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FIRST ANNUAL NEW YORK CITY
SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME TRAINING CONFERENCE

Event Hosted by Queens District Attorney, NYPD, ACS and Chief Medical Examiner

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown, joined by Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly, Administration for Children's Services Commissioner John B. Mattingly and Chief Medical Examiner Charles S. Hirsch, M.D., today announced they will host the First Annual New York City Shaken Baby Syndrome Training Conference on Monday, September 17, 2007.

District Attorney Brown, who will deliver the welcoming remarks at the conference, said, "All too often children are affected by this devastating form of abuse. Each year more than 1,000 children, age two and under, experience severe or fatal head trauma as a result of violent, repetitive shaking. Shaken baby syndrome must be stopped, and I believe that specialized education and training in this complicated field will better equip the medical, social services and prosecutorial communities in our fight against shaken baby syndrome. This unprecedented forum will bring together experts from around the globe to share their knowledge and experience, as well as to gain a broader understanding of this tragic form of child abuse."

Commissioner Kelly said, "An adult's uncontrolled rage at an infant often results in the baby's death. The New York City Police Department pursues those who endanger children, and welcomes any opportunity to advance law enforcement's understanding of the deadly shaken baby syndrome and how to combat and prosecute it."

Commissioner Mattingly said, "Children's Services greatly appreciates joining with our City agency partners in this effort to gain a wider understanding of shaken baby syndrome and its terrible impact on children. Many parents and caregivers are not aware of the devastating dangers to their children when they express their rage by violently shaking an infant. As we learn better how to identify the problem, ACS can use the information to educate parents and caregivers about shaken baby syndrome so that we can prevent this from happening, as we do on a DVD called 'A Life to Love' that discusses shaken baby syndrome, available free of charge by calling the City's 3-1-1 helpline."

Dr. Hirsch said, "We are pleased to participate in this multidisciplinary symposium on an important topic in criminal justice."

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The Conference, which will be led by national and international Shaken Baby Syndrome experts, will highlight the implications of medical diagnosis, the techniques of enhanced police investigation, and the challenges of successful prosecution of these important cases.

Featured speakers include:

- ▶ Detective Chief Inspector Phillip Wheeler, Scotland Yard
Senior Police Advisor on Shaken Baby Syndrome Investigations
- ▶ Dr. James Gill, New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner
- ▶ Dr. Randell Alexander, University of Florida
Chief, Division of Child Protection and Forensic Pediatrics
National Expert on Shaken Baby Syndrome
- ▶ Marjory Fisher, Office of the District Attorney, Queens County
Bureau Chief, Special Victims Bureau

The Conference will be held on Monday, September 17, 2007 (9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) at the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner Auditorium (New Forensic Biology Laboratory) at 421 East 26th Street in Manhattan.

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Note to Editors: E-version of press release posted at www.queensda.org.