



**Multi-Disciplinary Collaboration to  
Increase Access to Criminal Justice  
and Legal Services for Deaf Survivors  
of Domestic and Sexual Violence**

**November 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

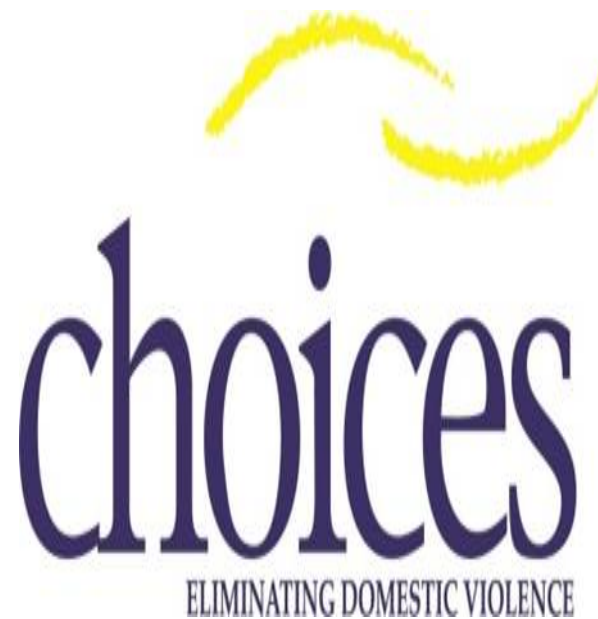


# Introduction and Roles

- ❖ **Stephanie Smith Bowman, CHOICES**
- ❖ **Kim Kidd, Columbus City Attorney,  
Domestic Violence & Stalking Unit**
- ❖ **Micaela Deming, Esq.**



# Columbus City Attorney, Domestic Violence & Stalking Unit





# Learning Objectives



- ❖ Strategies to use culturally empowering holistic screening process and unique elements of safety planning for Deaf survivors
- ❖ Unique legal issues that may emerge for Deaf survivors in civil and criminal court system
- ❖ Key elements for successful multi-disciplinary collaboration to empower Deaf survivors in accessing and navigating legal system



# Deaf Demographics

- ❖ NIH Statistics: 8.9 % overall hearing loss
- ❖ 10% of group being profoundly deaf
- ❖ 66,000 in Ohio
- ❖ 10,000 in Franklin County
- ❖ Columbus = 4<sup>th</sup> largest Deaf community





## Prevalence of Violence



- ❖ Between **50 % and 83 %** of Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals will experience domestic violence and/or sexual assault in their lifetime.
- ❖ (Anderson, 2010; Francavillo, 2009)



- ❖ Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals in their lifetimes are **1.3 times** more likely to be victims of:
  - ❖ Relationship violence
  - ❖ Psychological Abuse
  - ❖ Physical Abuse
  - ❖ Sexual Harassment
  - ❖ Sexual Assault/Rape
- ❖ (8 year survey at Rochester Institute of Technology by Laverne Mc Quiller Williams, et. al)

# AUDISM

- ❖ N: an attitude based on pathological thinking which results in a negative stigma toward anyone who does not hear; like racism or sexism, audism judges, labels, and limits individuals on the basis of whether a person hears and speaks. (Tom Humphries, unpublished essay, 1977)







## Impact of AUDISM: Access

❖ Deaf students get sexuality information more often from:

- ❖ 1). Friends (85 % vs. 67%)
- ❖ 2). Workshops (40% vs. 9%)
- ❖ 3). Posters (30 % vs. 18%)



❖ **7 times** more likely to learn from one another than formal educational resources.

❖ 25% awareness of sexuality information comparable to hearing peers' full knowledge.  
(Francavillo, 2009)

# Deaf Power and Control Wheel



- ❖ Male Privilege
- ❖ Hearing Privilege
- ❖ Language Access
- ❖ Isolation/Community standing
- ❖ Intimidation
- ❖ Coercion/Threats
- ❖ Economic Abuse
- ❖ Using Children

Deaf Hope, 2007



# Deaf Culture: Stalking tactics



What else do THEY use?



# Protection order challenges

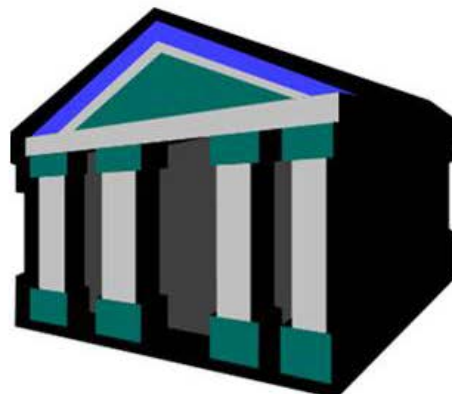
❖ What are the challenges for Deaf/Hoh survivors?





# Law enforcement issues

❖ What are the challenges for Deaf/Hoh survivors?





