

# SHIFTING THE BURDEN

## *Domestic Violence: Ensuring Offender Accountability and Victim Safety*



OKLAHOMA DISTRICT ATTORNEYS COUNCIL  
FEDERAL GRANTS DIVISION

Volume 2, Issue 1

January 2010



### MAKING THE MARK

#### Highlighting Coordinated Community Response Team Accomplishments

Cleveland County's coordinated response to domestic violence includes a Domestic Violence Task Force and a Coordinated Community Response Team (CCR Team). The task force meets quarterly, with a focus on community awareness and education, and the CCR Team meets monthly to discuss how to improve the criminal justice system response to domestic violence. The Cleveland County CCR Team began meeting in early 2008. Since that time, this team has made great strides. Members of the team recently attended training in White Plains, New York. Sponsored by the American Probation and Parole Association, the training, was focused on community supervision of domestic violence offenders. Team members attending the training included Assistant District Attorney Brady Henderson; Special District Judge Jequita Napoli; Amber Amason, Norman Police Department; Debbie Marshall-Gill, Court Advocate at Women's Resource Center; Sequita Stetson, Private Practice, Batterer's Intervention; Brooke Chiles and Julia Curry, Oklahoma Court Services. The team will be sharing some of the highlights of the training at an upcoming statewide CCR Team conference.

#### CCR Team accomplishments to date:

- The CCR Team trained the Norman Police Department Cadets in domestic violence topics complete with live demonstration scenarios.
- Two team members have received the Award for Excellence in Action Against Domestic Violence: Assistant District Attorney Brady Henderson in 2008 and Deputy Ronnie Johnson in 2009.

#### Current tasks and future goals of the team:

- The team is currently coordinating resources with the University of Oklahoma to develop and implement ongoing training for local law enforcement agencies.
- The team is developing new law enforcement report forms, including a dedicated domestic abuse form containing the victim's rights card as a tear off portion, and a supplemental strangulation form.
- The team is developing a procedure manual to include all aspects of the court system.
- As a future goal the team hopes to secure a Domestic Violence Investigator within both the Norman Police Department and the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department.

The Cleveland County CCR Team has established good working relationships built on trust and excellent communication. They look forward to accomplishing future goals by providing system changing outcomes that seek to keep victims safe and hold offenders accountable.

**Pictured from left to right:** Debbie Marshall-Gill, Women's Resource Center; Brooke Chiles, Oklahoma Court Services, Inc.; Ronnie Johnson, Cleveland County Sheriff's Dept.; Brady Henderson, Cleveland County District Attorney's Office; Ray Goins, Norman Police Dept.; Patty Duncan, Batterer's Intervention, Private Practice; Amber Amason, Norman Police Dept.; Devin Smith, Cleveland County District Attorney's Office.

Not pictured is Sequita Stetson, Batterer's Intervention, Private Practice.

The District Attorneys Council (DAC), Federal Grants Division is pleased to publish this Winter edition of *Shifting the Burden*, a newsletter for domestic violence prosecutors and members of Coordinated Community Response Teams.

The bi-annual newsletter is a product of the Domestic Violence Resource Prosecutor and Coordinated Community Response Project at DAC. We hope to provide you with information on current issues, legal updates, and activities and accomplishments of local CCR Teams.

Very Truly Yours,

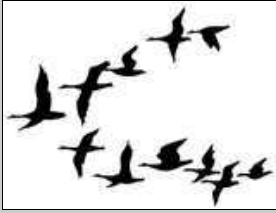
**Melissa Blanton,**  
DVRP

**Sandra Thompson,**  
CCR Specialist



# LESSONS FROM GEESE

By Milton Olson



*The essence of a team is common commitment. Without it, the members of a group perform as individuals. With it, they become a powerful unit of collective performance.*

~ Pell, A.D., (1999) *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Team Building*, Indianapolis, IN: Alpha Books.

