FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

In Wake of Recent Violence
Domestic Violence Coalition Seeks to Strengthen Orders of Protection

Hartford, CT-In response to today’s start of the trial of James Carter, who is charged with the murder of Tiana Notice which occurred on Valentine's Day 2009, the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) is reaffirming its intent to work to strengthen protective and restraining orders for state victims. According to CCADV, approximately 30,000 protective orders and 7,500 restraining orders are issued in Connecticut annually. Additionally, more than 54,000 victims seek services from Connecticut’s 18 domestic violence community-based agencies in a given year. Over the past two weeks, four victims have been murdered in Connecticut which brings that number to 11 thus far for 2011.

Currently, a legislative Task Force on Law Enforcement’s Response to Family Violence, is deliberating the development of a state-wide law enforcement model policy to include an evaluation of existing policies and procedures used by law enforcement when responding to incidents of family violence and violations of restraining and protective orders. According to Karen Jarmoc, Interim Executive Director for CCADV, Connecticut’s statewide coalition is discussing work to be done around instituting stricter penalties for the violation of a protective order and an increase to the maximum allowable length of a restraining or protective order.

Tiana Notice was a college student- one semester away from completing her Master's degree in communications at the University of Hartford. She was considering a political or legal career and thinking about a law degree. Tiana was one of 12 victims who were killed that year by their current or former intimate partners.

In Connecticut, protective orders are issued by the criminal court while restraining orders are issued through the civil court. They are both designed to offer protection for victims of domestic violence, yet they each have distinct purposes. The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, through it 18 member agencies is prepared to assist any victim with their questions and concerns about either a restraining order or protective order. By calling 888-774-2900, highly skilled advocates can assess a victim's safety and develop a plan of action that meets their individual needs.

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Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc. (CCADV), is a statewide 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that works to change social conditions through policy advocacy, public awareness, technical assistance and education. The current membership of the CCADV includes private, non-profit agencies providing services to victims of domestic violence. To learn more about CCADV, please visit www.ctcadv.org