

California's Justice System Performs Abysmally

By: DAVID KRAVETS - Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — California's justice system performs abysmally when it comes to handling domestic violence cases, even allowing abusers to own firearms, which is prohibited by law, according to a state report issued this month.

The report, "Local Criminal Justice Response to Domestic Violence," commissioned by Attorney General Bill Lockyer, is an indictment of the legal system. Among its findings: restraining orders are not enforced or served because there is no protocol for doing so, mandatory education programs for offenders are not carried out, and counties are failing to add the names of domestic violence abusers prohibited from possessing firearms to a weapons database.

"The laws on the books ... need to be implemented and enforced," Lockyer said during a news conference here. "System fatigue is not a valid excuse."

(Continued on page 2)

Legislative Watch

PCA CA's Web Favorites

By Eileen Hlavka & Scott Moak
Prevent Child Abuse California

With California's Budget now signed and summer recess underway, please enjoy this compilation of websites that we commonly use to track public policy and legislative news.

Keeping Up with Daily Policy News - www.rumble.com - This website provides a daily snapshot of California public policy and politics by linking to relevant breaking news from newspapers across the state and country. Many people in the policy arena use this website daily to keep their eye on legislative and policy issues.

Another Daily Look Inside California - www.capitolaudit.com - As with rumble.com, perusing this website is a way to stay up to date regarding public policy and politics in California. Capitol Audit is a smaller site but has more links, including the news sources it draws upon.

Deeper Coverage of the State Political Scene - www.aroundthecapitol.com - This growing newspaper and website seeks to become the premier California political news source, especially for policy wonks. It has added edgy articles on breaking news and analysis of political battles and maintains its coverage of the state employment scene.

(Continued on page 2)

Issue

13

August 2005



Training Spotlight

25th Annual California SIDS Fall Conference

October 26, 2005 - 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
CA Department of Health Services,
East End Conference Center, Sacramento, CA

Presenters: Dr. Thomas Keens & Dr. Christina Stanley

A one day event for SIDS parents, family members, childcare providers and others impacted by a sudden, unexpected infant death. Caring professionals and paraprofessionals involved with SIDS are also encouraged to attend.

For more information:

Call 800-369-7437 or Email at info@californiasids.com

Website: www.californiasids.com

Case Management Practice Achieving Effective Process with Families

August 24-25, 2005

Sutter Lakeside Community Services
Lakeport, CA

This training covers the principles, practices, and issues in case management, including assessment of and service to families in the least restrictive, most strength-based and most cost effective family support settings.

Registration deadline: August 17, 2005. For information call Jody Hall-Winget at (530) 872-3896.

Workshop Presented by: Strategies

Special Announcement

The KWIDS CAN Council, the Los Angeles County based child abuse council for children with disabilities, is coordinating a special event on September 29, 2005. The event from 9:00am-3:00pm will be held at the Museum of Tolerance in Beverly Hills. The event includes an exclusive tour of the museum, interactive discussion with Museum Director Ms. Liebe Geft, and a luncheon. To sign up, simply send your email request to nora@disability-abuse.com with "reservation for MOT tour" in the subject line. Space is limited, so be sure to reserve your spot quickly. Costs for the tour and luncheon will be determined prior to the date. Take advantage of this special opportunity to visit the Museum and share time with members of the KWIDS CAN Council~ a loving group of individuals whose life work is to assure a safe life for our children, and particularly, our children who have disabilities.



FLASH! Prevent Child Abuse America is holding their 2006 **National Conference** at the Town & Country Resort in San Diego, California, May 21- 24. They are calling for proposals to present at the conference and welcome diversity from individuals and organizations in the field of Child Abuse and Neglect. They

anticipate having over 1,300 attendees. For more information on presenting or attending please go to:

www.preventchildabuse.org/ConferenceEvents/conference.html

Deadline for submission to present is September 30, 2005.

Legislative Watch (continued from page 1)

More Capitol, Legislative & Political News and Info - www.aroundthecapitol.com - This site has several sections which link to newspaper news, blogs and editorials. Provides a paragraph summary of an issue and includes current coverage regarding elections and election financing.

Politics from the Sacramento Bee - www.capitolalert.com - The Sacramento Bee's political section.

How the State Budget Impacts Lives - www.cbp.org - The California Budget Project provides online reports analyzing state fiscal policy with an eye to improving the lives of low and middle-income Californians.

How Taxes Reflect Fairness, Or Don't - www.caltaxreform.org - The California Tax Reform Association's reports (and lobbying efforts) bring a progressive focus on social equity to the tax side of the budget equation.