1. **Fact:** As each goose flaps its wings it creates an "uplift" for the birds that follow. By flying in a V-formation, the whole flock adds 72% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

**Lesson:** People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of another.

2. **Fact:** When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it.

**Lesson:** If we have as much sense as a goose we stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give out help to others.

3. **Fact:** When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies to the point position.

**Lesson:** It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. As with geese, people are interdependent on each other's skills, capabilities, and unique arrangements of gifts, talents, and resources.

4. **Fact:** The geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

**Lesson:** We need to make sure our honking is encouraging. In groups where there is encouragement, the production is greater. The power of encouragement (to stand by one's heart or core values and encourage the heart and core of others) is the quality of honking we seek.

5. **Fact:** When a goose gets sick, wounded, or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again. Then, they launch out with another formation or catch up with the flock.

**Lesson:** If we had as much sense as geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.



January is National Stalking Awareness Month



January is National Stalking Awareness Month, a time to focus on a crime that affects 3.4 million victims a year. This year's theme - "Stalking: Know It. Name It. Stop It." - challenges the nation to fight this dangerous crime by learning more about it.

Stalking is difficult to recognize, investigate, and prosecute. Unlike other crimes, stalking is not a single, easily identifiable crime but a series of acts, a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause that person fear. Stalking may take many forms, such as assaults, threats, vandalism, burglary, or animal abuse, as well as unwanted cards, calls, gifts, or visits. One in four victims reports that the stalker uses technology, such as computers, global positioning system devices, or hidden cameras, to track the victim's daily activities. Stalkers fit no standard psychological profile, and many stalkers follow their victims from one jurisdiction to another, making it difficult for authorities to investigate and prosecute their crimes.

For more information about stalking and suggestions on how to raise awareness in your community, please visit [www.stalkingawarenessmonth.org](http://www.stalkingawarenessmonth.org).



### HATS OFF!

#### To These CCR Teams for Their Recent Accomplishments!

**Adair County** - is reviewing police reports as a team; has a victim advocate who attends all court arraignments for domestic violence crimes; and is now tracking and monitoring cases.

**Bryan County** - is in the process of designing a billboard and implementing a website for community awareness, and, is developing a stalking manual to aid law enforcement.

**Canadian County** - is identifying gaps between disciplines and has set a long term goal of establishing a local domestic violence court.

**Cherokee County** - developed an information sheet on domestic violence during pregnancy for law enforcement and implemented a domestic violence checklist for use by law enforcement.

**Creek County** - added first responders to their team membership; revised and distributed a strangulation checklist for law enforcement; is working with Communication Services for the Deaf to coordinate the installation of video interpretation systems in their police and sheriff departments; and, has advocates who participate in ride-alongs with law enforcement.

**Custer County** - is developing protocol and policies; is developing training for law enforcement to better determine lethality; and, will coordinate with the local university to provide awareness activities during Stalking Awareness Month.

**Garfield County** - developed a tracking and monitoring tool; developed a law enforcement training manual; developed an emergency room and medical policy in coordination with the local hospital; and, regularly contacts the media to provide public interest stories.

**Mayes County** - developed written law enforcement response procedures and the team held a fundraiser to purchase a color printer for the prosecutor's office to enhance the quality of evidentiary photos to be used in court.

**McCurtain County** - provided a domestic violence educational training to the public and is developing a mechanism to track offenders.

**Oklahoma County** - coordinated efforts between victim services and the District Attorney's Office to offer a court school to educate and prepare victims for court; is collaborating with Child Protective Services; and, plans to conduct victim focus groups to provide information to the team using an outside source to facilitate the groups.

**Rogers County** - is coordinating efforts to provide evidence based prosecution training; developed a specialized form containing the rules and conditions of probation for repeat domestic violence offenders; and, presented at the 2009 Partnership Conference on Violence Against Women in Oklahoma City.

**Sequoyah County** - developed an informational packet for distribution to victims; implemented a lethality checklist to aid law enforcement; and, has begun tracking and monitoring cases.

