



The Missouri Office of Prosecution Services,
The Henry County Sheriff's Office
&
The Henry County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

present

The Investigation and Prosecution of Family Violence Cases & Determining the Dominant Aggressor In Family Violence Cases

February 4, 2026

8:00 AM to 12 PM

&

1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Free of charge to Prosecutors, Law Enforcement, Victim Advocates, Children's Division, Probation and Parole, Juvenile Office, Adult Protective Services, Health Professionals, Department of Mental Health and Advocacy Center Staff. Other Similar Allied Professionals must obtain prior approval for attendance from Conference Organizers.

**Benson Convention Center
1008 East Sedalia
Clinton, MO 64735**

PLEASE NOTE Persons needing special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act should notify MOPS at catherine.vannier@prosecutors.mo.gov or (573) 644-2409 on or before January 9, 2026.

Handouts will be sent to all registered participants in a web link a few days prior to class.

**To Register Go To The Link Listed on Page 2
Please be sure to specify if you will be attending the
AM class (Inv & Pros), the PM class (DDA) or both.**

The Investigation & Prosecution of Family Violence Cases

8 AM to 12 PM

This basic course includes the elemental dynamics of family violence and suggestions for conducting family violence investigations, as they relate to evidence based prosecution. The course further covers Missouri law as it applies to family violence cases, touching on current case law as it relates to evidence based prosecution and investigation, and offering ideas for aggressive & fair charging in family violence cases. The course aims at assisting prosecutors and law enforcement officers in responding to family violence calls and successfully prosecuting family violence cases. While using case studies as examples, this course covers a myriad of issues for all professionals responding to child abuse and family violence.

The course is certified for 2 hours of POST Continuing Education Legal credits & 2 hours Interpersonal Credit by the Missouri Department of Public Safety POST program or 4 hours of CLE by the Missouri Bar.

Determining the Dominant Aggressor in Family Violence Cases

1 PM to 5 PM

This afternoon course begins with a firsthand account of Albert Grieve, an attorney and former law enforcement officer who grew up in an abusive home. Albert will share the overlapping dynamics of child abuse, sexual abuse and family violence, including the various aspects of coercive control which affect the systems response. He highlights the importance of an accurate determination of the dominant aggressor, nuances to watch for, while covering interview tactics, and emphasizing the positive and negative impacts of both intervention and missed opportunities to intervene.

The balance of the afternoon includes more on the dynamic of family violence, exploring why true victims might report using force and additional aspects to assist in making a determination of the relevant context and the dominant aggressor in an abusive relationship, as well as outlining basic Missouri laws in determining valid claims of self defense/ primary aggressor. This course also offers more refined nuances & tools to shed light on these difficult cases.

The course is certified for 2 hours of POST Continuing Education Legal credits & 2 hours Interpersonal Credit by the Missouri Department of Public Safety POST program or 4 hours of CLE by the Missouri Bar.

TO REGISTER FOR THIS CLASS GO TO THE LINK LISTED BELOW

Space is limited, **please copy and paste the registration link into your browser** in order to reserve your spot before **January 29, 2026**.

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/7knmrmw>

If you have difficulty with the link, please go to our training page at prosecutors.mo.gov-

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/7knmrmw>

Please email catherine.vannier@prosecutors.mo.gov with questions or concerns. Email is often easier but if you need to call, my direct phone number is 573 644 2409.

Please distribute electronically

The Investigation and Prosecution of Family Violence Cases

8 AM to 12 PM

Agenda

HOUR 1:

Safety & Lethality Concerns and the requirements of Sections 455.080 & 455.085 and Why Do They Stay or Go Back?

HOUR 2:

More on the Dynamics of Family Violence, and the Generational Impact of cyclical abuse.

HOUR 3:

The components of Evidence Based Prosecution & what a prosecutor needs in order to proceed without the victim's cooperation.

HOUR 4:

Proof, elements, documentation and suggestions for the most effective charging decisions.

Determining the Dominant Aggressor

1 PM to 5 PM

Agenda

HOURS 1 & 2: Survivor's Story

Learning from missed opportunities to shape future investigations and intervention; assessing the impact of trauma bonding on investigations and exploring ways to prevent victimization. Albert shares his story of survival of child abuse and domestic violence, offering lessons learned and suggestions for future success in all types of special victims investigations.

HOURS 3 & 4:

The definition of mutual combat. Understanding the history of mandatory arrest, scene manipulation and the signs of coercive control. Dual v. single arrests & questions to ask. The requirements of Section 455.085 & what is self defense? Lethality factors and additional ways to look beyond the obvious to protect true victims & hold dangerous offenders accountable.

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About the Presenters

Catherine Vannier

Catherine Vannier is the Special Victims Resource Prosecutor for the Missouri Office of Prosecution Services (MOPS). Over more than 18 years, Catherine has developed and expanded the MOPS Special Victims' Program to assist and train thousands of justice professionals. Prior to coming to MOPS, Catherine had 11 years of experience prosecuting criminal cases full time.

Catherine serves as an appointed member of the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking as well as the Supreme Court's Commission on Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking and the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children. Catherine also co-chairs the Supreme Court Commission's Lethality & Risk Assessment Subgroup. Catherine also leads the Missouri Elder Abuse & Financial Exploitation Response Coordination Team. In addition, to these duties, Catherine staffs the the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorney's Best Practices Initiative Special Victims' Subcommittee. Catherine has served on a number of other groups, including the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children, co-chairing the Task Force's Multi-Disciplinary Team Best Practices Working Group. She has also participated in the Department of Public Safety's Cyber Crimes Advisory Group, the State Child Fatality Review Panel, the Sexual Assault Response Working Group, the Department of Public Safety's STOP Implementation Group, the Missouri Victim's Assistance Network's Board of Directors.

Albert Grieve

Albert Grieve is a licensed attorney and currently practices as a Guardian ad Litem, advocating for children in the court system. From 2018 to 2020, Albert Grieve was the Legal Aspects Trainer for the Children's Division of Missouri's Department of Social Services. During that time, Albert also served as a Board Member of the Rainbow House Child Advocacy Center.

Prior to his work at the Children's Division, Albert was a litigation attorney for the Division of Legal Services, Department of Social Services. Albert was a commissioned law enforcement officer with the Jefferson City Police Department for approximately 4 years before attending law school at the St. Louis University School of Law.

Having grown up in an abusive home, Albert's is an incredible success story of perseverance and resilience. Albert is dedicated to making a better world for children and survivors. As such, Albert currently works as a Guardian ad Litem in mid-Missouri.

Albert lives in Central Missouri with his wife and three children. In his free time, he runs marathons and enjoys gaming.