



**The Missouri Office of Prosecution Services,  
The Mississippi County Prosecuting Attorney's Office,  
&**

**Susanna Wesley Family Learning Center,**

present

**The Investigation and Prosecution of  
Domestic Violence Cases  
&  
Determining the Dominant Aggressor  
In Domestic Violence Cases**

March 7, 2023

8:00 AM to 12 PM

&

1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

*Free of charge to Prosecutors, Law Enforcement, Victim Advocates, Children's Division, Probation and Parole, Juvenile Office, Adult Protective Services, Health Professionals, Department of Mental Health and Advocacy Center Staff. Other Similar Allied Professionals must obtain prior approval for attendance from Conference Organizers.*

**Susanna Wesley Family Learning Center**

601 W. Marshall  
Charleston, MO 63834

PLEASE NOTE Persons needing special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act should notify MOPS at [catherine.vannier@prosecutors.mo.gov](mailto:catherine.vannier@prosecutors.mo.gov) or (573) 644-2409 on or before January 4, 2023.

Handouts will be sent to all registered participants in a web link a few days prior to class.

**To Register Go To The Link Listed on Page 2  
Please be sure to specify if you will be attending the  
AM class (Inv & Pros), the PM class (DDA) or both.**

# The Investigation & Prosecution of Domestic Violence Cases

**8 AM to 12 PM**

This basic course includes the elemental dynamics of domestic violence and suggestions for conducting domestic violence investigations, as they relate to evidence based prosecution. The course further covers Missouri law as it applies to domestic violence cases, touching on current case law as it relates to evidence based prosecution and investigation, and offering ideas for aggressive & fair charging in domestic violence cases. The course aims at assisting prosecutors and law enforcement officers in responding to domestic violence calls and successfully prosecuting domestic violence cases.

The course is certified for 2 hours of POST Continuing Education Legal credits & 2 hours Interpersonal Credit by the Missouri Department of Public Safety POST program or 4 hours of CLE by the Missouri Bar.

## Determining the Dominant Aggressor in Domestic Violence Cases

**1 PM to 5 PM**

This afternoon course begins with a firsthand account of Albert Grieve, an attorney and former law enforcement officer who grew up in an abusive home. Albert will share the dynamics of abuse, various aspects of coercive control which affect the systems response, highlight other points such as the importance of an accurate determination of the dominant aggressor, nuances to watch for, the importance of appropriate interview tactics, and emphasize the positive and negative impacts of both intervention and missed opportunities to intervene.

The balance of the afternoon includes more on the dynamic of family violence, exploring why true victims might report using force and additional aspects to assist in making a determination of the relevant context and the dominant aggressor in an abusive relationship, as well as outlining basic Missouri laws in determining valid claims of self defense/ primary aggressor. This course also offers more refined nuances & tools to shed light on these difficult cases.

The course is certified for 2 hours of POST Continuing Education Legal credits & 2 hours Interpersonal Credit by the Missouri Department of Public Safety POST program or 4 hours of CLE by the Missouri Bar.

### **TO REGISTER FOR THIS CLASS GO TO THE LINK LISTED BELOW**

Space & materials are limited, **please copy and paste the registration link into your browser** in order to reserve your spot before **February 28, 2023**:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=q5eaeneab&oeidk=a07ejk1ad036cefec7c>

If you have difficulty with the link, please go to our training page at [prosecutors.mo.gov/training](http://prosecutors.mo.gov/training).

**Please be sure to specify if you will be attending the AM class (Inv & Pros),  
the PM class (DDA) or both.**

**If you do not register in advance, we will not be able to provide course handouts and may not be able to prepare a completion certificate to you.** Please email [catherine.vannier@prosecutors.mo.gov](mailto:catherine.vannier@prosecutors.mo.gov) with questions or concerns. Email is often easier but if you need to call, my direct phone number is 573 644 2409.

*Please distribute electronically*

# **The Investigation and Prosecution of Domestic Violence Cases**

8 AM to 12 PM

## Agenda

### **HOUR 1: What are we concerned about?**

*Safety & Lethality Concerns, The Dynamics of Domestic Violence, and Why Do They Stay?*

### **HOUR 2: Why should we care?**

*The requirements of Section 455.085, the burdens of the System and the generational impact of cyclical abuse.*

### **HOUR 3: Evidence Based Prosecution**

*The components of evidence based prosecution & what a prosecutor needs in order to proceed without the victim's cooperation.*

### **HOUR 4: Ideas for Documentation & Charging**

*Discussion of the proof and elements of the most frequently used charges, symptoms of strangulation, and suggestions for the most effective charging decisions.*

# Determining the Dominant Aggressor

1 PM to 5 PM

## Agenda

### **HOURS 1 & 2: Survivor's Story**

*Learning from missed opportunities to shape future investigations and intervention; exploring ways to prevent victimization.*

### **HOURS 3 & 4: Power & Control Tactics**

*The definition of mutual combat. Understanding the history of mandatory arrest, scene manipulation and the signs of coercive control. Dual v. single arrests & questions to ask. The requirements of Section 455.085 & what is self defense? Lethality factors and additional ways to look beyond the obvious to protect true victims & hold dangerous offenders accountable.*

Handouts will be sent to all registered participants in a web link a few days prior to class.

## About the Presenters

### **Catherine Vannier**

Catherine Vannier is the Special Victims Resource Prosecutor for the Missouri Office of Prosecution Services (MOPS). Over almost 16 years, Catherine has developed and expanded the MOPS Special Victims' Program to assist and train thousands of justice professionals. Prior to coming to MOPS, Catherine had 11 years of experience prosecuting criminal cases full time.

Catherine serves as an appointed member of the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking as well as the Supreme Court's Commission on Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking and the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children. Catherine also co-chairs the Supreme Court Commission's Lethality & Risk Assessment Subgroup and the Prevention Task Force's Multi-Disciplinary Team Best Practices Working Group. Catherine also leads the Missouri Elder Abuse & Financial Exploitation Response Coordination Team. Catherine has served on a number of other groups, including the Department of Public Safety's Cyber Crimes Advisory Group, the State Child Fatality Review Panel, the Sexual Assault Response Working Group, the Department of Public Safety's STOP Implementation Group, the Missouri Victim's Assistance Network's Board of Directors and the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorney's Best Practices Initiative Special Victims' Subcommittee.

### **Albert Grieve**

Albert Grieve is a licensed attorney. From 2018 to 2020, Albert Grieve was the Legal Aspects Trainer for the Children's Division of Missouri's Department of Social Services. During that time, Albert also served as a Board Member of the Rainbow House Child Advocacy Center.

Prior to his work at the Children's Division, Albert was a litigation attorney for the Division of Legal Services, Department of Social Services. Albert was a commissioned law enforcement officer with the Jefferson City Police Department for approximately 4 years before attending law school at the St. Louis University School of Law.

Having grown up in an abusive home, Albert's is an incredible success story of perseverance and resilience. Albert is dedicated to making a better world for children and survivors.

Albert lives in Central Missouri with his wife and three children. In his free time, he runs marathons and enjoys gaming.