**Texas County** - provided law enforcement training and invited judges to a meeting to assist in identifying gaps in services to victims. Their judges agreed to meet with the team on a bi-annual basis!

**Woodward County** - is working on improving immediate advocacy for victims; developing strategies to involve the judiciary; strategizing on ways to increase offender accountability; and, is developing team protocol.

**Delaware and Ottawa Counties** - developed risk assessment cards for law enforcement; developed tracking and monitoring reports; sent thirteen (13) team members to training in Duluth, MN; and, wrote and received a grant to purchase cameras, computers, and printers for law enforcement and prosecution.



### Federal Domestic Violence Firearms Laws: An Overview

*Contributed by Monica Player, Staff Attorney, National Center on Full Faith and Credit*

In 1968, Congress passed the first comprehensive legislation regulating firearms. This legislation is known as the Gun Control Act. In an effort to enhance safety for victims of domestic violence, and restrict their abusers from accessing firearms, this law was amended in 1994 and 1996 to create two domestic violence-related prohibitions. This article provides an overview of those federal statutes.

#### **Possession of a Firearm While Subject to a “Qualifying” Protection Order – 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(8)**

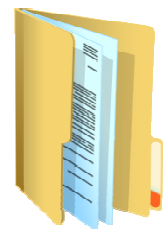
In 1994, Congress enacted the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) as a part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act. One of the provisions of VAWA makes it illegal for a person to purchase or possess firearms or ammunition while subject to a “qualifying” order. The law does not apply to all protection orders issued. Certain requirements must be met for the protection order to trigger 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(8).

Only orders issued to people in specific relationships will trigger the prohibition. The person protected under the order must be the current or former spouse, an intimate partner (i.e., live together or have lived together previously in an intimate relationship), have a child with the respondent (regardless of whether petitioner ever lived with the respondent), or be the child of the respondent or the intimate partner. The statute does not cover dating partners who do not live together, platonic roommates, elder abuse, and other non-intimate partners such as siblings or other family members.

A “qualifying” order must prevent the respondent from harassing, stalking, threatening, or engaging in other conduct that would place an intimate partner or child in reasonable fear of bodily harm. Additionally, the order must also include either a written finding by the court that the respondent is a credible threat to the physical safety of the intimate partner or child, or the court must include an express prohibition against the respondent engaging in conduct that would place the intimate partner or child in reasonable fear of bodily injury.

Both civil and criminal orders (e.g., bail, probation, sentencing orders) can qualify under the Gun Control Act. Additionally, it makes no difference what type of court issues the order, e.g., criminal court, family court, divorce court, court of general jurisdiction, magistrate court, etc. Further, the characterization, or “title” of the order is not important, as long as it is a judicial order -- it could be styled a restraining order, an injunction, stalking order, protection order, or simply an order, as long as it meets the criteria in § 922(g)(8).

The Gun Control Act requires that the respondent be provided with the opportunity to respond to the allegations in the protection order petition prior to the attachment of the prohibition on firearms. Actual notice of the protection order hearing and an opportunity to participate must be provided to the respondent. Ex parte, temporary, or emergency orders generally are not considered “qualifying” orders because the respondent has not yet received notice and has not had an opportunity to participate. If the respondent is served with the order and fails to appear, consents, agrees, or stipulates to the entrance of the final order, the prohibition will attach.



The protection order must be current for the firearms prohibition to apply. The prohibition ends upon dismissal or expiration of the protection order. How long a protection order is valid depends on the laws of the state, tribe, or territory that issued it, and, in some cases, the judge who presided over the case.

The Gun Control Act does not require that the protection order contain any language regarding firearms. If the order meets the criteria of 18 USC . § 922(g)(8) (which does not mention firearms or ammunition as language criteria), then the order qualifies.

