

Niagara County Family Violence Intervention Project

2026 Safe at Home Conference



Wednesday, October 21, 2026
8:30am - 4:30pm

Doubletree by Hilton
Niagara Falls, NY

John Witherspoon

Detective, Montgomery County Police Department, Special Victims Investigations Unit



John Witherspoon is a Montgomery County (MD) Police Officer where he is currently assigned to the Special Victims Investigations Unit, (SVID) Runaway/Missing/Children's Division. A 27-year veteran of the department, Detective Witherspoon has been a member of the Human Trafficking Task Force, which also investigates kidnappings, parental abductions, and international abductions, for the past thirteen years.

Recognized nationally as a subject matter expert in Missing and Endangered Children, Detective Witherspoon has testified and presented in court testimony in over 100 missing/runaway cases and has investigated over 4500 missing cases in his career.

In 2018, Detective Witherspoon was named by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), through its Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), as the recipient of the 2018 Missing Children's Law Enforcement Award. In addition, in 2018 Detective Witherspoon established the non-profit organization "Defend our Children." DOC is designed to assist Law Enforcement and the community with awareness and training in the areas of Human Trafficking and assistance for victims and families of those affected by Human Trafficking, as well as career training assistance to those with learning and developmental delays.

Detective Witherspoon was selected to represent the Montgomery County Police Department on the Montgomery County Human Trafficking Prevention Committee. This position was approved by the Montgomery County Council and is partnered through the Montgomery County Commission for Women.

A Nationally renowned Presenter on Child Sex Trafficking and Missing Children, Detective Witherspoon has affiliations with the National Victims of Crime (NCVC), American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC), New York State Child Advocacy Centers (NYSCAC) and a multitude of National Organizations in which he has been selected to present.

For more information, visit: cacofniagara.org/services/family-violence-intervention-project/