

**Working With Families  
of Homicide Victims**

Presented by  
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Not Above the Law

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People Against Violent Crime

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**Objectives**

Participants will gain information:

- ☞ To better understand the issues facing victims
- ☞ Through actual victim stories and comparisons of scenarios
- ☞ To learn to better assist families in dealing with the criminal justice system, the media, and the grief process.

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**Grief Process for Survivors  
of Homicide**

Those suffering the loss of loved one may experience a number of reactions to grief:

- ☞ Shock and Denial
- ☞ Anger
- ☞ Guilt
- ☞ Depression
- ☞ Hope

Keep in mind that each are typically experienced differently by each individual.  
*(see handout for additional details)*

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**Crime Victims' Rights  
in the News Media**

*Source: National Center for Victims of Crime  
A Survey of Television News Directors on Their Policies  
Regarding Coverage of Crime Victims*

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**Victims Should Have the Right**

- ☞ To say “no” to an interview
- ☞ To select the spokesperson or advocate of the victim’s choice
- ☞ To select the time and location for media interviews

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**Victims Should Have the Right**

- ☞ To request a specific reporter
- ☞ To refuse an interview with a specific reporter even though he or she has granted interviews to other reporters
- ☞ To say “no” to an interview even though the victim has previously granted interviews

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### Victims Should Have the Right

- ☞ To release a written statement through a spokesperson in lieu of an interview
- ☞ To exclude children from interviews
- ☞ To refrain from answering any questions with which the victim is uncomfortable or that the victim feels are inappropriate

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### Victims Should Have the Right

- ☞ To avoid a press conference atmosphere and speak to only one reporter at a time
- ☞ To demand a correction when inaccurate information is reported
- ☞ To ask that offensive photographs or visuals be omitted from airing or publication

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### Victims Should Have the Right

- ☞ To conduct a television interview using a silhouette or a newspaper interview without having their picture taken
- ☞ To completely give the victim's side of the story related to the victimization
- ☞ To refrain from answering reporters questions during a trial

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### Victims Should Have the Right

- ☞ To file a formal complaint against a reporter
- ☞ To grieve in private, and
- ☞ To suggest training about media and victims for print and electronic media in their community
- ☞ To be treated with dignity and respect by the media

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### Victim advocates can assist victims by:

- ☞ Protecting the victims' rights to privacy through active participation
- ☞ Acting as a "go-between" for the reporter and victim
- ☞ Establishing an environment conducive for the victim to speak to the press

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### This helps victims by:

- ☞ Minimizing the invasion of privacy felt by the victim,
- ☞ Allowing advocates to advise victims about their rights in the media,
- ☞ Gives the media access to the story, and
- ☞ Assists victims who wish to refuse to grant an interview.

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### The advocate may also consider options to:

- ☞ Assist the victim in preparing a statement
- ☞ Review the facts that can and cannot be released to the public
- ☞ Calm fears
- ☞ Be present when the actual interview is conducted.

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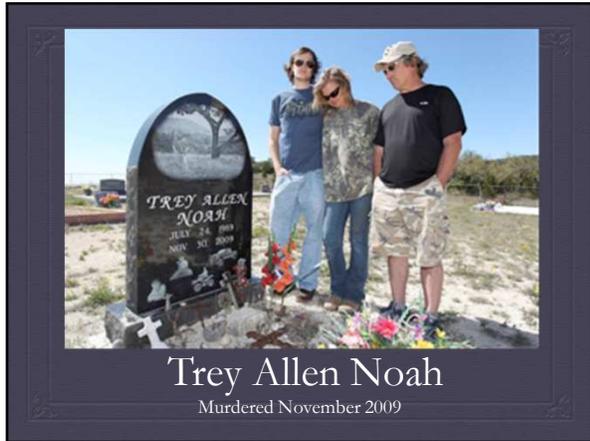
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Trey Allen Noah  
Murdered November 2009

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### Trey Allen Noah

Murdered November, 2009

Trey Allen Noah was 20 years old when he disappeared from his family's home the day after Thanksgiving in 2009. Trey's remains were discovered in a remote area in Gillespie County in April, 2010. His mother Melodie, father, Darrell, and younger brother Tyler were shocked when another family member, Shelby Moore, Trey's first cousin was implicated in their son's death, however, the case against Moore and another individual was dropped in early 2014 due to legal issues involving their Miranda Rights.

The Noah's are hoping for new information that will allow the case to be reopened, and allow them to find justice for their son Trey.

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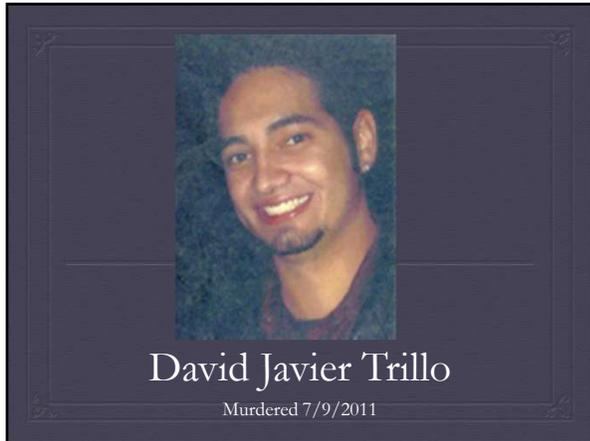
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**David Javier Trillo**  
Murdered 7/9/2011

At 31 years old, David Javier Trillo was shot and killed in the early morning hours of July 29, 2011 by Andrew Gonzales, who he considered a friend.

