



# CAP ACTION EBLAST



*Do Something! Do One Thing! One Thing Counts!*

The Child Abuse Prevention Action Committee is a collaborative group involved in the planning and promotion of child abuse prevention efforts throughout Oklahoma.

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## Child Abuse Prevention and Domestic Violence!

**October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month!**



*In commemoration of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we honor the lives of domestic violence survivors, women, men and children. We applaud their strength and their courage.*

But we still have work to do!

According to the new Violence Policy Report, 2011, Oklahoma now ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation for women killed by men in single victim, single offender incidents, representing the worst ranking for Oklahoma – ever. In the same year, Oklahoma lost 114 lives to domestic violence, the youngest victim four months old and the oldest victim 87 years old (Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, 2012). Each year in Oklahoma, approximately one-third of domestic violence homicides are witnessed by children.

While the numbers related to domestic violence are staggering, the numbers are similarly staggering when it comes to children’s experiences of domestic violence. According to a survey recently released by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, one in four children are exposed to some form of family violence in their lifetime. By the age of 17, almost 30% of children nationwide have witnessed domestic violence in their families.

While each child is impacted differently, we are aware that children exposed to the abuse of a domestic violence perpetrator are at increased risk of developing a wide range of emotional, behavioral, cognitive, developmental, social and academic problems. Children at this intersection are more likely to be sexually assaulted, abuse substances, engage in delinquent behavior as adolescents, and be victims of child abuse and neglect. Numerous studies have estimated that in 30 to 60% of families where either domestic violence or child maltreatment is identified, it is likely that both forms of abuse exist in the home. In addition, traumatic stress and PTSD are potential outcomes for many children who witness the abuse of a caretaker.

To be effective, we need the full attention of our federal and state government as well as our policy makers... and we need to continue the work of so many each and every day in our neighborhoods and communities. Together, I know we can transform our community - ...one child at a time.

**Related Resource:** Oklahoma Attorney General / Victim Services Unit  
<http://www.oag.state.ok.us/oagweb.nsf/vservices.html>

**Do just one thing!** Your one thing counts!

- ✓ Hang DV posters and place **SAFELINE** cards wherever you know people go (i.e. in waiting areas at work, restaurants, bar restrooms, etc). [Contact Brandon Paisley (405) 522-8965 for your supply!]
- ✓ Organize a DV training session for your staff or at your church.
- ✓ Contact your local DV shelter to see what their current needs are (i.e. diapers, formula, toys, books, clothes, linens, etc). Seek donations to help with these needs through any group you are involved with.
- ✓ Create a safe workplace policy on domestic violence.
- ✓ Help keep victims and children safe. Donate your old cell phone to your local shelter. Victims use these phones to call 911 in emergencies.

### Agency Spotlight

The YWCA Oklahoma City provides domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking services for victims and children. The YWCA Emergency Shelter is a safe place for women and children to escape domestic violence. Also available are a wide array of *community services*, including safety planning, advocacy, protective order assistance, court support and trauma counseling for adult and child victims. All services are provided at no cost to the victim. Learn more at [www.ywcaokc.org](http://www.ywcaokc.org).

For emergency assistance, contact the **Oklahoma State Safeline** to speak to a crisis advocate who can provide immediate assistance with obtaining emergency shelter, crisis intervention, safety planning, and support.

**OKLAHOMA STATE SAFELINE**  
1-800-522-SAFE (7233)

### Upcoming Events

Join the YWCA and the Office of the Attorney General on the south lawn of our state capitol on October 3, 2013 at 3pm for the **“Wreath of Hope Ceremony”** to raise awareness of domestic violence in our community.

**Next CAP ACTION meeting** – Wed, October 16, 10:00am  
**CAP Day at the Capitol** – Tuesday, April 8, 2014

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**EARLY CHILDHOOD  
TIP SHEETS**

2014 Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Action begins now! [Sign Up](#) today to join efforts!