Public Policy's Underlying Issues - www.ppuc.org - The Public Policy Institute of California is another non-profit that works to improve public policy by analyzing a wide variety of public policy issues. One of its recent reports discusses the current state of federal child care grants to California.

Looking Ahead - Voter Information - www.smartvoter.org - Smart Voter is a nonpartisan website hosted by the League of Women Voters. You can access each of California's legislators's personal websites, which typically include news about bills they support/oppose and district information.

Reaching Legislation and Legislators directly - www.leginfo.ca.gov - One of PCACA's most-used sites, this is the official online legislation information source. You can also access each of California's legislator's personal websites, which typically include news about bills they support/oppose and district information.

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It only takes a minute

To order

email:

jcarlile@thecapcenter.org



Blue Bracelets

PCA CA Web Tip of the Month: Have you ever found yourself rummaging through resource binders, surfing the web, or reviewing old rosters in search of that Non-Profit Organization that you need to reach? Well look no more...simply click on <http://www.melissadata.com/lookups/Np.asp>, type in the zip code where the non-profit is located, and...YOU FOUND IT!!!

California's Justice System (continued from page 1)

In some counties, as many as 50 percent of all domestic violence restraining orders issued are not served on the abuser, invalidating the order, the report said.

Chief Justice Ronald George blamed part of the problem on court system employees untrained in the law. Next month, George said, thousands of workers will receive Internet training about restraining orders and the state weapons database, among other things.

In Mono County, the worst violator, more than 52 percent of all domestic violence convictions did not find their way into the weapons database. Lake County was 33 percent. In the larger counties, San Francisco was 16.6 percent; Kern 16.1 percent and Santa Barbara 14.3 percent.

"It was not possible to conclude whether the courts in these counties had failed to include firearm restrictions in their orders, or whether the recording agency, usually law enforcement, had entered the data incorrectly," the report said.

George pledged the report "will not gather dust."

Most of the findings were based on a review of 10 counties — Humboldt, Orange, Placer, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Solano and Tulare. Other figures included all or most of the 58 counties.

The report noted in 2003 in California, there were 48,854 domestic violence arrests — 80 percent of offenders were men. Police that year received 194,288 calls about suspected domestic violence, more than half involving weapons.

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**Would you like to buy a license plate
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Call *1-800-HEY-KIDS!***

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United Way to Invest \$1.8 Million in Community Impact Initiatives

Sacramento, CA- United Way California Capital Region (UWCCR) announced that it will make \$1.8 million in grants during fiscal 2005-06 to 32 nonprofit agencies working on five Signature Projects that address high-priority health and human services needs in a five-county region.

The following are the five Signature Projects and the agency partners involved for fiscal 2005-06:

Education Impact Council/Turning Teens Toward Success (\$500,000). The initiative focuses on getting at-risk teens back in school and out of trouble by engaging them in community projects they devise and direct. Partners in this initiative include Boys and Girls Club of Auburn, Boys and Girls Club of El Dorado County, Boys and Girls Club of Sacramento, Center for Fathers and Families, Health Education Council, La Familia Counseling Center, LEED Sacramento- Youth Services Provider Network (YSPN), New Morning Youth and Family Services, PEACE for Families, Sacramento's Children's Home, Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center.

Health Impact Council/Coverage for Kids (\$373,500). The initiative focuses on helping children with health care insurance enrollment assistance. Partners in this initiative include Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency, Child Abuse Prevention Council-Placer County, Regional Children's Health Project and Yolo Family Resource Center.



**PCA CA
Artist
of the Month**

**Nathan, 2nd Grade,
Lakeport Elementary**

Safety Impact Council/Keeping Kids Safe (\$400,000). The initiative focuses on child abuse prevention. Partners in this initiative include Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency, Child Abuse Prevention Council-Placer County, FamiliesFirst, New Morning Youth and Family Services, Sacramento Children's Home - Crisis Nursery, Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center, and Yolo Family Service Agency.

Safety Impact Council/Securing Safe Shelter (\$100,000). The initiative focuses on sheltering the homeless. Partners in this initiative include Francis House, New Morning Youth and Family Services, PEACE for Families, Sacramento Food Bank Services, St. Vincent de Paul and WIND Youth Center.

Self-Sufficiency/Foster Youth Flourish (\$400,000). This initiative focuses on preparing foster youth for productive lives. Partners in this initiative include AmeriCorps, Child Abuse Prevention Council-Sacramento, Corporation for National Community Service, Grant Union School District, Linkage to Education, Mutual Assistance Network of Del Paso Heights, Stanford Home for Children and State of California Board of Corrections.



A monthly newsletter

Prevent Child Abuse California

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