



**Georgia
Commission on
Family
Violence**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

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**Georgia Commission on Family Violence Hires New Executive Director for
Statewide Domestic Violence Agency**

(Atlanta) The Georgia Commission on Family Violence (the Commission) proudly announces the hiring of an Executive Director. Ms. Jennifer Thomas, who previously held the role of Interim Executive Director for the Commission, assumed her post on May 1st. The Commission is a state agency created by the Georgia General Assembly in 1992 to develop a comprehensive state plan for ending family violence in Georgia as well as working throughout the state to help create and support task forces made up of citizen volunteers working to end domestic violence in their communities. In addition, the Commission conducts research and provides training to law enforcement, family violence task forces, advocates, Family Violence Intervention Programs and other criminal justice system personnel about domestic violence. The Commission also monitors legislation and other policies impacting victims of domestic violence, certifies all of Georgia's Family Violence Intervention Programs, and co-coordinates the statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Project. The Commission will hold its 21st Annual Statewide Family Violence Conference on September 27-30, 2015 in Athens GA.

The Commission, chaired by Holly Tuchman, CEO and Executive Director of the YWCA of Northwest Georgia, formed a hiring committee, which made the unanimous decision to hire Ms. Thomas. Ms. Thomas comes to this position with over seven years of organizational experience, serving various roles as Family Violence Task Force Coordinator, Program Manager, and

Interim Executive Director. Ms. Thomas served as the Prevention Specialist for Circle of Hope located in Habersham County and the Transitional Housing Coordinator for Partnership Against Domestic Violence located in Gwinnett County prior to joining the staff at the Commission. Ms. Tuchman spoke about the choice, “We were fortunate to have excellent candidates interested in the position. Ms. Thomas has a vision for the Commission as we move the work forward to lower the murder rates of victims of domestic violence, raise awareness of this important issue across our state, and continue to train and education the various stakeholders throughout Georgia. We look forward to her leadership and working alongside her and the Commission staff to impact change.”

Ms. Thomas has a Master of Social Work from the University of Georgia and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Piedmont College.

The Commission believes that a coordinated community response is the best way to address the problem of family violence. Coordinated community response means that every segment of the community - including judges, advocates, law enforcement, medical professionals, educators, and concerned citizens - is responsible for helping to end family violence. In other words, everyone, including you, can be a part of the solution.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence please call the 24-hour domestic violence crisis line at 1-800-33- HAVEN

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