

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Webinar and Q&A

Turning Frustration into Fuel: Unified Solutions for Domestic Violence Intervention

October 22, 2024
12 - 1:30 PM
Microsoft Teams



Register

Learning Agenda

- History of law enforcement response to domestic violence
- Key factors during investigations
- Weaknesses of the traditional law enforcement response
- Frustrations experienced by allied professionals
- Strategies offenders use to exploit gaps in the criminal justice system



John Guard

Chief Deputy with the Pitt
County Sheriff's Office,
Greenville, NC

John Guard is the Chief Deputy with the Pitt County Sheriff's Office in Greenville, North Carolina, with over 32 years of experience, including line level response, investigative response, first and second level supervision, and agency management. He specializes in investigating domestic violence cases and has been instrumental in developing policies and procedures related to domestic violence response in Pitt County and North Carolina. Legislators and victim advocates have consulted Chief Guard on state legislation for domestic violence response, including House Bill 1354, which granted powers of arrest to law enforcement for violation of pretrial release, mandated law enforcement training, and elevated strangulation to a felony crime, and Senate Bill 919, which provides stronger firearm removal provisions for offenders who are subject to a domestic violence protection order.

Chief Guard has implemented several innovative programs designed to increase victim safety and offender accountability. After the Crawford v. Washington Supreme Court decision, which reformulated the standard for determining when hearsay statements can be admitted in criminal cases, he changed the investigative practices of the Pitt County Sheriff's Office to include the use of electronic monitoring for domestic violence offenders, increase focus on witness intimidation in intimate partner violence, and utilize the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) for all domestic violence calls.

Chief Guard has trained law enforcement officers and allied professionals on domestic violence protocols, worked with victims as a law enforcement officer and a victim advocate, and educated the community on domestic violence. Many of his programs have been replicated by agencies across the country.

Chief Guard serves as the chair of the Pitt Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. He is a former chair of the Law Enforcement Policy Committee of the North Carolina Domestic Violence Commission, and a former executive board president of the North Carolina Victim's Assistance Network. He has participated in local, state, and federal focus groups that examined the impact of domestic violence on society. He has received numerous awards for his efforts related to domestic violence prevention, including from the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the North Carolina Victims Assistance Network, the Sunshine Lady Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Justice - Office for Victims of Crime.