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PRESS RELEASE

PREVENTING SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME

Warren County Prosecutor Thomas S. Ferguson has launched a Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Program. Recently a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Warren County Prosecutor's Office, Hackettstown Regional Medical Center and Warren Hospital which will provide Shaken Baby Syndrome prevention training to all new parents of babies born at the facilities. Shaken baby syndrome is a serious brain injury often caused by a frustrated caregiver who shakes an infant usually in effort to stop the baby from crying. The injuries are sometimes fatal and can also result in brain injury that negatively impact learning and function in the future. Shaken Baby Syndrome prevention training will also be offered to Middle and High School students in the Phillipsburg School System which will be done there. It is the intention of the Warren County Prosecutor's Office to spread the educational effort throughout the county school system. Educating students about the medical aspects of Shaken Baby Syndrome teaches potential caregivers and future parents about the risks involved.


The teaching at the hospital, middle school and high schools will include; a power point presentation, educational curriculum; including handouts, brochures, and certificates of course completion.

Prosecutor Ferguson has assigned Forensic Nurse Lois Magill, RN, FN-CSA, SANE, an employee of the office, to provide the training to the hospital staff and students at the school system. Statistically, in America every year an estimated 1,200-1,400 children are shaken for whom treatment is sought. Of these tiny victims, 25-30% dies as a result of their injuries and the rest will have lifelong complications. One important mission of the Warren County Prosecutor's Office is promoting the safety of the Warren County's

children because the victims of shaken baby syndrome are helpless to defend themselves from such violence. Through better education it will allow new parents and caregivers to understand the challenges they face and help prevent tragedies before they occur.

For more information about Shaken Baby Syndrome or to have a presentation at a community event please contact, Lois Magill, RN, FN-CSA at the Warren County Prosecutor's Office, 908-475-6275.

APPROVED BY:



THOMAS S. FERGUSON
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