

# *Donna L. Murray, M.A.*

LICENSE # C1100008 • #A1400174

PO Box 152267

CAPE CORAL, FL 33915

dmurraycpi@yahoo.com

VOICE: 239-810-3666 • FAX: 239-574-1777

---

## *Highlights of Qualifications*

Rev. 09/01/2020

- Excellent investigative skills with effective interviewing techniques
- Successful development of themes of mitigation resulting in death waivers and life sentences
- Social work background with exceptional interpersonal communication skills
- Ability to quickly establish positive rapport with clients, experts, witnesses and colleagues
- Proficient in gathering social histories for thorough mitigation investigations
- Guest speaker at various conferences and seminars; field trainer and mentor

## *Education*

Master's in Criminal Justice Administration, University of South Florida

Phi Kappa Phi

Recipient of Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice, University of South Florida

Associate Degree in Criminal Justice, Edison Community College

Phi Theta Kappa

## *Licensure / Certifications / Commission*

Licensed Private Investigator, State of Florida License #C1100008,

Owner - Licensed Private Investigative Agency # A1400174

Forensic Social Worker for Juvenile Resentencing

JIS/FCIC Certified, FL Dept. of Law Enforcement

Certified Forensic Interviewer and Interrogator, FGCU

Certified Child Protective Investigator, FL Dept. of Children and Families

Certified OSHA First Responder - Operations Level, California Dept of Justice

Notary Public, State of Florida

## *Professional Experience*

*Murray Investigations and Mitigation Specialists, LLC, Cape Coral, FL*

*05/2017 - present*

### **Owner/Mitigation Specialist**

Conduct all aspects of Capital Mitigation, Juvenile Resentencing, Sentence Mitigation, and Criminal Defense Investigations. Forensic Social Worker for Miller/Graham resentencing cases.

*Capital Mitigation Consultants, Murdock, FL*

*01/2013 – 04/2017*

### **Mitigation Specialist**

Conduct extensive mitigation investigations; interview witnesses; in-depth review, analysis and summary of various records; create and design themes of mitigation; consult with variety of experts such as cultural, medical and mental health experts in developing mitigation strategy; prepare timelines and extensive social histories. Preparation of waiver packages and successfully obtained numerous Life pleas and death waivers.

*Office of the Public Defender, Twentieth Judicial Circuit, Ft. Myers, FL*

*05/2007 – 01/2013*

### **Mitigation Specialist (2008 – 01/2013)**

Conducted extensive Mitigation Investigations instrumental in successful death waivers and life sentences. Recipient of **Davis Productivity Award** (team) 2012 for in-house Mitigation

**Chief Investigator, Lee County** (08/09 – 01/2013)

Recognized as the 2011 NASW **“Public Citizen of the Year”** [National Assoc. of Social Workers]  
Recipient of 2012 Melissa Kupferburg Scholarship by the National Defender Investigator Association  
Featured in the July 2012 edition of the NDIA Newsletter, *Eagle’s Eye*  
Supervise/direct activities of Investigators and Investigative support staff in the Lee County office  
Mentor and provide guidance to Investigators in branch offices (Collier, Hendry, Charlotte)  
Assign Investigation Requests and Review Investigations submitted for closure  
Liaison between Investigative Division and Assistant Public Defenders  
Conduct annual evaluations of Investigative Division staff members  
Counsel and mentor Investigative Division staff members as needed  
Liaison to LCSO Visitation Center clerks re video visitation of inmates  
Consult with IT Director for Investigations database, electronic forms and enhancements  
TAC (Terminal Agency Coordinator) for FCIC access through JIS with FDLE  
Conduct mitigation investigations for death penalty cases  
Prepare in-depth investigative reports regarding interviews, evidence review  
Perform Intake interviews on clients newly in custody  
Carry out in-depth initial and follow-up interviews of clients charged with murder  
Create Timelines, Family Trees, Power Point Presentations for Capital Mitigation cases  
*Task Supervisor for FGCU Social Work graduate and undergraduate Interns (BSW and MSW)*  
Conduct biopsychosocial interviews and recommendations for Alternative Sentencing options  
Prepare department comprehensive monthly reports for the Public Defender  
Conduct background checks on potential new employees  
Schedule jail tours and facilitate obtaining jail badges for new attorneys and investigators  
Designed Investigation Division Brochure  
Oversee maintenance of agency vehicles in Lee County  
Oversee procedure for cases nolle-prossed by State to ensure timely release of defendants

