Upcoming Training Opportunities June/July 2014

[**Webinar: Untested Rape Kits: the Issue, the Impact, and the Response**](https://victimsofcrime.webex.com/mw0401l/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=victimsofcrime&service=6)

**June 25, 2014, 1PM ET**

The Rape Kit Action Project is pleased to announce a free webinar about our nation’s untested sexual assault kit problem. Attendees will develop an understanding of the scope of the problem, commonly-used terminology and definitions (e.g. “backlog” vs. “untested” kits), and federal and state policy initiatives underway to process evidence, hold perpetrators accountable, and bring answers to victims. Hear first-hand from a sexual assault survivor and advocate about the human impact of this problem.

**Speakers:**

[**Natasha Alexenko, founder of Natasha's Justice Project**](http://victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/dna-resource-center/training/dna-training-faculty#alexenko)

**Ilse Knecht, Director, DNA Resource Center, National Center for Victims of Crime**

[**Rebecca O’Conner, Vice President, Public Policy, RAINN**](http://victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/dna-resource-center/training/dna-training-faculty#oconnor)

***Webinar: Working Together: What Attorneys and DV/SA Experts Can and Should Expect From One Another***

**Presenters:**

Kirsten Faisal, Director of Training and Technical Assistance, Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (Des Moines, IA)

Tim Gruenke, District Attorney (Lacrosse County, WI)

**Date: *July 7, 2014***

**Time: *3:00 – 4:30 pm Eastern Time***

This webinar is part of a series about *Expert Witnesses*

hosted by the National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women.

**WEBINAR DESCRIPTION**

Expert witnesses and the attorneys they work with sometimes have conflicting assumptions and expectations about the preparation and presentation of a court case. In this webinar, Kirsten Faisal, a long-time advocate with extensive experience as an expert witness, will team up with Tim Gruenke, a veteran prosecutor, to discuss strategies for working together effectively in cases involving survivors of domestic and/or sexual violence. The presenters will discuss what experts and attorneys need from one another during the trial preparation process, and talk about some of the “real world” challenges that can hinder effective trial preparation and presentation.

**The webinar is free of charge (but you will have to pay for the phone call if you dial in).**

**WEBINAR TRAINING SERIES ON THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BEST PRACTICE ASSESSMENT GUIDES****—Praxis International**After over 30+ years of organizing, assessing, monitoring, and researching 911 through prosecution response to cases involving battering, we know a lot about what works and what does not work to help keep victims safe and to hold offenders accountable. The tools outlined in the [Domestic Violence Best Practice Assessment Guides](http://praxisinternational.org/praxis_safety_audits_resources.aspx) distill this accumulated knowledge into specific guidelines for practice for 911 responses through prosecution charging decisions. Join us for one or all parts in this series.

**Part 1: July 9, 2014  
*The Critical Starting Point: Best Practices in 911***Key steps in the criminal justice system’s response to battering rely on accurate details and descriptions of the scene from 911 call takers and/or dispatchers. Responding patrol officers rely on 911 for information about the incident and elements of potential danger to themselves and those at the scene. If certain types of information are gathered and documented during the 911 call, prosecutors can make charging decisions that best support victim safety and offender accountability. Join us for this webinar training to learn more about current best practices and how to assess and improve your community’s 911 responses to battering.

**Part 2: August 13, 2014  
*Building the Case: Best Practices in Patrol & Investigation***Initial police patrol response and investigations build the case and directly impact case disposition. From collecting basic evidence to predominant aggressor determinations to specific questions related to risk and danger, the Domestic Violence Best Practice Assessment Guides detail best practices in both police patrol response and investigations. Join us for this webinar training to learn more about current best practices and how to assess and improve your community’s patrol and investigation responses to battering.

**Part 3: September 10, 2014  
*Presenting the Case: Best Practices in Prosecution Charging Decisions***From a careful evaluation of the history, context, and severity of violence to forfeiture for wrongdoing determinations to guidelines for victim engagement, the *Domestic Violence Best Practice Assessment Guides* detail best practices in prosecution charging decisions in cases involving battering. Join us for this webinar training to learn more about current best practices and how to assess and improve your community’s prosecution responses to battering.

**Part 4: Wednesday, July 16 *Best Practices for Prosecutors***Matt Wiese, Prosecuting Attorney, Marquette County, Michigan

This session will discuss the importance of successful prosecution, as well as other strategies that hold offenders accountable and better protect victims by reducing reliance on direct testimony to secure convictions for domestic violence-related crimes. Matt Wiese, Marquette, MI County Attorney will provide information and identify resources on:

* The distinct and collaborative roles of the system-based and community-based advocate in working to enhance prosecution,
* How prosecutors work with law enforcement and advocacy agencies to enhance safety for women while holding offenders accountable,
* How to build a case that reduces reliance on battered women's testimony in the aftermath of the *Crawford Decision,*
* Written policies, procedures, forms, and working agreements needed by CCRs to assure effective prosecution, and
* How to work with CCRs to identify problems in prosecution and define solutions that create long term change.