



*Ask-An-Expert*

This segment will allow Supervised Visitation Program grantees an opportunity to interact with other grantees on problem-solving exercises and ask subject matter experts questions about topics relevant to the Supervised Visitation Program grantees and their collaborative partners.

 Safe Havens:  
Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program

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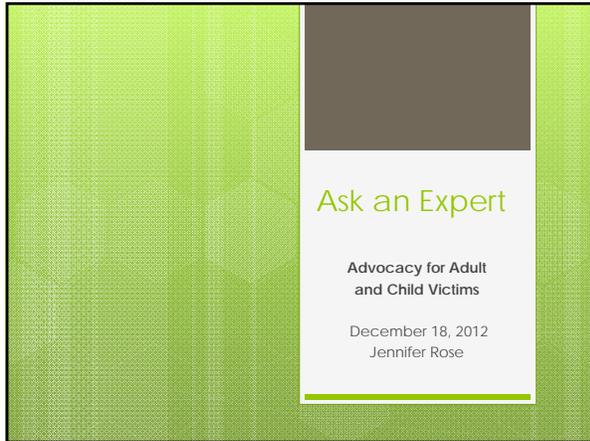
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**Ask an Expert**

**Advocacy for Adult and Child Victims**

December 18, 2012  
Jennifer Rose

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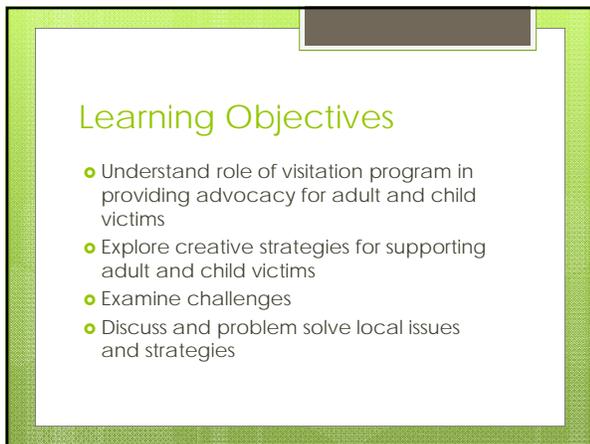
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**Learning Objectives**

- Understand role of visitation program in providing advocacy for adult and child victims
- Explore creative strategies for supporting adult and child victims
- Examine challenges
- Discuss and problem solve local issues and strategies

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### Laura Jones

Laura is a 24 year old woman and has three children under the age of 5. She and her partner, Tom met when they were in high school and have been together since the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Laura and Tom had their first child when they were 19. Laura called the police after many years of abuse when their youngest child was present in the room when Tom slammed her into the wall and broke all the dishes.

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### Laura ( Cont'd)

Laura and Tom have been coming to the center for a couple of weeks. At your check in with Laura she talks about feeling really alone and that her parents are good friends with Tom's parents. She tells you they are really pressuring her to get back with Tom. She is staying with her cousin but tells you she is going to have to move in the next month. As she is getting ready to leave she tells you that she has court next week and she is terrified to go alone. She asks if you can go to support her.

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### What is your role in helping Laura?

- A. Find a volunteer to go with her to court.
- B. Give her the local DV hotline and tell her to call and see what they can do.
- C. Go with her yourself
- D. Offer to help her get connected with an advocate who could accompany her to her court date

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### Advocacy on behalf of adult and child victims

Visitation centers should work with community collaborative to ensure child(re) and adult victims have meaningful access to services and should actively link individuals to those services.

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### Role of Visitation Program

- Develop partnerships with organizations providing domestic violence advocacy.
- Create systems for meaningful linkages to community resources and support.
- Support adult victims with immediate support and safety.
- Be transparent about what the center can and can not provide.

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### What is advocacy?

Advocacy in the context of supervised visitation and safe exchange means working with each adult victim and child to understand their unique needs and life circumstances in order to best provide meaning linkages, information and support.

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How is this different from domestic violence advocacy?

- Confidentiality
- Different roles
- Conflicts

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Supporting Safety

- Safety planning.
- Create policies that allow for dedicated time to talk with and support adult victims and their children.
- Providing options that meet each adult victims and child's unique needs.
- Create on-going and regular opportunities to talk with and support adult victims and children.

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Systems Advocacy

- Identify gaps pertaining to post separation needs for adult victims.
- Illuminate trends and barriers for adult victims within the larger community collaboration.
- Advocate on behalf of systems changes that further support the safety of adult victims post separation

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**Strategies for ensuring advocacy**

- Partner with domestic violence agency to provide on site advocacy for adult victims and children.
- Create regular and on-going opportunities for input and consultation with domestic violence advocates.
- Create systems for information sharing.
- Facilitate on-going cross training

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**Challenges**

- Balancing mis-perceptions about bias and conflicts.
- Recognizing gaps.
- Limited community resources.

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**QUESTIONS**

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*Thank You For Attending*

Thank you for attending today's segment. For more information, or to inquire about training or technical assistance, please visit [safehavensonline.org](http://safehavensonline.org) or contact Michele Robinson, Program Manager with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges at [mrobinson@ncfci.org](mailto:mrobinson@ncfci.org) or (775) 784-6427.



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