Not everyone subject to a “qualifying” protection order is prohibited from possessing firearms. A limited exemption to the prohibition exists for federal, state, or local government employees who are required to use firearms in their official duty. This provision, also known as the “official use exemption,” allows law enforcement and military personnel who are subject to an order of



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protection to possess their service weapon while on duty. Use or possession of personal firearms, including hunting weapons, is still prohibited. Departmental policies and protocols may be more restrictive than the federal provisions. For example, some departments may prohibit an officer from possessing a firearm even though federal law allows possession. **Please Note: this exception does not apply to Tribal law enforcement officers, unless they are cross designated by a federal, state, or local law enforcement agency.**

### Misdemeanor Crime of Domestic Violence – 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(9)

On September 30, 1996, section 922(g)(9), also known as the Lautenberg Amendment, was signed into law. This prohibition makes it illegal for a person convicted of a “qualifying” misdemeanor crime of domestic violence to possess or purchase firearms or ammunition. This prohibition applies to all “qualifying” misdemeanor convictions that occurred before or after the effective date of the law.



Certain requirements must be met for the misdemeanor conviction to meet the requirements of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(9). A “qualifying” misdemeanor crime of domestic violence is defined as a misdemeanor under federal, state, or tribal law. The misdemeanor must include as an element the use or attempted use of physical force or the threatened use of a deadly weapon. Only certain relationships meet the criteria of the prohibition. The defendant must be the current or former spouse, parent, or guardian, have a child together, live or have lived together, or be a person similarly situated to a spouse, parent, or guardian of the victim. This relationship requirement is different and more expansive than that required by § 922(g)(8).

In addition, there are certain due process "affirmative defenses" that can be raised by the defendant: the defendant must have had a right to counsel and, if applicable, under state law, a right to a jury trial, (or made a knowing and intelligent waiver of them). If a defendant failed to raise these affirmative defenses, he or she waives the defenses and the conviction would qualify, if raised; however, a conviction lacking these due process rights would not qualify for purposes of this prohibition.

In addition, there are certain "conditions" that must occur for a conviction to qualify under § 922(g)(9). This is known as the "UNLESS" clause. 1. The defendant must be considered "convicted" under the law of the convicting jurisdiction; 2. The defendant must not have had one of four types of post-conviction relief: pardon, set aside, expunction, or have had his or her civil rights restored (right to vote, right to sit on a jury and/or right to hold public office; Note: one must have had civil rights taken away in order to have them restored, very few jurisdictions take civil rights away from misdemeanants); and finally, 3. The defendant must not have any lingering firearm prohibitions imposed upon him or her by the convicting jurisdiction as a result of the conviction, e.g., inability to obtain a concealed weapons permit, inability to possess handguns, machine guns, may possess in home but not in public, etc. "Unless" the defendant can make it through clauses two and three after a conviction, he or she remains convicted for federal purposes.

Unlike the prohibition for qualifying protection orders, there is no official use exemption for § 922(g)(9). Therefore, law enforcement, military personnel, and other government officials who are required to use firearms as a condition of employment will not be able to possess or receive firearms for any purpose. A person convicted of a “qualifying” misdemeanor crime of domestic violence cannot legally possess or purchase firearms or ammunition.

In addition to the federal domestic violence firearms laws discussed, many state, tribal and territorial jurisdictions have enacted their own firearms prohibitions to protect victims of domestic violence. These laws can be similar to the federal firearm laws that prohibit the possession of firearms by persons subject to a “qualifying” protection order or convicted of a “qualifying” misdemeanor crime of domestic violence. In some cases state laws do not mirror the federal prohibitions. State law may be more or less restrictive. However, even if a state law allows a person to possess firearms when subject to a protection order or after conviction of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence, the federal firearms prohibition still applies.

### 42 U.S.C. §3796gg-4(e) - Judicial Notification

As part of the 2005 amendments to VAWA, Congress requires STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grants (STOP grant) recipients to certify that their “judicial administrative policies and practices include notification to domestic violence offenders” of applicable federal, state, or local firearms prohibitions. 42 U.S.C. §3796gg-4(e). This means courts must inform all domestic violence offenders that federal, state, or local laws may limit their ability to purchase or possess firearms and ammunition. Courts may provide notification either orally or in writing.



