

Internet Crimes against Children and in Domestic Violence Setting

Instructor: Melissa Hoppmeyer

Melissa Hoppmeyer is the current Chief of the Special Victims and Family Violence Unit in Prince George's County, the second largest State's Attorney's Office in Maryland. She is an experienced prosecutor with a decade of experience, who has made her career tirelessly advocating for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Ms. Hoppmeyer has assisted in drafting numerous legislative bills and has testified before the Maryland General Assembly on numerous occasions to help implement stronger criminal laws for crimes of violence and to ensure that domestic violence and sexual assault victims are treated fairly throughout the civil and criminal judicial system. This includes most recently, during the 2020 Maryland legislative session lobbying, advocating, editing and testifying on behalf of a change to the first-degree assault statute, in order to make strangulation a first degree assault, a felony under Maryland law. This change allowed Maryland to join the 48 other states that categorize strangulation as a felony. Ms. Hoppmeyer also serves as a technical trainer for law enforcement, fellow prosecutors and the community on issues including consent education, sexual assault laws, child abuse investigations and prosecutions, domestic violence, criminal procedure, and how to properly conduct trauma -focused investigations. Ms. Hoppmeyer has trained around the state of Maryland as well as most recently presenting for a National Conference on Sexual Violence on college campuses. Ms. Hoppmeyer has developed, drafted and implemented policies within the State's Attorney's Office that provide clear guidelines for how the unit operates, creating an 800-page unit manual that includes operating procedures, sample motions, draft memos as well as highlighting important case law and statutes specifically aimed for the unit. She and Ms. Marsh have also developed processes to address high risk cases. Specifically, developing a High Risk and High Lethality Protocol for all domestic violence cases. Ms. Hoppmeyer also successfully developed a County-wide strangulation protocol that created a unified response to strangulation events and increased successful prosecution of strangulation cases in the office. Ms. Hoppmeyer works as an integral part of the Multi-Discipline team working to obtain accreditation for Prince George's County's Child Advocacy Center.

Course Objectives:

This is a 3-day course provides professionals an overview of the nature of co-occurring crimes that should be identified and investigated in the context of interpersonal violence.

These crimes can be difficult to investigating because of a lack of training and understanding regarding the dynamics involved. They are also difficult and sometimes frustrating to maintain victim engagement in the process of the investigation.

This course is designed for professionals and service providers who work with victim and offenders. The goal of the course is to provide participates additional tools to strengthen keeping victims safe and holding offenders accountable.

Course topics:

- Understanding Victim and Offender realities
- Identifying the Impact of trauma on victim response
- Defining strangulation, signs, and symptoms
- Defining Stalking, dynamics and behaviors
- Recognize the intersection of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking with other crimes
- Apply strategies for working with victims of Interpersonal Violence Crimes
- Accurate report writing skills in IPV crimes

Day 1

8:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m. Registration
 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Intimate Partner Violence Primary Aggressor through Homicides
 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Search Warrants
 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. Lunch (On Your Own)
 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Reports and Documenting the Scene
 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Hidden Camera and Domestic Violence—Power and Control at Work

Day 2

9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Child Pornography and Child Abuse in Domestic Violence Context
 10:00 a.m.-11:00a.m. Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking
 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Revenge Porn and Domestic Violence
 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. Lunch (On Your Own)
 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Trauma Informed Investigations, MDTs and Service Providers
 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking
 4:00 p.m.-5:00p.m. Case Study and Courtroom Preparation
 5:00 p.m. Certificate Presentation

