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NEWS RELEASE

Date: October 28, 2003
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**District Attorneys, Police, Child Advocates and Legislators Urge A 'YES' Vote On
Ballot Question to Allow Children to Videotape Testimony**

***Young Children Who Have Been Raped, Kidnapped Or Who Have Witnessed The
Murder Of Their Parents Would Be Spared Further Trauma***

WHAT: PRESS CONFERENCE
WHEN: TUESDAY OCTOBER 28, 2003
11AM
WHERE: DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
1421 ARCH ST.
FIRST FLOOR PRESS ROOM

District Attorney Lynne Abraham and a contingent of area district attorneys, police, legislators and child advocates are urging people to vote YES on the Nov. 4, 2003 ballot questions #1 and #2, which would allow children who have been raped, kidnapped or who have witnessed the murder of their parents to videotape their testimony in order to spare them further trauma. The ballot questions are two separate constitutional amendments—one changing the technical wording of the state constitution and the other allowing the legislature

to enact laws specifically allowing videotape and closed-circuit testimony of children. These changes are legally the only way to protect these child victims from further harm and trauma in the courtroom.

The amendment would only pertain to children-- NOT adults.

Additionally, defendants' rights are protected by existing statutes that provide that the defense attorney be present and able to cross-examine the witness. The defendant and the defense attorney can see and hear the victim as he or she testifies. The only difference is that the victim cannot see the defendant.

Voters first approved this measure in 1995 by a *2 to 1 margin*. In 1999, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court overturned the vote for procedural reasons.

Now the measure is before the voters again. These children, our most innocent and vulnerable victims, have suffered terribly and deserve a YES vote on these ballot questions.