



MEDIA RELEASE

Criminal Justice Services

Ohio Criminal Justice Services • Karhlton F. Moore, Executive Director
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Ohio Concludes Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Empty Place at the Table Display Exhibit to Honor Domestic Violence Victim

(COLUMBUS) – The Ohio Department of Public Safety's (ODPS) Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) will display the Empty Place at the Table exhibit in honor of a state employee who tragically lost her life at the hands of domestic violence, concluding the 24th annual National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The exhibit, which will be placed in the employee entrance of the Shipley building, demonstrates the devastating results of domestic violence and helps ensure that these victims are not forgotten. In a poignant and visual manner, the exhibit reveals how domestic violence leaves an empty place at the table. The exhibit will run until October 28.

The exhibit honors Mrs. Barbara Warner, an employee of the Ohio Department of Health who was a victim of domestic violence throughout the course of her marriage and was murdered by her husband on May 27, 1997.

"It is important to remember and honor Mrs. Warner, and all of the other victims, and continue to tell their story," said Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) Executive Director Karhlton Moore. "OCJS is committed to its mission to continue to raise awareness about domestic violence and its devastating impact on families and communities."

On January 21, 2011, Gov. John R. Kasich issued Executive Order 2011-04K, demonstrating the state's commitment to working with all state agencies, boards and commissions to create and to foster safe working environments, while also working with state employees to prevent the abuse, harassment and discrimination that may result from domestic violence. This Executive Order has been named after Mrs. Warner to honor her memory.

OCJS is working with law enforcement and other criminal justice service agencies as well as victim advocates to create awareness about domestic violence. 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 Ohio communities.

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OCJS serves as the lead justice planning and assistance agency for the state. Through research, technology and grants, OCJS serves a wide variety of agencies committed to reducing and preventing crime across Ohio. OCJS coordinates and funds the efforts of DUI Task Forces and grants for local law enforcement and safety partners to combat impaired and unsafe driving and promotes educational programs, coalition-building efforts and campaigns focused on highway safety.