



Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

For Immediate Release
June 5, 2014

Member Agencies

**The Umbrella Center for
Domestic Violence Services**
Ansonia, CT

The Center for Family Justice
Bridgeport, CT

Women's Center
Danbury, CT

**Domestic Violence Program
United Services**
Dayville, CT

**Network Against Domestic
Abuse**
Enfield, CT

**Domestic Abuse Services
Greenwich YWCA**
Greenwich, CT

Interval House
Hartford, CT

Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis
Meriden, CT

New Horizons
Middletown, CT

Prudence Crandall Center
New Britain, CT

**The Umbrella Center for
Domestic Violence Services**
New Haven, CT

Safe Futures
New London, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center
Norwalk, CT

Women's Support Services
Sharon, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center
Stamford, CT

Susan B. Anthony Project
Torrington, CT

Safe Haven
Waterbury, CT

**Domestic Violence Program
United Services**
Willimantic, CT

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Statement Regarding Bristol Domestic Violence Murder-Suicide

Hartford, CT – The murder-suicide in Bristol yesterday marks Connecticut's 8th homicide stemming from intimate partner violence since January 1, 2014. Court records show that Kyla Ryng had filed for divorce from her husband, Alexander Ryng, last week on May 30, 2014.

"We are saddened by yet another tragic loss stemming from domestic violence," said Karen Jarmoc, Executive Director, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence. "We know that one of the most dangerous times for victims of domestic violence is when they are attempting to leave. We urge anyone who thinks there is even the slightest amount of abuse or controlling behavior in their relationship to reach out to us. We can help you plan for your safety."

There are warning signs of abusive relationships and [risk factors](#) that indicate increased danger. Possession of a gun, threats with a weapon and a recent break-up or separation are three top indicators. It is incumbent upon all of us to learn what to look for as we seek to keep victims safe and hold offenders accountable for their actions.

Serving the Bristol region is Prudence Crandall Center – providing comprehensive, confidential, free services to victims of domestic violence and their children in New Britain, Bristol and seven surrounding communities. According to Prudence Crandall Center Executive Director Barbara Damon, "as individuals and as a society, we cannot afford to be silent and allow tragedies like this to continue. The consequences are too great. We must consider the warning signs and reach out to family, friends, and co-workers to let them know help is available."

Tragically, it appears that 3 children were in the home at the time of the murder-suicide. Over 15 million children witness domestic violence each year and the harmful impact of that cannot be overstated. In Connecticut, between 2000 and 2012, over 60 children were present at the scene of intimate partner homicides. Children who witness intimate partner violence within their family face a greater risk of developing severe and potentially lifelong problems with physical health, mental health, and school and peer relationships, as well as disruptive behavior.

Connecticut has averaged 14 homicides stemming from intimate partner violence each year over the past decade. The 2013 Connecticut Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee Report issued in July indicates a need for increased training across sectors to understand "red flag" indicators that may occur. To learn more about the report go to, www.ctcadv.org.

Working with a certified domestic violence counselor is a strong protective factor against domestic violence homicide. Connecticut's 18 domestic violence organizations invite anyone who believes that they may be a victim of domestic violence or who knows someone that may be a victim of domestic violence to **call the 24 hour, toll-free, statewide domestic violence hotline at 888.774.2900 to speak with your local domestic violence agency. In Bristol, New Britain and the seven surrounding towns, individuals can call Prudence Crandall Center directly at 860.225.6357.**

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*Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc. is a membership organization made up of the state's 18 domestic violence agencies. Help is available to victims 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Each agency offers free services to victims including a toll-free hotline, safety through shelter, counseling and support groups, and by assisting in securing a restraining order. If you or someone you know needs support, call the statewide free and confidential hotline at **888-774-2900** to be connected to your local domestic violence agency. For more information about CCADV visit us online at www.ctcadv.org.*