**Investigator III** (05/07 – 08/09)

Promoted to Chief Investigator for Lee County in August, 2009  
Conducted hundreds of criminal defense investigations of felony, misdemeanor and juvenile cases  
Perform in-custody adult intake interviews and juvenile interviews  
Obtain reports and documentation from other agencies, law enforcement, health, education  
Run criminal history/FCIC background checks on defendants, victims and witnesses  
Field investigations to locate witnesses, photograph crime scenes and evidence, subpoena service  
Prepare cogent Investigation Reports  
Staff Investigative tasks with assigned attorney, discuss options and make recommendations  
Testify during court proceedings regarding investigations

*Florida Department of Children and Families, Ft. Myers, FL*

04/2002 – 05/2007

**Child Protective Investigator II**

Conducted hundreds of child abuse investigations, interviews, developed witnesses, gathered evidence, determined immediate safety actions, some drastic as needed to ensure child safety  
Acting Supervisor when requested in supervisor’s absence  
Mentor new employees, assist in field based training, review performance  
Make social service referrals to assist and strengthen families  
Present cogent and precise testimony and prepare comprehensive reports for court presentation  
Complete and close investigations within statutory time frame to avoid backlog of cases  
Comprehensive presentations during ITR (Intake-Triage-Referral) staffing to Case Manager

- Regular Guest Speaker for bi-monthly Guardian Ad Litem training classes
- Recipient of 2006 **Davis Productivity Award Certificate**
- Recipient of 2006 **Outstanding Employee of the Year Award**

Selected to participant in State-wide pilot program for high-speed Citrix access for Hsn  
Organized two separate holiday Toy Drives - collected toy donations valued in excess of \$2,000

---

*Professional Associations*

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi [Membership by Invitation for academic excellence] National Defender Investigator Association (NDIA) conference committee member National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA) National Alliance of Sentencing Advocates and Mitigation Specialists (NASAMS) Nominations Committee Member 2017 Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (FACDL) American Society of Criminology, (ASC) Corrections & Sentencing and Victimology Divisions

*Presentations*

**Media Presentations**

A&E special series: Kids Behind Bars - Life Or Parole, aired 2019

Interviewed in 3 episodes of 8-episode series: Resentencing cases: "Preston" and "Ron Bell"  
Public Radio Interview, 29 minute Public Service Announcement broadcast in November 2005  
Topic: Child Protective Investigation Procedures in Florida; WJPT-FM, 106.3, Estero, Florida

**Mitigation Presentations / Guest Speaker**

National Alliance of Sentencing Advocates & Mitigation Specialists 2019 Conference, Baltimore, MD

- Preserving Your Expert Like an Expert

National Defender Investigator Association 2017 National Conference, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

- The Mitigation Investigator in Death Penalty and Juvenile Resentencing Cases
- Working with Expert Witnesses in Capital Trials and Juvenile Resentencing

Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers 2014 Death Is Different, Orlando, FL

- Selecting and Utilizing Experts

National Defender Investigator Association 2014 National Conference, New Orleans, LA

- The Mitigation Specialist
- Selecting and Utilizing Experts during Phase Two of a Capital Trial

Florida Center for Capital Representation 2014 seminar series (Ft. Lauderdale, Tampa, Jacksonville)

- Selecting and Utilizing Experts

National Defender Investigator Association 2013 Regional Conference, Jacksonville, FL

- The role of Mitigation in Death Penalty Cases (9/5/13)

**Criminal Defense Investigation Presentations / Guest Speaker**

High School Criminal Justice Class, two presentations, Ida Baker High School, Cape Coral  
Interviewing Techniques workshop for all investigators in the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Public Defender Office  
Defense Tactics for Defending Child Abuse Cases for attorneys in 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Public Defender

