

# SAFVIC ON THE SCENE

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## SAFVIC Courses

### SAFVIC for Law Enforcement

- TCLEOSE Course 3264 (24 hour credit)
- Covers crucial aspects for law enforcement's response to crimes of family violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- This course is also available in stand alone 1-day/8-hour modules.

### SAFVIC for Telecommunication Professionals (SAFVIC for TCPs)

- TCLEOSE Course 3267 (8 hour credit)
- This course consists of a comprehensive curriculum covering crucial aspects of telecommunication professionals' response to family violence, sexual assault, and stalking calls.

To register for any of these courses, please visit the SAFVIC website at [www.safvic.org](http://www.safvic.org).

If your agency is interested in hosting any of the SAFVIC courses in your area please contact [brooke.hinojosa@safvic.org](mailto:brooke.hinojosa@safvic.org).

## Raped or "Seduced"? How Language Helps Shape Our Response to Sexual Violence

By: Claudia J. Bayliff

The language we use to describe sexual violence helps shape our response to this terrible crime. Law enforcement officers play a crucial role in the criminal justice system's response to sexual violence. They are often the gatekeepers—the first person victims interact with after they have been raped. How law enforcement officers talk about sexual violence has a profound impact on how victims, other criminal justice system professionals, media and society at large think about and respond to the crime. This is not about being "politically correct"; it is about writing reports and discussing cases in a way that makes law enforcement more effective and successful.

There are three main problems with the way we all talk about sexual violence:

- We use the language of consensual sex to describe assaultive acts;
- We describe victims in terms that objectify them or blame them for the violence; and
- We talk about sexual violence in ways that create an "invisible perpetrator."

Unfortunately, when we use this type of language, we help to reinforce the stereotypes and myths about sexual violence. We also create an image of this crime that focuses solely on its victims—what they did or did not do to "cause" their victimization—and allows perpetrators to remain invisible and unaccountable. Obviously, there are lots of factors at work that make it

harder for us to hold rapists accountable, but the language we use is one key element.

**Using the Language of Consensual Sex to Describe Assaultive Acts:** When we describe sexual assaults in terms usually used for pleasurable and affectionate acts, we minimize and hide the violence involved and we make it harder to visualize the acts as unwanted violations.<sup>1</sup> We also help create an image of an intimate and non-threatening scene. For example, think about the different image that is created when we say, "He had sex with her" versus "He forcefully penetrated her vagina with his penis." Other examples include: "He fondled her breasts," "He kissed, hugged, caressed or had sex with her." These phrases also create an image of a mutual act, rather than a physical assault forced on one person by another. Consider how often we talk about child victims "performing oral sex" on their adult perpetrators, rather than describing how adults forcibly penetrate a child. All of us need to be very careful not to use the language of consensual sex when we are describing a sexual assault.

**Victim-Blaming Language:** Another trap we often fall into is to talk about sexual violence in ways that blame or objectify victims. This quote from a New York Times article is a great example: "Residents of the neighborhood...said she dressed older than her age, wearing makeup and fashions more appropriate to

*(Continued on page 2)*

## SAVE THE DATE

### Preserving Our Roots While Looking to the Future

Saturday, July 21, 2012 - Wednesday, July 25, 2012



The Doubletree Hotel Denver  
1-800-445-8667 (1-800-HILTONS)  
3202 Quebec Street  
Denver, Colorado 80207

Registration Rates:  
NCADV Member Rate: \$200.00  
Non-Member Rate: \$250.00  
Young Advocate (age 18-24) : \$50.00  
One day only : \$125.00

[For further details please click here to be directed to the conference website.](#)

## REMINDER

## 2012 SAFVIC Instructor Summit

The 10th Annual SAFVIC Instructor Summit will be August 13 - 15, 2012 at the [JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort and Spa](#).

- Registration is open to all SAFVIC Instructors
- Training will be given by nationally recognized presenters
- Attendees will receive a minimum of 16 hours TCLEOSE credit
- Great opportunity to network with SAFVIC Instructors

For more information visit the SAFVIC Instructor website. To register, please contact Brooke by Monday, July 9, 2012.

Please note - No SAFVIC classes will be scheduled during the week of the Summit.



(Continued from page 1)  
a woman in her 20s. She would hang out with teenage boys at the playground, some said.”<sup>2</sup> The person described by this author is an 11-year-old child who, according to police, was gang-raped by 18 men and teenaged boys on multiple occasions. The neighbors quoted in the article went on to describe how “these boys will have to live with this the rest of their lives,” never stopping to consider the impact on the 11-year-old child.

The term “the accuser” has been nearly universally adopted to describe victims of sexual violence, even when referring to young children. Yet when we use this term, rather than victim or alleged victim, we shift the blame and responsibility from the perpetrator to the victim. Jackson Katz, the author and filmmaker, has the best explanation on why we should not use the term “accuser” to describe sexual assault victims. He explains how the term shifts the victim/perpetrator dynamics of a sexual assault: “She is now the perpetrator of an accusation against him. At the same time, he is transformed from the alleged perpetrator of sexual assault to the actual victim of her accusation. The public is thus positioned to identify sympathetically with him—to feel sorry for him—as the true victim.”<sup>3</sup> We need to think carefully how we talk about sexual assault victims and make sure that we are not blaming them or holding them responsible for their own victimization.