David left behind his two young children, Julian and Alexandria, and mother Violet, father Robert, and brother Bobby Trillo.

Andrew Gonzales was sentenced to 20 years in prison on March 27, 2013 for the brutal murder of David.

The Trillo family attends the San Antonio Chapter of Parents of Murdered Children (POMC) and Other Homicide Victims on a regular basis, and offer support to others who have lost loved ones to senseless acts of violence.

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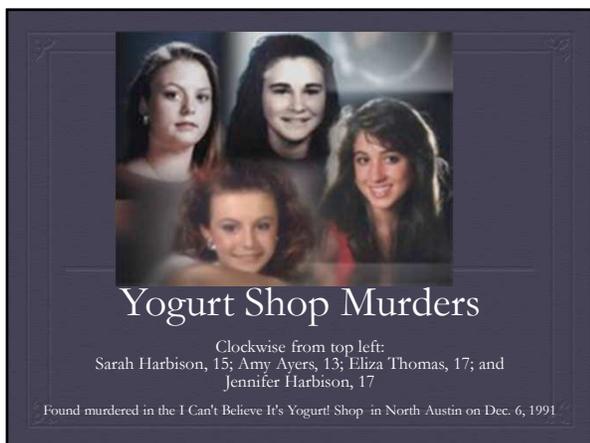
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### Yogurt Shop Murder Case Timeline

Police officers stand outside a yogurt shop on West Anderson Lane on Dec. 7, 1991, the day after four teenage girls were shot to death and the business set ablaze to cover up the crime. Four men were charged in the case in 1999. Charges were dismissed October 28, 2009 against the remaining defendants.

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### Yogurt Shop Murder Case Timeline

**Dec. 6, 1991** - at 11:47 p.m., Austin police officer Troy Gay, patrolling North Austin, reports a fire at the I Can't Believe It's Yogurt shop at 2949 W. Anderson Lane. Investigators find the bodies of Jennifer Harbison, her sister, Sarah, and their friends Eliza Thomas and Amy Ayers.

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### Yogurt Shop Murder Case Timeline

**Dec. 9, 1991** - Police report that more than one person was involved in the robbery-homicide, and no forced entry was found. The teens, thought to have been dead before the fire was set, were tied up with material found in the store.

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### Yogurt Shop Murder Case Timeline

**Dec. 12, 1991** - State District Judge Jon Wisser seals autopsy reports of the teens to preserve confidentiality of evidence.

**Dec. 23, 1991** - Confessions by a teenage girl and her boyfriend prove false. Authorities say they have few leads.

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### Yogurt Shop Murder Case Timeline

**October 1992** - Porfirio Villa Saavedra, who Mexican police said confessed to the yogurt shop killings, recants, saying Mexican federal agents tortured him.

**August 1999** - Police assign six investigators and one sergeant and enlist the help of other agencies to pursue a new lead.

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### Yogurt Shop Murder Case Timeline

**Oct. 6, 1999** - Austin police arrest Forrest Welborn, Maurice Pierce, Robert Burns Springsteen IV and Michael Scott on capital murder charges.

**Dec. 9, 1999** - A judge rules that Pierce and Welborn, 16 and 15 at the time of the killings, may be tried as adults.

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### Yogurt Shop Murder Case Timeline

**Dec. 14, 1999** - A Travis County grand jury indicts Springsteen on four counts of capital murder. District Attorney Ronnie Earle announces he will seek the death penalty.

**Dec. 18, 1999** - A grand jury indicts Pierce and Scott on four counts of capital murder. Prosecutors say they will seek the death penalty against Scott but cannot against Pierce because he was a juvenile at the time of the crime.

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### Yogurt Shop Murder Case Timeline

**June 2000** - A judge dismisses capital murder charges against Welborn after a second grand jury declines to indict him.

**April 2001** - Jury selection begins in the capital murder trial of Springsteen, who is tried for the death of Ayers. Prosecutors arrive in court armed with Springsteen's confession but no physical evidence tying him to the crime scene.

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### Yogurt Shop Murder Case Timeline

**June 2001** - Springsteen is sentenced to death in the murder of Ayers.

**September 2002** - A jury convicts Scott of capital murder in the death of Ayers. He is sentenced to life in prison.

**January 2003** - Charges against Pierce are dismissed, and he is released from jail.

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### Yogurt Shop Murder Case Timeline

**May 2006** - The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals throws out Springsteen's conviction, saying that Scott's written confession was improperly used against Springsteen. The case is sent back to Travis County.

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### Yogurt Shop Murder Case Timeline

**June 2007** - The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals throws out Scott's conviction, ruling that Springsteen's confession was improperly used against Scott. Prosecutors prepare to re-try both defendants.

**April 2008** - A defense lawyer discloses in a court document that previously undiscovered DNA that did not come from either Scott or Springsteen was taken from one of the victims.

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### Yogurt Shop Murder Case Timeline

**June 25, 2009** - Springsteen and Scott are released from jail on their own recognizance after prosecutors tell state District Judge Mike Lynch that they're not prepared to go to trial in July.

**October 28, 2009** - Prosecutors dismiss all charges against Scott and Springsteen.

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Feel free to contact us for more information:

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