**Child Protection Investigation Presentations / Guest Speaker**

North Ft. Myers Academy of the Arts, Elementary School Teachers, In-service

Girl Scouts of Gulf Coast Florida, In-service for Troop Leaders

Kiwanis Club of Cape Coral, Guest Speaker

Knights of Columbus, Council 7131, Guest Speaker

Department of Revenue, In-service

Department of Health, In-service

Edison College, Guest Speaker, Social Services Class

Florida Gulf Coast University, Guest Speaker, Social Services Class

First Christian Church, Lehigh Acres, Fl., Daycare Employees, In-service

MAPP Class, McGregor Baptist Church, for new Foster Parents Guardian Ad Litem

Training Classes, Bi-monthly, Guest Speaker

Methamphetamine Indicators for Child Protective Investigators, Lee County

### *Continuing Education / Seminars and Conferences*

#### **Capital Mitigation Training**

NACDL Making the Case for Life Virtual Seminar (Aug. 27-28, 2020)  
Twenty-Fifth Annual National Federal Habeas Corpus Seminar-Virtual (Aug. 20-22, 2020)  
Juvenile Law Ctr & Arizona Capital Sentencing Project: Making the Sentencing Case- webinar (Aug 18, 2020)  
Countering ASPD II / Working with Experts – webinar (Aug 11, 2020)  
Adverse Childhood Experiences – webinar (Aug 5, 2020)  
Adaptive Functioning Assessment – webinar (Aug 4, 2020)  
FACDL Death is Different , Lake Mary, FL (Feb. 2019, Mar 2018, Mar 2017, Mar 2014)  
Life Over Death, FPDA Conference (Sep. 2018, Oct. 2017, Sep. 2015, Sep. 2012, Sep. 2010, Sep. 2007)  
Georgia Capital Defender, Fighting the Death Penalty One Client at a Time, Savannah (May 21-23, 2018)  
Administrative Office of the United States Courts, 15<sup>th</sup> Annual National Seminar on  
the Development and Integration of Mitigation Evidence in Capital Cases, Miami FL (April 19-22, 2018)  
ACLU, Bring Your Own Case training, Orange Beach, AL (February 28 – March 3, 2018)  
Sentencing Training w/ Colorado Method Capital Voir Dire introduction, Orlando, FL (October 8-9, 2017)  
Nitty Gritty Mitigation Sentencing Strategies, Orlando, FL (July 24-25, 2017)  
Florida's New Death Penalty Scheme – Mitigation, Miami, FL (June 30, 2016)  
Anatomy of a Capital Case & Learning to Defend Homicides, CCCRC, Altamonte Spgs, FL (Jan. 23-24, 2014)  
NACDL Making the Case for Life – National Conference, Charlotte, NC ( Oct. 23-25, 2014)  
Florida Capital Resource Center:  
Capital Forensics: Investigating & Challenging Forensic Evidence, Ft. Lauderdale (Jan. 17, 2014)  
Mitigation Workshop: Mitigation Strategies & Techniques for Capital Cases, Miami, FL (Dec., 2012)  
FACDL Bring Your Own Case – Capital Mitigation Seminar, Florida A&M Univ. College of Law (Jan 5-7, 2012)  
Capital Mitigation Workshop, Orlando Public Defender's Office (Jan. 29-30, 2009)

#### **Juvenile Resentencing Training**

The Adolescent Brain: How the Research and Developments in Adolescent Psychology  
Can Inform Reliable Sentencing Outcomes, Hillsborough County Bar Association (Feb. 6, 2017)  
Miller Training/Juvenile Resentencing, FACDL, FPDA Winter Conference, Naples, FL (Dec. 2, 2016)  
Topics in Juvenile Law – Resentencing under Graham, Orlando, FL (June 10, 2016)  
Kids are Different – Miller/Graham Juvenile Cases, FACDL, Orlando, FL (September 25-26, 2015)