**The “Invisible Perpetrator”:** Consider the difference between these two sentences: “Jessica was raped” versus “Matthew raped Jessica.” In the first sentence, the perpetrator is completely invisible. The second sentence uses accountable language that focuses our attention on the person committing the crime: Matthew. We often talk about how rapes “occur” as though they were random acts that just happened, as

opposed to deliberate, intentional, criminal assaults committed by one person against another. In addition, we describe victims as objects of acts that have no specified agents, describing them as “abused women” or “battered women.” We talk about “violent relationships” when it is the batterer, not the relationship, who is violent.

**How Law Enforcement Officers Can Help:** It will take a concerted effort by all of us who work within the criminal justice system, the media, and society as a whole, to change how we talk about and respond to sexual violence. Law enforcement officers can play an important role here. Here are some recommendations for how you can help:

- Avoid using the language of consensual sex to describe assaultive acts. Instead, use language that describes body parts and what the victim was forced to do. Obviously, if you are quoting witnesses’ statements or the language of the statute, you need to use their exact language.
- Use language that reflects the unilateral nature of the sexual violence; avoid language that suggests the acts were mutual.
- Use accountable language that places responsibility on the person committing the criminal acts; avoid the “invisible perpetrator.”
- Help educate others about the importance of using accountable, accurate language when talking about sexual violence.

<sup>1</sup>Janet Bavelas & Linda Coates, Is it Sex or Assault? Erotic Versus Violent Language in Sexual Assault Trial Judgments, 10 J. Soc. Distress & Homeless 29 (2001).

<sup>2</sup>James C. McKinley, Vicious Assault Shakes Texas Town, N.Y. Times, Mar. 8, 2011, at A13.

<sup>3</sup>Jackson Katz, DSK’s Alleged Victim Should Not Be Called His “Accuser,” Huffington Post (Aug. 20, 2011), [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jackson-katz/dsks-alleged-victim-should\\_b\\_930996.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jackson-katz/dsks-alleged-victim-should_b_930996.html).

## Featured Video

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAW ENFORCEMENT IT STARTED IN DULUTH

*Domestic Violence and Law Enforcement* is a fast-paced, informative look at how the best police departments respond to domestic violence. The film starts in Duluth, MN, home of the influential “Duluth Model” and the first jurisdiction to introduce mandatory arrest. Lt. Scott Jenkins is our primary Duluth subject—Jenkins is internationally known for his authoritative and incisive domestic violence trainings.

To view an excerpt from this 20-minute mini-documentary please click [here](#).

This is a companion film to the documentary feature “Power and Control: Domestic Violence in America.” If you would like more information please visit [www.powerandcontrolfilm.com](http://www.powerandcontrolfilm.com).



A Film by Peter Cohn

This video is available in the [SAFVIC Library](#) for SAFVIC Instructors on-

# WELCOME NEW SAFVIC INSTRUCTORS!

**Front Row - Left to Right:**

Aaron Ewing, Chambers County DA's Office  
 David Bruce, Aubrey Police Department  
 Kevin Behr, Bee County Sheriff's Office  
 Alex Alvarez, Pharr Police Department

**Middle Row - Left to Right:**

Angie Womble, Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office  
 Yolanda Jones, Fort Bend Sheriff's Office  
 Milton Rivera, Harris County Constable Pct. 3

**Back Row - Left to Right:**

David Gilbreath, La Grange Police Department  
 Katie Alexander, Hempstead Police Department  
 William Townsend, Aubrey Police Department  
 Kimberley Toynes, Dallas County Police Department  
 Michael Schultz, Spring ISD Police Department  
 Curtis Hampton, Houston Police Department  
 Philip Adams, Tarrant County Sheriff's Office



The SAFVIC team would like to thank the following individuals for assisting with another successful 40 Hour SAFVIC Instructor Training.

**Patt Hollingsworth**  
 TCLEOSE Commissioner & SAFVIC Advanced Instructor

**Vangle Barefoot**  
 Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, Johns Community Hospital

We would like to congratulate and welcome our 14 new SAFVIC Instructors! They recently completed the 40 hour SAFVIC Instructor Course in Austin, Texas on February 13th - 17th, 2012.

**APPLY NOW**

## Featured Agency

**Hill Country CARES** is the domestic violence shelter serving five counties in the Texas Hill Country located in Kerrville, Texas.

Hill Country CARES originally operated as fledging volunteer organization with a 24-hour hotline. In April of 1984 Hill Country Crisis Council was incorporated as a non-profit organization.

Serving Kerr, Kendall, Gillespie, Kimble and Bandera county residents, Hill Country CARES operates a 24-hour crisis hotline with local access in each county and an emergency shelter, and provides a wide range of counseling, case management, and support programs such as Fresh Start to the women and children. Prevention initiatives in local and area schools is another core area which Hill Country CARES focuses on working with school staff and children on anti-bullying and internet safety.

