



OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY
415 NORTH ORANGE AVENUE
ORLANDO, FL 32801
(407) 836-2400

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: KEISHA MULFORT

**THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY OFFERS MESSAGE OF HOPE TO SURVIVORS
OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

ORLANDO, FL — As Domestic Violence Awareness Month concludes, State Attorney Monique Worrell offers a message of hope, while reaffirming her office’s commitment to advocating for those impacted by domestic violence across the ninth judicial circuit.

“To every survivor, remember that domestic violence is never the victim’s fault. As a human being, you have value, worth and purpose in life,” State Attorney Monique Worrell said. Whether physical, verbal, emotional or even financial - abuse is never ok. We stand in solidarity with survivors of domestic violence, and anyone currently impacted. Know that you are not alone and that there are advocates in our community standing ready to help every step of the way.”

Throughout the month of October, the Office of the State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit sponsored a social media campaign to increase awareness of domestic violence in our circuit. The goal is to educate our community about healthy relationships and unhealthy/abusive ones, as well as to connect community members to resources that provide information for victims, for families and for those wishing to become engaged in the work to end partner violence. All Floridians deserve to be safe in their homes and communities. The current COVID-19 pandemic health crisis has led to further isolation and increased risks of harm for victims in all communities and particularly, across our circuit.

The office is committed to working collaboratively with community and law enforcement partners to end domestic violence in our circuit.

“To every community member: educating ourselves, supporting a loved one who is being abused, speaking up and being an engaged bystander, are all ways each of us can make an impact,” Worrell said. “Open dialogue can help end the stigma and shame often felt by domestic violence survivors. Together, we can end domestic violence in Orange and Osceola Counties.”

Victims of domestic violence are urged to contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline for confidential assistance from trained advocates at 1-800-799-7233.

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The Office of the State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit is represented by The Honorable Monique H. Worrell and serves Orange and Osceola counties in Central Florida. A culturally diverse community, the area is home to nearly 1.4 million residents and is a vacation destination for millions each year. Our office is committed to making Orlando and the surrounding area a vibrant and safe place to live, work and play.

For general media inquiries, please contact: PIO@sao9.org.

For media records request, please contact: mediarecordsrequest@sao9.org.

For specific media inquiries pertaining to State Attorney Monique Worrell, please contact Keisha Mulfort at kmulfort@sao9.org.