One way that courts can provide written notification in civil and criminal protection orders is by printing the following language prominently on all protection orders issued. The following sample language meets the certification requirements for both civil and criminal protection orders.

“As a result of this order, it may be unlawful for you to possess or purchase a firearm, including a rifle, pistol, or revolver, or ammunition pursuant to federal law under 18 U.S.C. 922(g)(8) [and/or state law]. If you have any questions whether these laws make it illegal for you to possess or purchase a firearm, you should consult an attorney.”

Likewise, one way criminal courts may comply with the VAWA firearms notification requirement is by including the following language in a prominent location on all adjudication or bail orders so that defendants receive notice of their firearm rights as early as possible, have the opportunity to consult their own attorneys, and judges and prosecutors are not placed in the position of having to interpret federal firearm laws.

### Use of Force Information in Documentation of Misdemeanor Crimes of Domestic Violence

As the previous article details, a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence (MCDV) must meet several requirements in order to qualify under 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(9). Included among these is the requirement that the underlying crime must have as an element the use or attempted use of physical force, or threatened use of a deadly weapon. The challenge for ATF officers investigating federal firearm crimes, federal prosecutors in terms of proving a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(9), and the FBI’s National Criminal Instant Background Check System (NICS) is that most MCDV’s are not labeled as such. In addition, some state misdemeanor statutes have elements that allow for a conviction either with or without the use of force (e.g., an assault statute that requires either the use of physical force or a verbal threat), called “disjunctive” elements.

According to a U.S. Department of Justice brochure (“Information Needed to Enforce the Firearm Prohibition Misdemeanor Crimes of Domestic Violence,” Nov. 2007), in order to assist federal prosecutors, ATF, and NICS in determining whether a misdemeanor offense qualifies as an MCDV, those who work on the prosecution of domestic violence crimes should ensure that information demonstrating the use or attempted use of physical force or threatened use of a deadly weapon is reflected in:

1. The charging document;
2. Any plea agreement or plea colloquy; and
3. Any other final court records of the proceedings such as judgments of conviction or sentencing orders.

When statutes include disjunctive elements, the charging and conviction documents should list the exact disjunctive of the charge or conviction. When a statute lists elements using “or” (e.g., a disorderly conduct statute that lists behaviors such as violence, indecent activity, or boisterousness), or includes multiple clauses in the same subpart, the use or attempted use of force or threatened use of a deadly weapon should be described in the charging documents and the record of conviction.

The Department of Justice urges investigators, prosecutors, court personnel, and victim advocates to work with the agencies responsible for updating the information in the automated databases within their state and at the FBI that are accessed by NICS so that it is readily available during background checks. This will lessen the likelihood that a gun will be transferred to a prohibited person or that a lawful transaction will be delayed because of the need to do additional research on the offense. To download the DOJ brochure, go to <http://tinyurl.com/yheg3ho>.



#### Federal Contacts in Oklahoma

**DAVID E. O'MEILIA**

**United States Attorney**  
Northern District of Oklahoma  
110 W. 7th St. Suite 300  
Tulsa, OK 74119  
Phone: 918.382.2700

**ROBERT JON TROESTER**

**Acting United States Attorney**  
Western District of Oklahoma  
210 Park Avenue, Suite 400  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102  
Phone: 405.553.8700

**SHELDON J. SPERLING**

**United States Attorney**  
Eastern District of Oklahoma  
1200 W. Okmulgee, Suite 201  
Muskogee, Oklahoma 74401-6848  
Phone: 918.684.5100

# Volume 2, Issue 1

## *Why She Stays....*

For women in violent relationships, one of the most common responses by society is the lack of understanding and compassion. It is always so very easy to say, "If my partner ever hit me, I would leave!" Yet, once a woman is in a battered relationship, it is not always so easy to walk away. Although the majority of women eventually do leave, some women do not. Women who stay in violent relationships undergo gradual steps of reasoning to reconcile the violence in their minds. The reasons a woman stays may change as the violence progresses.

