



**For Immediate Release**

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**June 5, 2006**

**MADIGAN: VICTIM ASSISTANCE ACADEMY BUILDS ON SUCCESS  
OF STATEWIDE TRAINING FOR CRIME VICTIM SERVICE  
PROVIDERS**

***MORE THAN 50 REGISTERED FOR SECOND ACADEMY TRAINING  
IN NORMAL, IL***

Chicago — Following up on last year’s successful training, Attorney General Lisa Madigan will host crime victim advocates, criminal justice professionals and social service providers this week at the second Illinois Victim Assistance Academy (IVAA) on the campus of Illinois State University in Normal.

More than 50 people are registered to participate in the intensive, week-long training designed to improve the quality and consistency of victim services across Illinois. All sessions will be held June 5-9 at the University’s Bone Student Center. The IVAA is co-hosted by Illinois State University and the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

“The IVAA Steering Committee and faculty have created an outstanding agenda of educational sessions,” Madigan said. “Based on feedback from last year’s participants, this year’s IVAA will feature more hands-on activities and presentations that will focus on developing practical skills in working with victims of crime to provide them with a high caliber of services.”

Madigan said Illinois is now joined by 17 other states in establishing and institutionalizing state academies to provide crucial training. Since 1995, academies such as Illinois’ have been funded by the federal Office for Victims of Crime (OVC).

By week’s end, Madigan expects that 55 “graduates” of the second IVAA will find their prior experience as a crime victim service workers enriched by training sessions that will focus on, among other topics, homicide issues, methamphetamine and drug endangered children issues, workplace violence and strategies to better educate the public on the issues faced by crime victims and the services available to them.

“It was gratifying to see newspapers from Freeport to Centralia report on experiences gained by professionals from their area who attended last year’s first IVAA,” Madigan said.

Madigan has made providing assistance and information to crime victims a top priority, and has overseen the implementation of several new programs designed to improve the services available to crime victims in Illinois.

In October 2005, Madigan appointed the first Statewide Coordinator for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) to organize training programs across the state. Earlier this year, more than 100 Registered Nurses and other health care professionals joined members of law enforcement and rape victim advocates for a 40-hour Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) training during three sessions held in northern, central and southern Illinois. The training is the first step in becoming a certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, specially trained to care for sexual assault patients in the emergency room and collect evidence to hold sex offenders accountable for their crimes.

In addition, Madigan's Crime Victim Compensation Bureau has greatly decreased the amount of time it takes to investigate and process a crime victim's application for Crime Victim Compensation from an average of 270 days in 2002 to less than 90 days now. These improvements translate into victims being better able to pay bills related to the crime without having to deal with creditors.

Service providers and crime victims can find more information about Madigan's Crime Victims Services Division online at [www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov/victims/index.html](http://www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov/victims/index.html).

The following participants are scheduled to attend this year's Illinois Victim Assistance Academy:

**Adams County**

Laura Hessling  
Christine Pfeiffer  
Adams County Probation Office

**Champaign County**

Randy Davis  
Rantoul Police Department

**Cook County**

Carey Jane Atherton  
Palatine Police Department

**Douglas County**

Abbie Harriss  
Douglas County State's Attorney's Office

**Yvonne Afriyie**

Office of the Attorney General

**DuPage County**

Maryam Gilani  
Hamdard Center for Health & Human Services

**Richard Beatty**

Oak Forest Police Department

**Exzavier Lawson**

DuPage County State's Attorney's Office

**Twyla Blakely**

Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists

**Henry County**

Brenda Kopp  
Henry County State's Attorney's Office

**Lisa Boyd**

Crisis Center for South Suburbia

**Kane County**

Michelle Curry  
Marie Ferro

Mutual Ground, Inc.

Amanda Bruscano  
Rogers Park Community Council

Kelly Pashock  
Community Crisis Center

Marine Chaurize  
Elmwood Park Police Department

**Lake County**  
Kathleen Smith  
Mundelein Police Department

Julia Davis  
ISTEP Displaced Homemakers Program

**LaSalle County**  
Kelly Champlin  
LaSalle County Children's Advocacy  
Center

Bonita Ghess  
Circuit Court of Cook County-Juvenile  
Probation

**Logan County**  
Lisa Bobb  
POMC

Dawn Gorman-Kenny  
Orland Park Police Department

**Macoupin County**  
Andrea Cottrell  
Macoupin County State's Attorney's  
Office

Sylvia McCullum  
Circuit Court of Cook County-  
Children's Advocacy

**McHenry County**  
Sonya Bass  
Marengo Police

Monica Pachicano  
Chicago Children's Advocacy Center

Lynn Coit  
McHenry County State's Attorney's  
Office

Kristen Sterba  
Children's Advocacy Center of SW  
Cook County

Diane Mains  
Alliance Against Intoxicated  
Motorists

Sandy Ziesak  
Palatine Police Department

Sara Signor  
Child Advocacy Center of McHenry  
County

**McLean County**  
Jodi Ellsworth  
McLean County State's Attorney's  
Office

**Montgomery County**  
Julia Spinner  
Montgomery County State's  
Attorney's Office

Kathleen Patterson  
McLean County Children's Advocacy  
Center

**Saline County**  
Mona Nelson  
Saline County State's Attorney's  
Office

Cari Sherman  
McLean County YWCA-Stepping  
Stones

Susan Thomas  
Children's Advocacy Center of  
Bloomington

**Peoria County**

Beth Bernard  
Peoria County Sheriff's Office

Melissa Slama  
Center for Prevention of Abuse

**St. Clair County**

Penny Eplin  
Violence Prevention Center

Carol Kueker  
Violence Prevention Center of SW  
Illinois

Rachel Sadler  
St. Clair County Child Advocacy Center

**White County**

Julie Lucas  
White County State's Attorney's Office

**Will County**

Thomas Bahar  
Will County State's Attorney's Office

Melissa Brown  
Village of Bolingbrook

Aurena Davis  
New Lenox Police Department

Barbara Ficarello  
Will County Child Advocacy Center

**Sangamon County**

Chuck Eguez  
Prisoner Review Board

Katherine Seketa-Stefancic  
IL Department on Aging-Office of  
Elder Rights

**Vermilion County**

Beth Morrison  
Catholic Charities

**Wabash County**

Phyllis Blair  
Wabash County State's Attorney's  
Office

**Whiteside County**

Allan Johnson  
Whiteside County State's Attorney's  
Office

**Williamson County**

Kelly Stroh  
Williamson County CAC

**Winnebago County**

Dorsey Thompson  
Rockford Police Department