



17TH ANNUAL

Right From the Start:

Understanding, Investigating, and
Intervening in Violence Against Women
and Children

Aster Event Center • Allentown, PA

APRIL 22, 23, & 24, 2026

www.vallierecounseling.com



Right From the Start

April 22, 23, & 24, 2026

Aster Event Center, Hyatt Place, Allentown, PA

Registration 7:30 a.m. each day

Continental Breakfast Daily; Lunch provided Wednesday & Thursday

This year's theme is our response to **ABUSIVE POWER**. From hatred, to scapegoating, appeasement, helplessness, and burnout, this year we examine the impact of abusive power to our reactions, our feelings, our relationships, and our sense of self. Societally and interpersonally, we can suffer. Hopefully, this year's training will contribute to our empowerment and our ability to combat the erosive effects of abusive power.

Course Descriptions

(Schedule Subject to Change)

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. – **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

8:30 am – 9:00 am – **Keynote Speaker** – **Jennifer Storm, Victim Rights Expert/Author/Podcaster**. This year's keynote speaker has authored multiple books and worked diligently for the rights of Victims. In her keynote speech, Ms. Storm will convey her wisdom on how to avoid burnout and vicarious trauma, stressing self-care in the face of combating abusive power. Throughout the conference, Ms. Storm will have book signing and scheduling for her podcast as well!

9:00 – 12:00 – **“QUIET, PIGGY! Misogyny, Hatred, and the Impact on Woman/Man Intimacy” – V. Valliere, PsyD** - *There is a current backlash against feminine equality and a serious rise in misogyny and aggression towards women. This training will define misogyny, examine its sources and public appearances, and explore the impact on the relationship between women and men. The “manosphere,” incels, and more subtle messaging for women and girls will be analyzed, as will the relationship between misogyny and the rise in male loneliness and isolation. (3 hours) ***

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. – **Lunch Provided**

1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. – **Choose one**

“Evidence Based Prosecution of Interpersonal Violence” – B. Ryan, JD – *Prosecutors are sometimes handcuffed in prosecuting interpersonal violence because of their reliance on often uncooperative victims. This training that will offer practical information for caseworkers, investigators, clinicians, advocates, and prosecutors, then provide concrete strategies that investigators and prosecutors can use, including the introduction of 404(b) evidence that focuses on prosecuting offenders without victim participation. Attendees will be offered a paradigm shift in the investigation and prosecution of very difficult cases and receive tools for effective prosecution. Useful for advocates and helpers as well as litigators (3 hours) ***

“What are we supposed to do? Disempowerment in the face of abuse” - B. Beckwith, Psy.D. *With increasing degrees, we are seeing aggressive, entitled individuals continue to defy the rules without being held accountable for their actions. This training will explore our disempowered response to abusive power and how we reinforce entitlement and other personality characteristics of this challenging population. The issues of identification with the aggressor, learned helplessness, scapegoating, and more will be examined in the understanding responses to abusive power, as well as steps we can take to re-assert the boundaries for offenders. (3 hours)***

Thursday, April 23, 2026

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. – Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 p.m.

“He’s in Your House: The Evolving Landscape of Internet Crimes Against Children” – A. Sperrazza, JD & M.

Laucella, JD. *This training will examine how offenders exploit online platforms to identify, groom, and manipulate children, highlighting both traditional grooming patterns and rapidly evolving trends. Special attention is given to the rise of technology-facilitated abuse, including the use of artificial intelligence to create and manipulate child sexual abuse material (AI-generated CSAM), encrypted platforms, and increasingly sophisticated methods used to evade detection. We will also address current investigative strategies, interagency collaboration, and the importance of early intervention, victim-centered approaches, and digital literacy in protecting children. (90 minutes)**

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – **Choose one**

“He Said, She Said? What About WE Said! - Overcoming the Consent Defense” – B. Ryan, JD – *Prosecutors are faced with combating often successful defense arguments reliant on rape myths and victim blaming. This training provides strategies to attack these, preventing juries from buying into misinformation and rape culture. (90 minutes)**

“Appeasement: Identifying and Understanding the Survival Strategy” – V. Valliere, Psy.D. – *Appeasement is a biologically engrained survival strategy in mammals who are threatened. However, it is often misunderstood in victims of abuse and extremely exploited by the offender. This strategy will be defined, with concrete examples, to combat myths and misinformation about victim behavior. (90 minutes)**

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. – **Lunch Provided**

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. – **Choose one**

“Don’t Give Up! How to Care for and Protect Yourself when Dealing with Trauma” – J. Storm – *Dealing with trauma, victims, and abusive can wreak havoc on helpers, sometimes resulting in the helpers loss of hope, integrity, or energy. This training will offer practical strategies for self-care, reframing, and retaking power back to continue to fight for safety and justice. (90 minutes)**