If society is to ever effectively address domestic violence, it is imperative to begin to understand domestic violence from the battered woman's point of view.

### **At first, she stays because:**

- ♦ She loves him.
- ♦ She believes he'll grow up or change.
- ♦ She believes she can control the beatings by doing everything exactly as he says, such as cleaning the house or having dinner ready at an appointed time.
- ♦ She believes she can convince him that she loves him and end the jealousy.
- ♦ She is embarrassed.
- ♦ She thinks it will stop.
- ♦ She believes it is important for the children.

### **Later, she stays because:**

- ♦ She doesn't know whether she can support herself (or her children).
- ♦ She's afraid to be alone.
- ♦ She feels responsible and deserving of the beatings.
- ♦ She is increasingly afraid of her partner's violence and may see lethality in his consistently out of control behavior.

### **Finally, she stays because:**

- ♦ She is fearful.
- ♦ He threatens to kill her, the children, or members of her family.
- ♦ She has developed low self-esteem.
- ♦ She believes no one can love her.
- ♦ She is literally and figuratively beaten down and unable to take action.

### **Members of the Cleveland County Coordinated Community Response Team attended training focused on the supervision of domestic violence offenders in White Plains, New York.**

#### **Back Row Left to Right:**

District Judge Jequita Napoli, Assistant District Attorney Brady Henderson, Sequita Steston, Batterer's Intervention, Private Practice, and Amber Amason, Norman Police Department

#### **Front Row Left to Right:**

Julia Curry and Brooke Chiles, Oklahoma Court Services, Inc., and Debbie Marshall-Gill, Women's Resource Center



### **For Information on Local Law Enforcement Training Opportunities, Please Contact:**

#### **Dawn Stover**

Oklahoma Regional Community  
Policing Institute  
(405) 671-8742

#### **Tamatha Mosier**

Office of the Attorney General  
(405) 521-3921

**Melissa Blanton or Sandra Thompson**  
District Attorneys Council  
405-264-5008



### **National Institute of Justice Panel Explores Familicide Phenomenon** *By the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services*

The stresses of an economic downturn often lead to increases in domestic violence, and the current recession is no exception. Since October 2008, there has been a spike in familicides, or cases where a husband murders his entire family and commits suicide. The horrific nature of such crimes tends to generate a great deal of media attention and speculation about motives and reasons behind these acts. While it may be easy to blame the economy, underlying family problems often could be the key. On June 2, 2009, the National Institute of Justice convened a panel of experts to discuss research findings and possible ways to prevent future familicides from occurring. The panelists were Dr. David Adams, author of *Why Do They Kill? Men Who Murder Their Intimate Partners*; Dr. Jacquelyn C. Campbell, Anna D. Wolf Chair and Professor, Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing; and Dr. Richard Gelles, Professor and Dean, School of Public Policy and Practice, University of Pennsylvania.

#### **Risk Factors**

Fortunately, familicide is a rare, isolated event. Unfortunately, this rarity makes finding trends difficult. The biggest risk factor for familicide to occur is a prior history of domestic violence. This has been the situation in 70 percent of cases in a 12-city study by Dr. Campbell. Seventy-eight percent of the perpetrators in a survey by Dr. Adams fit the “Possessively Jealous” archetype and 30 percent fit the “Depressed/Suicidal” archetype. Some of these men do not fit any stereotype associated with abusers and do not have histories or records. In most instances, there is a gradual buildup of tensions and conflicts after which one event may lead the man to action - either a sense of a loss of control over finances, unemployment, or, more frequently, when the wife announces that she is leaving. In other instances, however, threats of violence become more frequent and more specific over time until the man acts on his threats.

The panelists agreed that access to a gun is another major risk factor in familicide. It is easier to be impulsive when a gun is nearby. The same gun that may have been used to threaten an intimate partner previously can be used to kill that intimate partner. According to Dr. Adams, 92 percent of 591 murder-suicide cases examined in a study were committed with a gun. Furthermore, states with least restrictive gun control laws have as much as eight times the rate of murder-suicides as those with the most restrictive gun control laws.

