



# Teen Dating Violence

**February is recognized as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month (TDVAM)**, aiming to raise awareness of increased relationship violence faced by teens, which has become amplified through the misuse of technology.

Today's teens experience a significant intersection between technology and dating, sparking the rise of dating violence. Teens can easily access technology and personal devices. Furthermore, intimate relationships often begin and/or expand in the digital world, opening a door for perpetrators of violence and abuse to make a move. These factors have created a recipe for increased teen dating violence and electronic aggression.

Studies indicate about one in three high school students will experience dating violence or "digital dating abuse." However, less than 10 percent of those teens seek help. Furthermore, research shows that digital dating violence and real-life violence often co-occur, all raising the risk of mental health problems and other issues for those involved.

Electronic aggression — any type of harassment or bullying that occurs through email, a chat room, instant messaging, a website (including blogs), or text messaging — is a growing concern, especially relating to teen dating violence. But we also know that technology will play a greater and greater

role in our day-to-day lives, so it is important to help empower teens to use technology safely when it comes to dating and intimate relationships. Strategies you can use include:

- ▶ Become educated on how dating apps and sites work and some of the risks that may be involved
- ▶ Help teens understand the importance of online privacy and consent
- ▶ Help teens to understand how online spaces can open the door to violence or digital dating abuse
- ▶ Discuss appropriate uses of technology and signs of technology misuse
- ▶ Listen to teens' voices and concerns to empower them while navigating tech use and relationships

Practicing and promoting safe behaviors while encouraging healthy boundaries with digital



technologies is vital. PFSA's **Family Digital Wellness** initiative helps parents and families create a foundation of healthy relationships with digital technology while also keeping kids safe from risk and harm.

To learn more about PFSA's Family Digital Wellness initiative and to find resources, visit our online Family Digital Wellness hub: [pafsa.org/family-digital-wellness](https://pafsa.org/family-digital-wellness)

# SAVE *the* DATE

## PA Child Abuse **PREVENTION SYMPOSIUM**

Mark your calendar and plan to join us on **September 13, 2023** for PFSA's virtual **PA Child Abuse Prevention Symposium!**





# Join us in April!



FROM 2019'S FLAG PLANTING

**PFSA will host several events and activities during April** to call attention to the prevalence of child abuse and how private organizations, public entities, and individuals can work together to prevent and stop it.

From hosting in-person events to engaging with various communities across the commonwealth to sponsoring virtual speakers, we invite you to work with us and help **#ProtectPAKids!**

Check out our **April 2023 flyer** outlining each of our events and stay tuned for more details and information.



**CLICK HERE  
TO DOWNLOAD  
PFSA'S APRIL  
EVENTS FLYER**

## Our Events

PA BLUE RIBBON  
**CHAMPIONS**  
for **SAFE KIDS**

Flag Planting & Awards Ceremony

**APRIL 4, 2023 | HARRISBURG, PA**

**Turn PA  
Blue!**

Although April 4th is **Go Blue Day**, every day in April is a great day for sporting the color blue.

**Spotlight  
Speaker**

**WEAR  
YOUR  
RIBBON!**

## MANDATED REPORTER TRAINER SPOTLIGHT

# Joan Mosier

It all began in 1998, when PFSA President and CEO Angela Liddle spent Sunday evenings on the phone with Joan Mosier as they developed a new concept: stateside training for mandated reporters of child abuse. They conceived curriculum, funding, facilities, and participants in those calls.

Joan developed that initial curriculum and was the original and, at first, the only trainer for what has grown to be the standard in mandated reporter training. She continues to travel and (since the pandemic) train virtually on behalf of PFSA to ensure that all mandated reporters have access to quality training.

Joan is a graduate of Bloomsburg State College and Marywood College. She worked in Pennsylvania's public child welfare system for over 16 years, serving as a caseworker, supervisor, and children and youth administrator.

