



Sharen Wilson, Criminal District Attorney

cda.tarrantcounty.com

The Docket

SPRING 2017



April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Recent statistics show an average of 5 children die every day in the United States from abuse or neglect, and it is an unfortunate reality that we must consider hundreds of cases relating to child abuse, be it physical or sexual, or fatalities each year in this office. As prosecutor Melinda Westmoreland said in a recent trial, "the most innocent victim you will ever have is a child."

An Update from Your CDA

Our Special Victims Unit specializes in the prosecution of crimes against Tarrant County's most vulnerable citizens: children, the elderly and persons with disabilities. SVU prosecutors and Investigators are selected for their ability to handle the highly sensitive and technical nature of these cases, and undergo additional ongoing training in how to best manage the special challenges of child victims and witnesses. SVU team members also work in close alliance with the local law enforcement units dedicated to crimes against children (often referred to as "CACU"), whose investigation of these cases is critical to the successful prosecution of child abusers.

Also assisting our SVU prosecutors and Investigators are our highly trained Victim Advocates, assigned in each case to provide assistance to the victim and their family in negotiating the lengthy judicial process. And, since January of last year, we've been able to provide these children the comforting presence of Brady, our CDA emotional support canine.

We will continue to work in regular partnership with law enforcement, hospitals, schools and non-profits like Alliance for Children to educate the public on the signs child abuse may be taking place, to assist the victims of this abuse, and to investigate, arrest and prosecute the offenders. If you suspect that a child is being abused, SAY SOMETHING. Help is available.

With best wishes,

To report suspected abuse, please contact:

Your local Police Department: 911

Alliance for Children: 817.335.7172

Criminal District Attorney's Office: 817.884.1400



CDA Wilson and prosecutors, investigators and staff from our Special Victims unit join our community partners from Alliance for Children for a Commissioners' Court proclamation in honor of National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Brady, our emotional support canine for victims, helps to raise awareness for child abuse prevention the day of the Commissioners' Court proclamation.



Did You Know?

On March 31st, CDA Wilson co-hosted the North Texas Crime Commission Symposium on Health Care Cyber Security. The day-long event brought together regional leaders in law enforcement, cyber security and the medical field to discuss the critical importance of maintaining the security of citizens' personal medical information from hackers.

The mission of our office is to enhance public safety through rigorous enforcement of criminal and civil laws in an ethical, honest and just manner; to encourage rehabilitation for deserving offenders; to earn the public's trust by setting an example of transparency in our dealings; and to assist and educate victims of crime and other members of the public.

Citizen Prosecutors Academy

Have you ever wondered about the inside workings of the Criminal District Attorney's Office? The 2017 Citizen Prosecutor Academy (CPA) is an 11-week program designed to give citizens an in-depth understanding of the criminal justice system in Tarrant County.

With our Assistant Criminal District Attorneys and Investigators as instructors, participants review each step of the prosecutorial process to gain an insider's perspective on how the system works. This will be the program's second year, following an extremely successful inaugural run in 2016. CPA class topics include:

- Grand Jury
- Trial Preparation
- Gang
- Mental Health
- Digital Forensics
- Special Victims
- White Collar Crime
- Conviction Integrity

Beginning September 7, 2017, classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30 pm at the Tim Curry Criminal Justice Center. Graduation will be on Thursday, November 16th. Our office will be accepting applications for the 2017 academy from now until August 10th. For more information on the Citizen Prosecutor Academy, please visit our website at cda.tarrantcounty.com, or contact our Community Outreach Coordinator, Amy Bearden at AHBearden@tarrantcountytx.gov.



Members of the 2016 Citizen Prosecutor Academy class with CDA Wilson.

Spring "No Refusal"

During these periods, drivers pulled over for suspicion of DWI will be required by court order to submit to a blood test.

Cinco de Mayo

9:30pm, Friday, May 5 until
5:30am, Monday, May 8

Memorial Day Weekend

9:30pm, Friday, May 26 until
5:30am, Monday, May 30

Recent Cases of Note

The State of Texas v. Patricia Flores

Flores pled guilty to the Murder of her 2 year-old grandson, Lyfe Flores. Jurors learned how in punishment for a toilet-training accident Flores held her grandson down in boiling hot water, creating third degree burns on his legs, hands, buttocks and genitals, and then refused to seek medical care while he suffered at home for six days. He eventually developed stomach ulcers from the pain so severe they ultimately caused his death. In addition to his burns, Lyfe also had his two front teeth knocked out and showed multiple bruises and scratches on his small body. Doctors estimated that if Flores had taken Lyfe to the hospital for his burns immediately, he had a 99% chance of survival.

Sentence: 57.5 years in prison

Prosecutors: Kelly Meador, Melinda Westmoreland
CDA Investigator: Brent Ezelle
CDA Victim Advocate: Laura Flores
Haltom City Police Department:
Cpl. Tony Miller, Ofc. Heather Hudson

The State of Texas v. Ghufuran Zafar

In this case of Intimate Partner Violence, Ghufuran Zafar was found guilty of the Murder of his wife, Asma, who he shot in front of their young children. Testimony detailed numerous allegations of control and abuse in the relationship, including him regularly searching her cellphone for calls or texts, setting the home's security system during the day so he would be alerted if she left the house and physically assaulting her while she was pregnant. Asma was on the phone with 911 during their altercation the night of the murder, and the call is disconnected just before it is believed he shot her in the forehead. He initially fled the scene with the couple's youngest child, but was captured by police while driving past the home later that night.

Sentence: Life in Prison

Prosecutors: Kevin Boneberg, Ashlea Deener
CDA Investigator: Don Pilcher
CDA Victim Advocate: Gabriela Lepe
Arlington Police Department: Det. Steve Griesbach



Our elder fraud investigators will be on hand at this year's Senior Synergy on May 4th! For more information, please check out: <https://www.facebook.com/SeniorSynergyExpo/> or <http://access.tarrantcounty.com/>