



BIO

Josephine Funes Wentzel is a retired detective, author, and nationally recognized victims' advocate. Born and raised in Guam as the eleventh of fifteen children, she served as a detective with the Guam Police Department before relocating to Washington State, where she continues to advocate through Angels of Justice.

In 2016, Josephine's life was forever changed when her 30-year-old daughter, Krystal Jaye Mitchell, was murdered in San Diego. The suspect fled the country, but Josephine came out of retirement to pursue justice. Her tireless six-year investigation helped elevate the case to the U.S. Marshals' Top 15 Most Wanted list—making history as the first to receive a \$50,000 reward—leading to the suspect's capture in El Salvador in 2022.

During her pursuit for justice, Josephine helped rescue two missing girls and prevented a kidnapping in Belize. She authored two books, *The Chase*—in hot pursuit of my daughter's killer, and *The Capture*—Six-year hot pursuit ends, chronicling her journey. Josephine has been featured on many major platforms including ABC, CBS, FOX, People Magazine, Good Morning America, Inside Edition, America's Most Wanted, Nancy Grace, Access Hollywood, and In Pursuit with John Walsh.

Josephine founded Angels of Justice, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that supports families affected by homicide. Known as "Detective MOM" and "Mama Bear," she continues to advocate for justice reform, including lobbying for Washington State to adopt a version of the UK's "No Rough Sex Defense" law, as part of her Making America Safe Again initiative. She also is working on bringing attention to the 300,000 plus cold case homicides and solutions for FBI Crime Labs which are backed up with thousands of requests for testing.

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