“The Power of Money: Accountability and Justice through Civil Litigation” – B. Andreozzi, Esq. – *Sometimes victims are not only betrayed by the perpetrators, but by the systems that enable, overlook, or facilitate offender behavior. This training will explore the pros and cons of civil litigation for victims, explain factors impacting whether a case is viable, and identify areas that can be addressed in litigation. For attorneys or anyone curious about alternative routes to accountability for abusive power. (90 minutes)**

2:30 – 3:00 – **Snack break**

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. – **Choose one**

“Access, Authority, and Audience: The Case of United States vs. Gary Oscar” – S. Tullius, Esq. & M. Tokash, Esq. – *This case presentation will explore how one of the military’s most heinous sex offenders used access to his children and authority as their father to rape and sexually assault his three biological daughters over the course of five years. The study will also explore how this offender manipulated the military community as an audience to his offending to deflect culpability and blame and shame his victims. (90 minutes)**

HAPPY HOUR TO NETWORK & CELEBRATE ONE ANOTHER! 5-6 PM AT THE ASTER CENTER!

Friday, April 24, 2026

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. – **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 p.m. – **Choose one**

“What the Hell Happened? The Evolution of Megan’s Law, SORNA, and How and When an Offender Gets on the Registry” – Pennsylvania Sexual Offender Assessment Board. *Over the years, Pennsylvania’s Megan’s Law has evolved and changed, including the crimes that require registration. The need for assessment and requirements for registration has transformed, causing confusion about why some offenders were not assessed or registered. This training will provide updates and clarifications on Megan’s Law, its history, and the current status. (90 minutes)**

“Child Abduction: Who Abducts Children and Best Practices” – J. Sparks, FBI (retired) - *This training will educate participants on child abduction, who the perpetrators are, and what the best practices for law enforcement and community partners are. This training, geared to both law enforcement and community partners, will explore the scope and scale of child abduction, including issues impacting command decisions, exigency, investigation, digital forensics, and volunteer management to enhance the community response and dispel myths about child abductors. (90 minutes) **

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – **Choose one**

“Do Better: A Case Study in Stranger Child Abduction” – J. Sparks, FBI (retired) – *In this dramatic case study of a stranger child abduction, Ms. Sparks will analyze the investigation of the case, integrating the concepts introduced in the prior training to provide concrete examples of investigative strategies. The concepts of exigency, search operations, recovery, and more will be incorporated into a discussion and dissection of this important case. (90 minutes) **

CONFERENCE WRAP UP



Valliere and Counseling Associates, Inc. has been approved by NBCC as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 6294. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. Valliere & Counseling Associates, Inc. is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs.

Valliere & Counseling Associates, Inc. is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Valliere & Counseling Associates, Inc. maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

This conference is approved for continuing education for CLE’s for Pennsylvania and PCACB.
It is pending approval for New Jersey CLE’s and Pennsylvania Law Enforcement.

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REGISTRATION by fax or ONLINE with QR code

Name: _____

[] April 22, 2026

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9:00 – 12:00 “QUIET PIGGY! Misogyny, Hate, and Impact on Woman/Man Intimacy” – V. Valliere, Psy.D.

1:00 – 4:30 p.m. **CHOOSE ONE**

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[] “What are we supposed to do? Disempowerment in the face of abuse” - B. Beckwith, Psy.D.

[] April 23, 2026

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10:30 am – Noon **CHOOSE ONE**

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1:00 – 2:30 p.m. **CHOOSE ONE**

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10:30- Noon **CHOOSE ONE**

[] “Do Better: Case Study in Stranger Abduction” – J. Sparks, FBI (Retired)

\$459.00 complete; **\$399.00** for 2 Full days; **\$249.00** for a single full day.

Friday only - \$139.00

Breakfast and Lunch included for the 2 full days!

Save 10% for early registration – before 2/28/26 • Save 5% for more than 3 per agency

Save 25% for student discount with valid ID

Name: _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Enclosed:** _____

Email: _____ **Type of CE needed:** _____

Send check with forms to:

Valliere & Counseling Associates, Inc.,

P.O. Box 864, Fogelsville, PA 18051;

Email: h.bednar@vallierecounseling.com

Call to register at (610) 530-8392 or Fax registration to (610) 530-8940

CE's credits are available for Psychologists, Licensed Professional Counselors, Social Workers, PCACB, and PA CLE's. It pending/applied for approval PA Law Enforcement, and NJ CLE's. Other CE's must be submitted by the participant. Approved CEs for the entire conference will be 15 credits for all three days, 6 per full day, 3 for last day.

DEADLINE: April 15, 2026