



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Criminal Justice Services

Ohio Criminal Justice Services • Karhlton F. Moore, Executive Director  
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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 8, 2010

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### OCJS Recognizes Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

*Ohio Family Violence Prevention Resource Center offers guidance to legislature, parents and teens*

**(COLUMBUS)** – During the month of February, the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS), a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS), will be recognizing National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month brings national focus to the issue of teen dating violence, highlights the need to educate youth about healthy relationships, raises awareness among those who care for them and provides communities with a critical opportunity to work together to prevent this devastating cycle of abuse. For the first time, Congress is dedicating an entire month to teen dating violence awareness and prevention; it was previously recognized for one week.

"Violence cannot be tolerated in any relationship," said OCJS Executive Director Karhlton Moore. "We are committed to offering resources to teens and parents, such as the Ohio Family Violence Prevention Center."

The Ohio Family Violence Prevention Center, housed at OCJS, serves as an information clearinghouse for public and private organizations as they provide assistance to victims and offers a variety of services such as providing victim advocacy/assistance, organizing workshops, giving presentations and conducting research on family violence and its impact on communities. The Ohio Family Violence Prevention Advisory Council, a part of the Center, is where Ohio's top experts in domestic and family violence prevention come together to consider and recommend improvements in the State. Most recently, the Council provided guidance and assistance for HB 19, Tina's Law, which requires schools to adopt policies to prevent and address abusive relationships.

One in 11 teens reports being a victim of physical abuse each year and nearly three in four tweens (ages 11-14) report boyfriend/girlfriend relationships usually begin at age 14 or younger. Also, 62 percent of tweens who have been in a relationship say they know friends who have been verbally abused by a boyfriend/girlfriend and only half of all tweens claim to know the warning signs of a bad/hurtful relationship.

OCJS developed a teen dating violence fact card to assist Ohio parents and teens in recognizing the signs of dating violence and tips for when a relationship ends. To access the fact card and other teen dating violence information, please visit: <http://ocjs.ohio.gov/fvpc/>

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