orders.

- Information courtesy of breakthecycle.org

[Click here to see how other states measure up .](#)

"Teen victims of dating violence deserve the same legal protections that adult victims of domestic abuse receive."

- Break the Cycle

Ellen Pence Remembered



Photo courtesy of: The Advocates for Human Rights

Ellen Pence, the co-founder of Duluth's world-renowned Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, passed away January 6, 2012.

During the 1960s, Ellen was an activist in the housing, antiwar, civil rights and feminist movements. In 1975, she became active in the battered women's movement, which was the primary focus of her work for the remainder of her life. After a

time of advocating for funding for battered women's shelters, Ellen moved from Minneapolis to Duluth, MN, where in 1980, she and a small group of activists organized the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, commonly referred to as the "Duluth Model." The model, which has been adapted for use throughout the world, employs an interagency approach to shift responsibility for confronting domestic violence from the victims of the violence to the community, based on the idea that women (and their children) have as much right to be safe at home as all people have to be safe on the street.

Starting in 1990, she worked with a team of experts to redesign the U.S. Marine Corps' response to family violence. She was the founder and director of Praxis International, a non-profit dedicated to helping institutions meet the

needs of the people they serve. In 2009 she began work with professionals in the Saint Paul criminal justice system to develop a "Blueprint for Safety" for battered women. Her unfinished projects include the response of family court in cases of battering and racial disparity in the child welfare system.

Above all, Ellen will be remembered by thousands of people nationally and internationally for her remarkable gift of public speaking. Her sense of humor, extensive knowledge and experience, passion for justice, and belief in the potential for change in both individuals and institutions leave us with treasured moments and offer us a torch to carry on the work in her name.

- Praxis International

"There are at least five women alive today that would have otherwise been killed."
- Ellen Pence
on her work in Duluth.

Oregon Teen Dating Violence Bill - HB 4077

The Healthy Teen Relationship Act is currently pending in the legislature. The act requires school boards to adopt policies that "state that teen dating violence is unacceptable and is prohibited and that each student has a right to a safe learning environment." The act further requires that school districts adopt poli-

cies that incorporate education for teen dating violence training for students grades 7-12, establish procedures for the manner employees are expected to respond to teen dating violence incidents, identify the school officials who are responsible for receiving teen dating violence

reports, and establish procedures for the notification of parents and students regarding these new policies.

The Act was passed through the House committee on February 6th and was referred to Ways and Means.

[Click here to see HB 4077](#)





Oregon Department of Justice Domestic Violence Newsletter

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"A ghost did it..."

-Michael West, Jan. 15, 2012. After strangling the victim twice and repeatedly punching her in the face, an intoxicated West responded to police questioning about the incident and blamed the victim's injuries on a ghost.

They Said What!?



*"I'm a successful person.
When I put my best foot
forward, I always
succeed."*

-Theodore Williams, Dec. 21, 2011. Wearing orange and accent chains. Explaining his conformance on probation which includes absconding for five years, and being convicted of aggravated assault in Utah and Robbery 2 in Washington.

Training Opportunities

Working with a Domestic Violence or Sexual Expert (webinar)

When: February 15 11:30am-1:00 pm MT

Register at: <http://www.cdacweb.com/training/trainingcalendar/tabid/224/vw/3/itemid/237/d/20120215/Working-with-a-Domestic-Violence-or-Sexual-Assault.aspx>

Forensic Compliance: Where do we stand in 2012? (webinar)

When: February 16 2:00-3:30 pm ET

Register at: <https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/s/showReg?udc=cby1bzvj97tg>

The Front Porch Project: Building Community Involvement with Prevention (webinar)

When: February 16 3:30-5:00 pm ET

Register at: <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/921786958>

Supporting Adult Survivor Trauma -Multnomah County Family Violence Coordinating Council Monthly Training

When: February 21 10:00am - 12:00 pm

Contact Vanessa Timmons at 503-988-4114
or vanessa.timmons@multco.us

Know More, Say More: An Introduction to Teen Dating Violence (webinar)

When: February 23 1:00-2:00 pm ET

Register at: <https://ry/breakthecycle.ilinc.com/peril/ilinc/lms/event.pl>

Links between Bullying & Sexual Violence: Possibilities for Prevention (webinar)

When: February 27 11:00 am-12:30pm ET

Register at: <http://preventconnect.org/2012/02/links-between-bullying-sexual-violence-possibilities-for-prevention/>

Serving Survivors with Disabilities and Deaf Survivors - Working with Deaf Survivors (webinar)

When: March 13 3:00-4:30 pm ET

Register at: <https://veracvs.ilinc.com/peril/ilinc/lms/event.pl>

Happy Valentine's Day