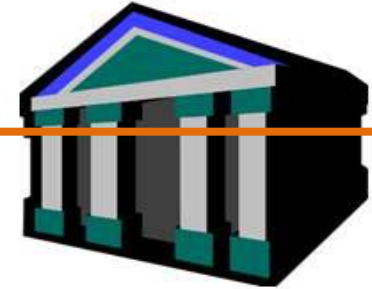
# Protection Order Considerations

- ❖ Phone Logs/Recorded calls as evidence
- ❖ Preserving texts and e-mails as evidence
- ❖ Safety Considerations for Deaf events
- ❖ Use of Expert to Explain Specific Evidence or Requests





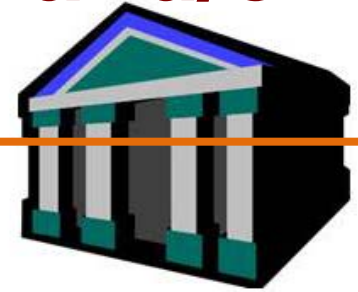
# Court Issues: Divorce and/or Custody



- ❖ Mental Health Assessments
- ❖ Police reports
- ❖ Children Services and Guardians Ad Litem
- ❖ Alimony/Spousal support, Child Support



# Court Issues: Divorce and/or Custody



- ❖ Financial resources and housing
- ❖ Employment/Disability
- ❖ Parenting Arrangements
- ❖ Attorney/Interpreter and the community

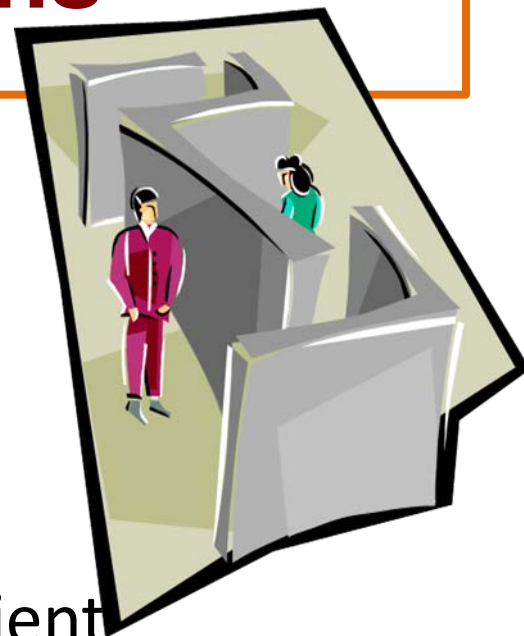






# Empowerment options

- ❖ Attorney and Experts
- ❖ Educating the Courts
- ❖ Systems Advocacy
- ❖ Advocate for the Client
- ❖ Preparation and Knowledge for the client





## Cultural considerations: Safety planning

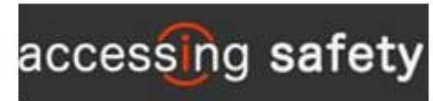
- ❖ Survivor's Cultural affiliation/support system
- ❖ Family cultural dynamics
- ❖ Knowledge/Access to Resources
- ❖ Trauma Informed Support Team






# National Resources

- [Accessing Safety Initiative](http://www.accessingsafety.org) available at <http://www.accessingsafety.org>
- Deaf **National DV Hotline** (ADWAS)
- 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
- 1-800-787-3224 (TTY)
- Videophone: 1-855-812-1001
- IM: DeafHotline
- Email: [deafhelp@thehotline.org](mailto:deafhelp@thehotline.org)
- [National Association of the Deaf](http://nad.org/)
- Available at <http://nad.org/>
- [VIOLENCE IN THE LIVES OF THE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING](http://www.vawnet.org/special-collections/?filterby=Deaf%20and%20Hard%20of%20Hearing) available at <http://www.vawnet.org/special-collections/?filterby=Deaf and Hard of Hearing>
- JDVNC Board of DirectorsCo-Presidents:  
Gabe Wright ([gabe@adwas.org](mailto:gabe@adwas.org)) and  
Stephanie Smith Bowman  
([ssmithbowman@yahoo.com](mailto:ssmithbowman@yahoo.com))





# Links for Materials and Regional Resources

- ❖ Jennifer Obinna article: [Study Reveals Unique Issues Faced by Deaf Victims of Sexual Assault](http://www.nij.gov/journals/257/deaf-victims.html) available at <http://www.nij.gov/journals/257/deaf-victims.html>
  - ❖ Gwendolyn Francavillo: [Sexuality education, sexual communication, rape myth acceptance, and sexual assault experience among Deaf and Hard of Hearing college students](http://udini.proquest.com/view/sexuality-education-sexual-pqid:1975269571/) available at <http://udini.proquest.com/view/sexuality-education-sexual-pqid:1975269571/>
  - ❖ VAWNET Special Collections: [A to Z Interactions with Deaf](http://new.vawnet.org/Assoc_Files_VAWnet/DeafAtoZ.pdf) available at [http://new.vawnet.org/Assoc\\_Files\\_VAWnet/DeafAtoZ.pdf](http://new.vawnet.org/Assoc_Files_VAWnet/DeafAtoZ.pdf)
  - ❖ [Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services \(ADWAS\)](http://www.adwas.org/) available at <http://www.adwas.org/>
  - ❖ Deaf advocacy agencies: [ADWAS Community Links](http://www.adwas.org/information/links/) available at <http://www.adwas.org/information/links/>
  - ❖ Contact JDVNC Co-Presidents and NDVH Deaf Hotline for updates
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# Action Steps

❖ What can YOU do?





## Contact information

❖ **Micaela Deming**

❖ **Email: [MDemingEsq@gmail.com](mailto:MDemingEsq@gmail.com)**

❖ **Kim Kidd**

❖ **Email: [KAKidd@columbus.gov](mailto:KAKidd@columbus.gov)**

❖ **Stephanie Smith Bowman**

❖ **Email: [SBowman@choicescolumbus.org](mailto:SBowman@choicescolumbus.org)**