

Geneva County to host law enforcement training for more than 200 officers

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More than 200 law enforcement officials from more than 30 different agencies will train Friday in what local district attorneys hope will be an annual seminar on everyday legal challenges.

Geneva County District Attorney Kirke Adams and Houston County District Attorney Doug Valeska are sponsoring the Wiregrass Law Enforcement and Prosecutor Seminar in Geneva Friday for training on investigations, including what is involved in forensic crime scene preservation, search and seizure, child sexual abuse and driving under the influence.

Officers and investigators from several different agencies will be represented to hear law enforcement officials from across the state, Adams said.

Adams said discussion on bringing such a training event to the Wiregrass began with a casual conversation with a Geneva County Sheriff's Department official.

"Chief Sheriff's Deputy

Tony Helms told me there were several local agencies that needed education hours for their officers. With very tight budgets, it is hard for them to get this type of continued education. I had no idea that we would get this type response," Adams said.

"I hope this response shows the public that local law enforcement agencies desire to continue to educate and train their officers to better serve the public."

Adams said subjects selected for the seminar come directly from questions asked by law enforcement officials daily.

Money for the seminar is being pulled from pretrial diversion programs in Houston and Dale counties.

Dale County Sheriff Wally Olson said he was grateful for the training. Several from his office are expected to attend today, he said.

"It should be real good, not only for the personal training but also for this many agencies in the Wiregrass to train together. This is nothing but positive, and we're thankful for the opportunity," Olson said.