



ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL LISA MADIGAN

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ATTORNEY GENERAL LISA MADIGAN, CHICAGO METROPOLITAN BATTERED WOMEN'S NETWORK JOIN EMPIRE BEAUTY SCHOOLS IN LAUNCHING ANTI-DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TRAINING PROGRAM

Cosmetologists in Unique Position to Recognize and Support Victims of Domestic Violence

Chicago, IL April 28, 2009 – [Empire Beauty](#) Schools, one of the largest systems of cosmetology schools in the country, Attorney General Lisa Madigan and the Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network today participated in a national CUT IT OUT program aimed at educating stylists on domestic violence issues. Representatives from the Attorney General's office, the National Cosmetology Association and several Chicago area women's shelters trained more than 300 Empire Beauty School students to identify signs of domestic abuse in clients and safely refer them to people and resources that can assist them.

Empire students and staff, along with Attorney General Madigan, Dawn Dalton, the Executive Director of the Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network, Franklin K. Schoeneman, CEO and chairman of Empire Education Group, Lisle Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Tom Althoff, the National Cosmetology Association's Director of NCA Cares, Jeri Linas, and several domestic violence support organizations from the Chicago area were on hand to launch the CUT IT OUT effort.

"I am pleased to contribute to this important partnership between CUT IT OUT and Empire Beauty Schools," Attorney General Lisa Madigan. "Domestic violence is a devastating crime that hurts far too many women in Chicago and throughout Illinois. The cosmetology community is in a unique position to help women find the resources they need when this crime impacts them. The training that we provide today will ensure that these stylists can assist victims for years to come."

The CUT IT OUT training is part of the school's multifaceted "Empire Gives Back" anti-domestic violence program. Each of the three Empire Beauty Schools in Illinois have adopted a local domestic violence support organization. Empire provides support to these shelters through local student fundraising events, as well as providing no-charge cosmetology services to women who are residents of the shelters. In addition to complimentary services, shelter residents are eligible to receive financial assistance to attend any Empire Beauty School in the country. This educational assistance program could create tremendous opportunities worth up to \$500,000 per year.

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“This is the first time we will be able to provide the anti-domestic violence training to more than 300 students in just one day,” said Franklin K. Schoeneman, CEO and chairman of Empire Education Group. “The Empire Gives Back program not only gives our students the skills to improve the lives of people in their communities but their own lives as well.”

The Web site, www.empiregivesback.com, has been created to offer information about domestic violence, promote awareness of this crime and provide those in need with helpful information concerning resources and organizations that can assist them.

Because the painful effects of sexual assault, domestic violence and other forms of violence against women and children impact families throughout Illinois, Attorney General Madigan offers numerous programs and services aimed at protecting the rights and safety of women and children. These programs and services include:

- Grant funding through the Violent Crime Victims Assistance Act to help victims of violent crime recover and rebuild their lives;
- Trainings and seminars to provide law enforcement and first responders with better tools to prevent and solve crimes against women, prosecute domestic abusers and sex offenders, and help victims cope with the trauma of violent crime; and
- A comprehensive directory to make services more readily available to women and children in need.

Through a vigorous legislative agenda in Springfield and innovative partnerships with law enforcement around the state, Attorney General Madigan also continues to work toward improved sex offender management in Illinois, new programs to fight crime against women and children, and more aggressive prosecutions of criminals.

[Empire Education Group](#)

Empire Education Group provides quality cosmetology education, offering students the opportunity to improve their lives. For over 75 years, Empire has grown to become one of the largest providers of beauty and cosmetology education in North America. Empire’s 88 accredited cosmetology schools in 18 states use exclusive Certified Learning in Cosmetology (CLiC) education curriculum; the company prepares students for successful careers in cosmetology (hair care, skin care, and nail care.)

Schools accredited under Empire Education Group include; [Empire Beauty Schools](#), [Concorde Academy](#), [European Academy](#), [The Hair Design School](#), and [Natural Motion Institute](#). For more information and a complete listing of all schools under the Empire Education Group name, visit: www.empire.edu

As a program of the Salons Against Domestic Abuse Fund, CUT IT OUT is dedicated to mobilizing salon professionals and others to fight the epidemic of domestic abuse in communities across the United States. CUT IT OUT builds awareness of domestic abuse and trains salon professionals to recognize warning signs and safely refer clients to local resources. The program is funded by: the **National Cosmetology Association (NCA) and Southern Living At Home (SLAH)**