Another division is Senior CARES which focuses on the large population of seniors retiring in the Hill Country whose crisis might be self-neglect, elder abuse or a devastating diagnosis that changes their living situation. Support groups and education to family caregivers using evidence-based research are the hallmarks of the program.

Kids' Advocacy Place is another division of HCC and is the child friendly facility which helps coordinate the investigations, intervention and treatment in child abuse cases. KAP is also instrumental in promoting community awareness and education about child abuse and its prevention which serves Kerr, Kendall, Kimble, Gillespie, Bandera and surrounding counties.



**For more information, please call 830.257.7088 or visit [www.hccares.com](http://www.hccares.com)**

How we do it:  
 HCC is able to accomplish their provisions of services through the utilization of dedicated volunteers and highly trained staff. A 21-bed shelter with advocacy and support serves for those victims in need of a residential facility is owned and operated by HCC. Crisis intervention,

legal advocacy and counseling services are available free of charge.

How we prevent abuse:  
 HCC offers a Battering Intervention and Prevention Program called, BIPP, for a fee to those offenders that are court ordered to get help or voluntarily seek help with violence issues. Through this program we teach the abuser how and why there are better choices than using violence to problem solve.

*Article provided by Patia Sandifer, Volunteer Coordinator*

### FREE 24-Hour SAFVIC Instructor Training for Telecommunication Professionals (TCPs)

TBD  
 TRIPLE Training Facility:  
 Austin, Texas

We are currently accepting applications for our 4th Annual SAFVIC for TCPs Instructor Course.

The course will be 3 days/24-hours of classroom study, including an oral presentation. Students attending the SAFVIC for TCPs Instructor Course will receive 24-hours of TCLEOSE credit for completing the course.

Having the right group of instructors is absolutely crucial to the SAFVIC Program. We encourage all who share a passion for assisting victims of sexual assault and family violence to apply.

Please visit [www.safvic.org](http://www.safvic.org) for criteria, deadlines, and to complete an application.



"Piecing together the tools needed to effectively investigate and prevent sexual assault, family violence, & stalking."

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## SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

### April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month- It's Time to Talk about It!

The 2012 National Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) campaign focuses on everyone speaking up to prevent sexual violence in our neighborhoods, communities, workplaces and schools. This year's campaign is, "It's time ... to talk about it" and the topic of the conversation is healthy sexuality. The 2012 campaign focuses on promoting positive expressions of sexuality and healthy behaviors. Promoting healthy behaviors encourages sexual interactions and relationships that are consensual, respectful and informed. By starting the conversation, this dialogue can build safe, healthy relationships and communities.

The April SAAM campaign encourages communities and individuals to join the conversation about how we connect and respect one another in order to prevent sexual violence. For additional information and to find out how to get involved, please visit the following websites:

**Texas Association Against Sexual Assault** [www.taasa.org](http://www.taasa.org)  
**National Sexual Assault Awareness Month** [www.nsvrc.org/saam](http://www.nsvrc.org/saam)



**IT'S TIME ... TO TALK ABOUT IT!**  
CONNECT. RESPECT. PREVENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

Article provided by Jennifer Greene

## SAFVIC STATEWIDE CONFERENCE on Violence Against Women

SAFVIC is proud to announce it will be hosting the *SAFVIC-Statewide Conference on Violence Against Women* at the El Tropicano- Riverwalk Hotel in San Antonio, Texas from July 23-25, 2012.

The 2012 *SAFVIC-Statewide Conference on Violence Against Women* will be a 3-day conference which will include sixteen workshop sessions on various topics such as human trafficking investigation techniques, interviewing and interrogating sex offenders, and much more! Some of the speakers who will be presenting at the conference will be Russell Strand, Dr. David Thomas, Kristina Korobov, and many more! For further information on speakers and the conference agenda please click [here](#).



The SAFVIC staff will also be hosting their first networking session on the second day of the conference for all of our attendees to come together with not only speakers from the conference but victim service providers from different areas in Texas. This could not have been possible without the generosity of the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel who will be providing complimentary appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages for everyone!

All training and lodging will be FREE for both law enforcement and telecommunicators across the state of Texas. Attendees will only be responsible for their travel expenses to and from the conference and meals. Rural Texas, areas as well as counties and cities who have had a fatality due to domestic violence, will receive first priority for admittance into the conference. To determine if your county has had a fatality due to domestic violence please read the full report "*Honoring Texas Women*" the Texas Council on Family Violence website [www.tcfv.org](http://www.tcfv.org).



Any law enforcement or telecommunicators personnel who would like to attend will be required to submit an application and will be notified by email or phone once he or she is selected to attend the conference. Everyone is encouraged to apply! The *SAFVIC-Statewide Conference on Violence Against Women* conference deadline is June 1, 2012.

Please visit the SAFVIC website for further information:  
[www.safvic.org](http://www.safvic.org)