



Safe Homes, Safe Kids: Understanding Domestic Violence

When we think about children's safety, we often picture schools, playgrounds, and neighborhoods. But for many kids, the greatest danger is inside their own home. Domestic violence doesn't just harm adults. It leaves lasting emotional, behavioral, and physical effects on the children who witness it.

The good news: prevention is possible.

Through parenting education, community support, and awareness of the warning signs, we can break the cycle and build safe, stable homes where children can thrive.

HOW CAN WE MAKE HOMES SAFER FOR KIDS?

Read our [blog](#) to learn how domestic violence affects children and what we can do, together, to protect them.



Call for Nominations!

In recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, PFSA will honor several individuals from across the Commonwealth with a **PA Blue Ribbon Champions for Safe Kids** award. This award is bestowed upon recipients for exceptional contributions to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. We want to recognize those professionals, volunteers, and everyday heroes among us who keep our children safe.

PA Blue Ribbon Champions for Safe Kids award winners are shining examples of people working in Pennsylvania to prevent child abuse and neglect. These awards are an opportunity to honor champions for children across the

state who work tirelessly, often without fanfare or recognition, to improve the lives of our most vulnerable residents.

PFSA welcomes nominations for this honor from schools, government agencies, community organizations, private practitioners, churches, and other concerned individuals and groups. We look forward to recognizing each individual in April as a Blue Ribbon Champion for Safe Kids.

The nomination deadline is November 7, 2025, by 5 p.m. Fill out **this form** to submit a nomination today!

PA Child Abuse PREVENTION SYMPOSIUM

Registration is OPEN
for the 2025 PA Child
Abuse Prevention
Symposium!

NOV 6th 2025



VIRTUAL

CREDITS

ACT 48 | CEUs | CLEs

SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS



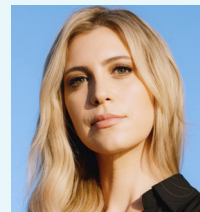
Rijelle Kraft
Center for Schools
and Communities



Ollie Kuo
Association of Maternal
& Child Health
Programs (AMCHP)



Emma Swift Lee
Fred Rogers
Institute



Laila Mickelwait
Justice Defense
Fund



Jess Simon
UNC Gillings School
of Global Public
Health

The annual **PA Child Abuse Prevention Symposium** is a statewide gathering of professionals, advocates, and leaders working at the front lines of family support and child protection. This high-impact virtual event brings together expert voices, timely insights, and practical strategies to help strengthen families and keep children safe across Pennsylvania. Whether you work in child welfare, education, healthcare, the legal system, or community services, this symposium is designed for you.

EVENT DETAILS

- ▶ **Attend virtually via Zoom.** Enjoy full access from anywhere!
- ▶ **Access every session live.** No need to choose between tracks.
- ▶ **Earn professional credits.** CEUs, CLEs, and ACT 48 hours are available to all live attendees.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- ▶ Live expert presentations on today's most pressing issues, from digital exploitation and family caregiving to perinatal substance use and protective factor frameworks.
- ▶ Actionable strategies to support families in real time, informed by emerging research and frontline experience.
- ▶ Engaging networking opportunities with peers and presenters from across the country, all from the convenience of your home or office.

CAN'T MAKE IT LIVE?

Recordings, and a recording-only registration, are available too. However, please note that CEUs, CLEs, and ACT 48 credits are only awarded for live participation. Whether you're looking to stay ahead of emerging trends or expand your skillset, this symposium offers the insight, inspiration, and community you need.

SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

10:00 a.m. Welcome & Opening Remarks:
Framing the Day

Justin Donofrio
PFSA

10:10 a.m. Exposing the Crime Scene:
Big Porn's Exploitation of
Children and Victims

Laila Mickelwait
Justice Defense Fund

11:10 a.m. BREAK

11:20 a.m. Building on Strengths:
Using the Strengthening
Families Protective Factors
Framework to Guide our Work

Rijelle Kraft
Center for Schools
and Communities

12:35 p.m. LUNCH BREAK

1:00 p.m. Enhancing Cross Sector
Collaboration and Policy
Capacity to Address Perinatal
Substance Use Disorder

Ollie Kuo
Association of Maternal &
Child Health Programs
Jess Simon
UNC Gillings School of Global
Public Health

2:15 p.m. BREAK

2:25 p.m. The Value of Grandfamilies:
Beyond What We Know

Emma Swift Lee
Fred Rogers Institute

3:25 p.m. Closing Remarks
and Reminders



Visit our **PA Child Abuse Prevention Symposium webpage** to learn more about event sessions and speakers or **register here**.

Follow along with us!



PA Family Support Alliance
@ProtectPAKids



PFSA
@pafamilysupportalliance



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



PA Family Support Alliance
@PAFamilySupport



MANDATED REPORTER TRAINER SPOTLIGHT

Ruth Zook

We recently interviewed one of our Amish trainers, Ruth Zook. Ruth has been instrumental in getting mandated reporters within the Plain Community trained – many for the first time – so they know how to recognize and properly report suspected child abuse within their community. Here is what Ruth has to say about why she is so passionate about training.

Why do you train for PFSA?

I train for PFSA because I see a need for awareness, education, and understanding of child abuse within my community. If people really understand what child abuse is, and how it affects people, they will stand up against it

and do what they can to help children in those situations.

Why do you care about mandated reporters of child abuse?

I care about mandated reporters of child abuse because I want them to know what that means and how they can help when abuse happens. Mandated reporters have a responsibility that should not be shirked. Too many people do not realize or understand what it all means to be a mandated reporter, however, they have a right to that information and should be informed.

We appreciate the wealth of knowledge Ruth brings to each training she provides to mandated reporters within the Plain Community.



CBCAP Network Member: Children's Advocacy Center of Butler County

PFSA welcomes **Children's Advocacy Center of Butler County** as a highlighted member of the **Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Network**. PFSA is proud to partner and collaborate with diverse, dedicated, and committed organizations that advance the important work of preventing child abuse and neglect. Thank you for your commitment and dedication! To find out more about CBCAP Network benefits or to learn about becoming a CBCAP Network member, visit **our website**.

UPCOMING PFSA TRAININGS

Families in Recovery (FiR) 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 FiR facilitators will be fully prepared to implement the program and provide training after attending a two-day session that covers content, education, and implementation of the curriculum. FiR facilitators come together during training to share program implementation experience, ideas, and insights.

All organizations interested in implementing FiR are required to enter into a contract with PFSA and participate in the evaluation requirements of the program. Contracts include ongoing technical assistance, program development, facilitator calls, and assistance with data collection.

Dates: Training dates for 2026 will be announced soon!

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

Cost: Contact PFSA's Director of Prevention Programs, Justin Donofrio (jdonofrio@pafsa.org), for paperwork or to ask questions.

Mandated Reporter Training

PFSA has several options for mandated reporter training for staff and volunteers. We provide certificates to participants and, upon request, will upload confirmation of the 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

Register [here](#) for a virtual session.

INDIVIDUAL ONLINE, ON-DEMAND

Cost: \$30

Sign up [here](#) to take any time.

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: January 14 & 15, 2026 (virtual)
April 15 & 16, 2026 (virtual)
July 15 & 16, 2026 (virtual)

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 training@pafsa.org to obtain paperwork or to ask questions.

Check Out Our Blog

Our blog is the best way to get timely information on ways to help stop child abuse, recent staff developments, and prevention strategies. Read more at pafsa.org/blog.

#ProtectPAKids

Help us support 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 Pennsylvania families and children.

**Visit pafsa.org
to learn more
and donate!**



We've Moved!

Our office has moved to a new location! Please update your records to reflect our new address to ensure there are no disruptions in communications or correspondence.

100 Sterling Parkway, Suite 100 | Mechanicsburg, PA 17050



Visit Our Store

PFSA has educational resources available in our online store. You can find informative materials covering a wide range of topics designed to assist caregivers, parents, and professionals in an effort to protect children. Please visit pafsa.org/store to learn more!