#### **Criminal Defense Investigation Training**

Baker Act Seminar, Ft. Myers, FL (June, 2007)  
First Aid/CPR Training, American Red Cross (5 hrs), Ft. Myers, FL (August 15, 2007)  
FCIC Certification Training, FDLE, (4 hrs) Cape Coral, FL (April 16, 2008)  
TAC Training, FDLE (4 hrs) Terminal Agency Coordinator (June 25, 2008)  
CPR and AED recertification, American Red Cross, Ft. Myers, FL (October 8, 2008)  
CJIS Visioning the Future, Ft. Myers, FL (October 29-30, 2008)  
Microsoft Office 2007 Training, (8 hrs) Ft. Myers, FL. (November 12, 2008)  
Field Instructor & Clinical Supervisor Training, (16 hrs) FGCU MSW Intern Program (9/11&18/2009)  
CJIS Refresher Training, Ft. Myers, FL (November 30, 2009)  
FCIC/JIS Recertification Training, (3 hrs) FDLE, Ft. Myers, FL (May 11, 2010)  
Use of Force / Stand Your Ground training, Ft. Myers, FL (August, 2012)  
National Defender Investigator Association  
National Conference:  
Atlanta, GA (April 18-20, 2012)  
New Orleans, LA (April, 2014)  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL (April, 2017)  
Regional Conference:  
Jacksonville, FL. (Sept. 5-6, 2013)

---

***Child Protection Certification Training***

M. E. Lawsuit (July 30, 2002)  
Mentor Training (January 22-23, 2003)  
HIPPA Training (2003, 2004)  
Why Parents Spank (April 24, 2003)  
2003 Dependency Court Improvement Summit, Orlando, FL (August 26-29, 2003)

- General Case Law Update
- Child Abuse Reporting: Hotline
- Right & Legal – Is It Always the Same Thing?
- Forensic Interviewing of Children
- Child Abuse Investigations: Law Enforcement and DCF Recommendations

Ethics Training, Ft. Myers, FL (September 12, 2003)  
Customer Service, Ft. Myers, FL (September 18, 2003)  
Forensic Interviewing, FDLE, Ft. Myers, FL (September 27, 2003)  
Digital Camera Training, Ft. Myers, FL (October, 9 2003)  
Domestic Violence to Victory, Sanibel Isl., FL. (October 17, 2003)  
Medical Intervention, Ft. Myers, FL. (October 17, 2003)  
Safety Planning, Ft. Myers, FL (November 18, 2003)  
HSN On call Schedule, Ft. Myers, FL (January 9, 2004);  
HSN Reports (February 17, 2005)  
Interviewing Techniques, FDLE, Ft. Myers, FL (January 20, 2004)  
Physical Abuse Indicators, FDLE, Ft. Myers, FL (January 21, 2004)  
Casework Practice (Documentation Training), Ft. Myers, FL (June 11, 2004)  
Clandestine Methamphetamine Labs COPS Conference, Weston, FL (January 10-12, 2005)  
OSHA First Responder Certification (8 hrs), Weston, FL (January 13, 2005)  
State Attorney Office Training, Ft., Myers, FL. (March 18, 2005)  
Psychotropic Medications, Ft. Myers, FL (April 8, 2005)  
Civil Rights Training, Ft. Myers, FL (April 18, 2005)  
Child Sexual Exploitation, Ft. Myers, FL (May 11, 2005)  
Children's Advocacy Center Annual Conference, Orlando, FL (May 18-19, 2005)

- Trial Strategies, Physical & Sexual Abuse

Family Violence and Custody I & II (June 2-3, 2005)  
Strengthening Families (June 4, 2005)  
Strategic Planning (November 1, 2005)  
Bldg a Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Assault (December 2, 2005)  
Florida Abuse Hotline, Ft. Myers, FL (January 23, 2006)  
Drug Endangered Children (January 30-31, 2006)

***Community Service***

Department of Children and Families

- Hurricane Relief Worker, Emergency Food Stamp Program 2005 - Lee County
- Hurricane Relief Worker, Emergency Food Stamp Program 2004 - Charlotte/Hendry County

Girl Scouts of Gulf Coast, Florida

- Troop Leader
- Council Trainer
- Neighborhood Event Coordinator; Neighborhood Brownie Troop Consultant
- Recipient of Outstanding Leader Award and Outstanding Volunteer Award

Rotary Club of Cape Coral North

- Board Member
- Club Bulletin Editor
- Officer - Club Secretary, Club President-Elect
- Recipient of Rotarian of the Year award

St. Andrew School Volunteer and member of Annual Festival Security staff