Call for Submissions - 2027 AFCC CA Annual Conference : Entry # 368

Title of Your Presentation

Ending the Punishment of Survivors
Trauma-Informed Advocacy for Domestic Violence, Sexual Trauma, and Coercive Control

Preferred Length of Presentation

90 Minute Workshop

Presentation Abstract

Secondary victimization, the additional trauma survivors of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and coercive control experience from institutional, legal, and clinical responses, remains a critical barrier to safety, healing, and justice. Even well-intentioned professionals in family law and multidisciplinary settings may inadvertently perpetuate harm through bias, inadequate assessment, or procedural rigidity.
This intermediate-to-advanced training equips psychologists and court-involved clinicians to recognize, prevent, and address secondary victimization while upholding the highest ethical and professional standards. Grounded in empirical research, APA and AFCC best practices, and survivor-led advocacy, the session provides practical tools for accurate assessment, trauma-informed communication, survivor-centered interviewing, and defensible documentation. Participants will learn to avoid pathologizing language, inappropriate recommendations, and misapplied neutrality, and to address intersectional barriers and systemic disparities. Emphasizing ethical responsibility and advocacy, this session empowers professionals to transform individual and systemic practice, advancing trauma-informed, equitable, and just outcomes for survivors

One-Page Outline of Proposal

- AFCC-2027-Proposal.docx

Learning Objective #1

Critically evaluate how clinical, legal, and systemic practices in family law settings can contribute to secondary victimization and perpetuate harm for survivors of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and coercive control.

Learning Objective #2

Apply trauma-informed, survivor-centered principles throughout clinical and forensic processes to ensure survivor autonomy, dignity, and cultural responsiveness.

Learning Objective #3

Integrate ethical, evidence-based strategies to prevent re-traumatization, reduce implicit bias, and ensure clinical and forensic recommendations are just and defensible in complex cases.

Learning Objective #4

Design and advocate for systemic reforms and collaborative interventions that address intersectional barriers, promote equity, and uphold the highest standards of professional responsibility, safety, and justice for survivors

Citation #1

1. Campbell, R., & Raja, S. (1999). Secondary victimization of rape victims: Insights from mental health professionals who treat survivors of violence. Violence and Victims, 14(3), 261–275. https://doi.org/10.1891/0886-6708.14.3.261

Call for Submissions - 2027 AFCC CA Annual Conference : Entry # 368

Citation #2

2. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2014). SAMHSA's concept of trauma and guidance for a trauma-informed approach (HHS Publication No. SMA14-4884). https://ncsacw.samhsa.gov/userfiles/files/SAMHSA_Trauma.pdf

Citation #3

3. American Psychological Association. (2017). Ethical principles of psychologists and code of conduct. https://www.apa.org/ethics/code

Citation #4

4. Jaffe, P. G., Crooks, C. V., & Bala, N. (2009). A framework for addressing allegations of family violence in child custody disputes. Journal of Child Custody, 6(3–4), 169–188. https://doi.org/10.1080/15379410903084681

Number of Presenters

One

Presenter #1

Dr. Christy Wise

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100-Word Biography of Presenter #1

Dr. Christy Wise is an internationally recognized healthcare leader, mental health expert, educator, and survivor-advocate. Founder of Let Us Heal, she channels her lived experience as a survivor into transforming systems that perpetuate harm against survivors of domestic violence, sexual trauma, and coercive control. A graduate of Harvard Medical School's Global Healthcare Leadership Executive Education Program, Dr. Wise also holds two master's degrees and a doctorate, all with honors. With over 30 years of experience, she is renowned for advancing trauma-informed care, institutional reform, and culturally responsive education for professionals, communities, and survivors worldwide.

Resume or CV of Presenter #1

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- Dr.-Christy-Wise-CV-2026.docx

Reference #1

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Notes

Admin Notification (ID: 5f458bd3c01c8)
added June 25, 2026 at 8:14 pm

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.

Submission Confirmation (ID: 5f46f5da5bcea)

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