

# *Casillas*

## *Pesticide Action Project*

A Project of the Migrant Farm Worker Division of  
Colorado Legal Services and the National Association for Public Interest Law

*Training:*

### **Diagnosing Pesticide Exposure and Dealing with Legal Implications**

Farm workers suffer at least ten to twenty thousand incidents of physician-diagnosed pesticide illnesses and injuries each year. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the number of actual exposures is probably much higher, but exposures are frequently unnoticed due to lack of medical access, misdiagnosis and underreporting.

Casillas Pesticide Action Project invites health care professionals to attend a training on diagnosing pesticide exposure and dealing with its legal implications. Participants will receive free materials.

#### **Topics addressed**

- Pesticides used in your area
- Symptoms of exposure to those pesticides
- Contacts for help with a pesticide case, including medical and other contacts
- Farm workers' rights
- Rights that impact medical professionals

#### **Materials provided**

- Binder: pesticides used in your area, specific to each crop, symptoms of exposure to those pesticides, contacts, a summary of workers' rights
- Manual designed for providers: Recognition and Management of Pesticide Poisoning, Fifth Edition. Describes toxicology, signs and symptoms of poisoning, confirmation of poisoning, treatment, and general chemical structure for each class of pesticides,

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**Speaker:** Kimi Jackson, Director  
Casillas Pesticide Action Project  
Colorado Legal Services Migrant Division  
**When:** Thursday, April 11  
8 to 9:30 a.m.  
**Where:** Salud Clinic, Sterling, break room

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sample patient interview for exposures, an index of signs and symptoms, and an index of pesticide products. Available in Spanish upon request.

- Bilingual safety educational posters, appropriate for examination rooms and for clinic lobbies.

*Casillas Pesticide Action Project • Colorado Legal Services*  
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CPAP was inspired by the tragic death of a 17-year-old farm worker named José Casillas. José was sprayed with pesticides twice during one week. Thinking he had merely been sprayed with water, he continued to wear his contaminated clothing, even sleeping in it. When he suffered from a severe headache, he went to a clinic, but he was not tested or treated for pesticide poisoning. He died shortly afterwards.

José's employer did little to avoid putting the workers at risk for pesticide poisoning. The workers weren't trained. There were no warning signs, no posting of the chemicals used, no water for decontamination, and no protection against drift.