



Violence Against Women Grant Program ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF PENNSYLVANIA COURTS

Understanding Older Adult Survivors: Integrating a Trauma-Informed Lens in Court Settings

June 24, 2026 | 12 – 1:30 PM EST | Virtual via Zoom

Judges and court personnel play a critical role in shaping how older adult survivors of sexual violence experience the justice system. This 90-minute webinar focuses on the importance of applying a trauma-informed framework to understanding the unique dynamics older adult survivors experience and how those dynamics show up in court settings.

Participants will explore how trauma, aging, and systemic biases intersect to influence survivor behavior, communication, and engagement in legal processes. The session will address common misconceptions about older adults, including assumptions about capacity, credibility, and sexuality. The session will explore an introduction to Pennsylvania legal options for responding to sexual violence against older adults.

Through practical examples and guided reflection, this webinar will equip judges and court personnel with strategies to interact with older adult survivors in ways that promote dignity, accessibility, and fairness while supporting more informed decision-making within the courtroom.

Participants will be better able to:

- Describe key dynamics of sexual violence including common barriers to disclosure and the impact of power.
- Explain how trauma may impact survivor behavior and testimony and identify ways this may be misinterpreted in court settings.
- Recognize the influence of ageism and bias on perceptions of credibility, capacity, and victimization.
- Identify introductory Pennsylvania legal options for responding to sexual violence amongst older adults.

Approved for 1.5 substantive Continuing Legal Education Credits (CLE) & 1.5 substantive Interpreter Continuing Education Credits (CEU). 1.5 substantive Continuing Judicial Education Credits (CJE) pending.



Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/STOP-OA2026>

Contact AOPC.STOPGrantProject@pacourts.us