



Media statement

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Media contact:

Jess Williamson
Sojourner
(414) 810-1828
jessw@familypeacecenter.org

The Family Peace Center's vision is to create communities where people live peacefully. The mission is to transform lives impacted by domestic violence.

We recently learned that one of our co-located partners, Milwaukee Police Department – Sensitive Crimes Division, interviewed a sexual assault suspect at their office located at the Family Peace Center this past summer.

The interview was held in MPD's offices and **not in the shelter** area of the Family Peace Center, as was incorrectly [reported by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#). The interview occurred without our knowledge and is in conflict with the terms of our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

We have discussed the matter with MPD and are taking measures to ensure the terms of the MOU are strictly enforced.

The MOU indicates MPD is not permitted to interview or detain suspects at the center and will avoid practices that may compromise victim safety and recovery. Additionally, the MOU affirms a mutual obligation to support the mission and vision of the center and respect individual roles and missions of co-located partners.

Sojourner remains committed to supporting survivors of domestic violence, preserving the privacy of shelter residents and providing a place where clients feel safe and supported. We will continue to enforce strict security measures to prevent the public, partners and unauthorized individuals from accessing the shelter area. Requests to access the shelter – even by law enforcement – will continue to require approval by authorized Sojourner personnel.

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About Sojourner

The mission of Sojourner is to transform lives impacted by domestic violence. Sojourner provides crisis housing, system advocacy, and individual support to people who are hurting. Sojourner is the largest provider of domestic violence prevention and

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intervention services in Wisconsin, serving over 12,000 clients annually. Our primary goals are to ensure the safety of victims of family violence and to provide a pathway out of violence for victims and abusers through opportunities to make positive and lasting changes for themselves and their children. Sojourner is committed to creating communities where people live peacefully. For more information, visit www.familypeacecenter.org or call Sojourner 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline: 414-933-2722.

About Family Peace Center

Sojourner is one of the first in the nation to house holistic services for survivors of domestic violence, all under one roof. Sojourner and Children's Wisconsin formed a unique partnership to create one of the first co-located child advocacy and family violence centers in the country. The Family Peace Center accommodates a number of co-located and visiting partner organizations including the Milwaukee Police Department Sensitive Crimes Division, Milwaukee Public Schools, the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, Aurora Healthcare Abuse Response Services, and others. Families receiving services at the Family Peace Center have access to a wide array of services to support their efforts to achieve healing, self-sufficiency and freedom from abuse.