Since 1990, Joan has been an independent trainer and consultant. Through the University of Pittsburgh's Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center, she trains staff who work in Pennsylvania's child welfare system. An active member of her community, Joan volunteers with various nonprofits, including Head Start and Big Brothers Big Sisters, as well as in the realms of professional theater and politics.

We recently interviewed Joan – this is what she has to say about why she is so passionate about

training mandated reporters for PFSA:



### Why do you care about mandated reporters of child abuse?

*I care about mandated reporters because the statistics show that they make about 80% of the reports of suspected abuse in PA, beginning the process of protection for the children. Yet it's a tough job, and I like to help them understand the dynamics of abuse and how they can help to keep children safe while understanding the process involved, to make their job easier.*

### Why do you train for PFSA?

*I train for the PFSA because they are a wonderful, caring, and supportive group of humans who work together to help keep children safe, to support their caregivers, and to provide tools to the professionals working with families to broaden that safety net for children.*

**We appreciate the wealth of knowledge Joan brings to each training she provides to mandated reporters. She looks forward to meeting you in her trainings!**

*Follow along!*



**PA Family Support Alliance**  
@ProtectPAKids



**PFSA**  
@pafamilysupportalliance



**PA Family Support Alliance**  
@pa-family-support-alliance



**PA Family Support Alliance**  
@PAFamilySupport



# UPCOMING PFSA TRAININGS

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## Families in Recovery New Facilitator Training

This research-based program is a great resource for parents, guardians, and caretakers recovering from substance use disorder. The program aims to teach healthy coping and parenting skills while balancing the needs of recovery.

New facilitators of the Families in Recovery (FiR) program will be fully prepared to implement the program and provide training after attending a two-day comprehensive session consisting of content, education, and application instruction of the curriculum. FiR facilitators come together to share program implementation experience, ideas, and insights following initial training.

All organizations interested in implementing the Families in Recovery program are required to enter an agreement contract with PFSA and participate in the evaluation requirements of the program. FiR contracts include ongoing technical assistance, program development, facilitator calls, and assistance with data collection procedures.

**Dates:** April 18 & 19, 2023 (*virtual*) **OR**  
July 18 & 19, 2023 (*virtual*)

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
(*half-hour lunch break*)

**Cost:** Email Justin Donofrio, Prevention Services Manager, at [jdonofrio@pafsa.org](mailto:jdonofrio@pafsa.org) for the paperwork or to ask any questions.

## Mandated Reporter Training

PFSA has several options for mandated reporter training for staff and volunteers. Certificates are provided to the participants, and, upon request, we will upload confirmation of your training to the Departments of State or Education for CE fulfillments under Act 31 and/or Act 48. CLEs are also available for attorneys.

### LIVE IN-PERSON/VIRTUAL

**Cost:** Free

**How to register:** Find and register for a virtual session here: [pafsa.org/mandated-reporter-training](https://pafsa.org/mandated-reporter-training)

### INDIVIDUAL ONLINE, ON-DEMAND

**Cost:** \$30

**Take anytime:** [pafsa.org/on-demand-online-training](https://pafsa.org/on-demand-online-training)

### TRAIN-THE-TRAINER

This is an opportunity for organizations to develop their own quality, cost-efficient, in-house training program for employees on child abuse recognition and reporting.

**Dates:** April 20 & 21, 2023 (*virtual*) **OR**  
July 13 & 14, 2023

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
(*half-hour lunch break*)

**Cost:** \$1,000 per trainer, entering into a three-year contract with PFSA. Email Haven Evans, Director of Programs, at [hevans@pafsa.org](mailto:hevans@pafsa.org) for the paperwork or to ask any questions.

# #ProtectPAKids

Help us strengthen families and communities across Pennsylvania by donating to PFSA today. Your gift will help PFSA continue to deliver successful training, education, and ongoing support to PA families and children.

**Visit [pafsa.org](https://pafsa.org) to learn more and donate!**

