


MADLENE SINGAL
DISTRICT ATTORNEY



14th Annual NYC Elder Abuse Conference
The New School
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Workshop #13

RAPID FIRE: *Elder Justice Initiatives*

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What can we do to better assist vulnerable adult victims and stop the abuse?

Here are some initiatives that will definitely work! They did for me!

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS?

- Victim Advocates?
- Social Services?
- Law enforcement?
- Prosecutors?
- Medical?
- Elder Law Attorney?

ARE YOUR GOALS THE SAME?

- Victim safety
- Offender accountability
- Treatment for the offender [to hopefully prevent future abuse]
- Services for the victim and her family [so she doesn't need to rely on the abuser]
- Obtaining Orders of Protection
- Making the victim whole again [restitution?]
- Community safety / crime prevention
- Evidence recovery

Communication between you and other disciplines...

- Referral process?
 - Unique to each discipline
 - Based on resources
 - Based on how the office is set up
 - Create an easy or easier process for referrals between professionals in your community
 - Start with a call to discuss?
 - Designate a "point person" or "liaison" at each discipline?
- Sharing information?
 - What can you legally share? What do you *want* to share??
 - Remember—the goal is to help victim
 - Know the law—speak with your legal department!

Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Team a.k.a. "MDT"

- Popping up all over the country
- All NYC counties now have one
- Westchester has one
- Nassau County too
- Suffolk will have one soon
- Good place to refer a complex case where multiple agencies are involved trying to stop the abuse but unable to do so.
 - Gets all disciplines in the same room
 - Brainstorming
 - Good resource to find elder abuse social workers, geriatricians & geropsychiatrists or other professionals who can help!

WHAT ELSE?

- Host regular elder abuse task force meetings
- Host an elder abuse conference for your community
- Look for grants—they are out there!
- Conduct training for outside disciplines and seniors
- Make sure **YOU and YOUR STAFF** know who to call for assistance!
 - **NETWORK!!**
- Make sure **YOU and YOUR STAFF** get training on identifying red flags of elder abuse and how to handle the cases: Hospitals; medical offices; law enforcement; courts; attorneys; social service providers; everyone!
 - **Build up your knowledge and expertise!**

Speaking of building up your expertise...

- Elder Abuse Court Calendar
- Family Court Remote Access TOP Program for seniors
- Elder Abuse Forensic ER
- FYI: MDT and Task Force members learn more and more about elder abuse from each meeting.

These cases aren't easy...

And we can't do it alone.
Communication is key!