

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

Contact: Bob McGill/TF



Mailed March 16, 1981

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - For many, domestic violence is one of society's problems never to be confronted. But for others, domestic violence is much more than a problem. It is a crime.

In an attempt to cure the problems of arrest, bail release and issuance of civil and criminal temporary protection orders presented by the original Domestic Violence law, the Ohio Legislature has passed an amendment that takes effect on April 9, 1981.

The changes that amendment will bring, plus the problems of domestic violence, will be topics of a one-day seminar entitled "Domestic Violence and the Law" at Youngstown State University on Friday, March 27.

Sponsored by the Battered Persons Crisis Center in cooperation with the Youngstown Area United Way and YSU's Department of Continuing Education, the seminar will include discussion of the social, civil and criminal aspects of domestic violence with leaders in these fields as panelists.

Speakers will include Domestic Relations Judge June Galvin, Toledo, and Executive Deputy Chief James Bannon of the Detroit Police Department.

The workshop fee is \$16, which is tax-deductible. Registration for the seminar should be received by the YSU Department of Continuing Education by March 20. For further information, contact the Health and Human Services Program of Continuing Education at (216) 742-3359.

State Rep. David Hartley, one of the sponsors of the amendment on domestic violence, will also be a key speaker for the program. He will discuss the changes and legislative interpretation of the amendment.

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Judge Galvin will open the afternoon session and participants will discuss the Domestic Violence Act and its enforcement with other components in the justice system.

Other speakers include Attorney Scott Dewhirst, a Columbus prosecutor; Linda Lewis, a feminist therapist of the Family Counseling Center in Cleveland; and Attorney Robert Mapes of the Ohio Legal Services Association.

Other participating leaders will include Anita Smith, director of the Battered Persons Crisis Center, who will serve as moderator of a panel on the social aspects of domestic violence; Attorney Patricia Roberts, serving as moderator of discussion of the civil aspects of domestic violence; and Sheriff James Traffificant, moderator of a panel on the criminal aspects of domestic violence.

Area officials taking part include Mahoning County Domestic Relations Judge John J. Leskovyansky and Youngstown Municipal Court Judge Lloyd R. Haynes, Youngstown Prosecutor Gene Donofrio and Columbiana County Prosecutor David Tobin, Youngstown Police Chief Stanley Peterson, Youngstown attorney Thomas Zena, and Nancy Sefert, supervisor of emergency and ambulatory care at St. Elizabeth Medical Center.

The workshop will start at 9 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. Free parking will be available.

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NEWS BUREAU
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