

Madison County leaders speak out on the dangers of sexting

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EDWARDSVILLE — Assistant State's Attorneys with the Madison County State's Attorney's Office spent their Friday training caseworkers with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and speaking to 6th graders about the dangers of sexting.

Assistant State's Attorney Samira Khazaeli, a prosecutor in the Children's Justice Division, Juvenile Abuse & Neglect, led a training to provide DCFS caseworkers with basic knowledge about testifying in court, including how to prepare and what they should expect during hearings. The training included mock trials and discussions and featured not only Assistant State's Attorneys, but also an Assistant Public Defender and Special Defenders. Associate Judge Janet Heflin also participated in today's testimony training.

Another Assistant State's Attorney from the Children's Justice Division, Juvenile Delinquency, Lauren Heischmidt, gave a presentation to 6th graders at Alton Middle School on the dangers of sexting. Prosecutors have been speaking to schools throughout the Madison County on this important topic, stressing the possible consequences of sexting.

DCFS Testimony Training

Madison County Board Room
Friday, August 28, 2015



State's Attorney Tom Gibbons is a proponent of his prosecutors reaching out to various groups such as caseworkers, children and police officers. "We have an opportunity to educate people and I'm hopeful that the more information we can provide to them, the better, more informed decisions they will make."

In 2013, Gibbons announced the creation of a Children's Justice Division within his office in an effort to better coordinate his office's response to cases involving the children of Madison County. The division works closely with the County's Child Advocacy Center, the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Illinois Attorney General's Office. Assistant State's Attorney Kathleen Nolan is the head of the Children's Justice Division.

More information about the State's Attorney's Office can be found at www.madco-sa.org.