



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

The National Prevention Toolkit on Officer-Involved Domestic Violence

National Practical Prevention Tips – Volume 1, Number 1

From: Karen Oehme, J.D., Director
National Prevention Toolkit on Officer-Involved Domestic Violence

To: All Criminal Justice Agency Leadership

Date: June 2014

[The National Prevention Toolkit on Officer-Involved Domestic Violence](#) is a project of the Law Enforcement Families Partnership at the Institute for Family Violence Studies within Florida State University's College of Social Work. The Toolkit is part of a broad-based effort to prevent violence in the homes of criminal justice families and to support healthy families, agencies, and communities.

The goals of this project are to:

- Educate officers about the dynamics and impact of officer-involved domestic violence,
- Support a law enforcement culture that prioritizes prevention efforts and officer/family wellness and also disapproves of officer-committed domestic violence,
- Encourage officers to ask for help when they need it before violence occurs, and
- Disseminate a multimedia campaign reinforcing the message: *"Preventing Violence Begins at Home."*

Early successes of this project are evident:

- Agencies from every state in the country have expressed interest in this training
- The training has been seen by more than 10,000 officers already in 2014

Consider implementing these Practical Prevention Tips as ongoing strategies to protect and serve your officers. If you and or your agency have not completed this free training, please have your officers do so. Contact us to learn more about how your officers can participate in this valuable risk-management training.

Preventing Violence Begins at Home.

<http://nationaltoolkit.csw.fsu.edu>

Practical Prevention Tips – Volume 1, Number 1

1. **Leadership sets the tone.** Officers tell us that the agency head – Chief, Sheriff, etc. – sets the tone for the entire agency. If you take domestic violence seriously, your officers will too. When we hear feedback from local agencies, often it is because the chief, sheriff, warden, or other administrative leader is committed to ensuring that his/her officers are educated on the issue of officer-involved domestic violence. When the agency head is committed to excellence, his/her officers are also committed to excellence.

Action Step – **The agency head should make sure to take the training first and speak to officers about the information in the training regularly.** Make sure that all senior officers/superiors complete the trainings and are speaking about it as well.

2. At the next department/agency meeting, **remind all officers that your agency is part of a national effort to prevent officer-involved domestic violence.** Agencies like yours were involved in the development of this training and the resources that are freely available.

Action Step – **Set a date for all officers to complete the first training module.** The agency head should send reminders to officers when the date for completing the first training is drawing near. This reminder should stress the importance of the training to the department's credibility and should include a personal statement from the agency head.

3. **Encourage help seeking.** Agency heads should encourage officers to seek help – physical, emotional, or mental health – when they need it.

Action Step – **The agency head should create a list of local counseling agencies that police officers can utilize.** Hand this list out to each officer, post it in a visible place in the department, and refer to it in meetings. Officers will begin to understand the importance this issue has on the agency.

Contact us for information and instructions on how to access the [National Prevention Toolkit on Officer-Involved Domestic Violence](#).

Karen Oehme, J.D., Director
koehme@fsu.edu
850.644.6303

Zachary Summerlin
zsummerlin@fsu.edu
850.644.1715

Preventing Violence Begins at Home.
<http://nationaltoolkit.csw.fsu.edu>