#### **Prevention Strategies**

Again, the relative rarity and specificity of familicide mean that simple blanket strategies will not prevent these tragedies from occurring; however, the panelists identified actions that may mitigate risks.

Greater collaboration between police and social welfare agencies, such as child welfare, suicide prevention, or substance abuse treatment, could reduce frequency of familicides. Since social welfare agencies do not generally have access to arrest records, they may not know if there are other risk factors to check into or follow up on. Eighty-three percent of the victims and perpetrators in homicide-suicides were known in some system prior to that crime. Suicide-prevention groups can make sure to ask people who are in treatment about intimate partner relationships and identify possible familicide risks. The U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Violence against Women increases collaboration between these agencies through family justice centers, but so far their impact is limited to a few locations.

More important is building a sense of bystander responsibility and increasing community accountability. Many people are not sure what questions to ask or to whom to report something if they suspect domestic abuse. Here, a public information campaign could be beneficial in educating a community. Women, especially, need to know where and how they can obtain assistance in dealing with an abusive partner, including reporting abuse so that partners are flagged for treatment and strategies are established for ending the relationship. A woman leaving her husband can trigger violence, including familicide, so social welfare, police agencies, and the woman herself should be informed about how she can more safely leave an abusive situation.

As the economy tightens, funding for social services may decrease and specialized domestic services could get harder to find. Community policing and involvement become even more important. Increasing rapport with victims will increase the likelihood that they will seek help in future.

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Esteban Hernandez  
Publications Manager  
The COPS Office



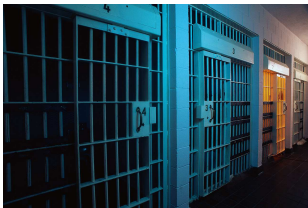
### Did You Know... ?

**70.9% OF INCARCERATED FEMALES WERE AT ONE TIME IN THE PAST AN ADULT VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**



- Oklahoma is first in the nation in female incarceration, incarcerating 131 women per 100,000 population as compared to the national average of 69.
- Of Oklahoma's 77 counties, 12 counties incarcerate females at 300% above the national average; 26 counties incarcerate between 151% and 300% above the national average; 15 counties incarcerate between 101% and 150% above the national average; and 24 counties incarcerate at or below the national average.
- Because many incarcerated women suffer from a variety of medical and mental health issues, female offenders are significantly less likely to maintain healthy relationships with children, family, and significant others.
- According to a report issued in January 2004 by the State of Oklahoma Special Task Force for Women Incarcerated in Oklahoma, "Incarceration of a female typically has more substantial destructive impact on families than incarceration of a male."

(Information gathered from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin, Prisoners in 2007, December 2008.)



### History of Trauma and Violence Experienced by Female Offenders

<i><b>Trauma and Violence in Adulthood</b></i>	
Domestic Violence Victim	70.9%
Rape Victim	44.0%
Victim of Domestic Violence and Rape	37.6%
<i><b>Trauma and Violence in Childhood</b></i>	
Child Physical and/or Sexual Abuse	67.1%
Parental Divorce	63.7%
Lived with Someone with Alcohol Problem	62.0%
Ran Away	56.0%
Lived with Someone with Drug Problem	50.9%
Father was Violent	41.5%
Mental Illness in the Home	35.5%
Mother was Violent	23.5%
Family Member Went to Prison	22.2%
Raped by Peers	19.2%

Source: Marcus-Mendoza and Sharp, August 24, 2007

We are made wise not by the recollection of our past, but by the responsibility of our future.

~George Bernard Shaw

## The Domestic Violence Resource Prosecutor and Coordinated Community Response Specialist Project

OKLAHOMA DISTRICT ATTORNEYS COUNCIL  
FEDERAL GRANTS DIVISION

421 NW 13th Street, Suite 290  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
73103



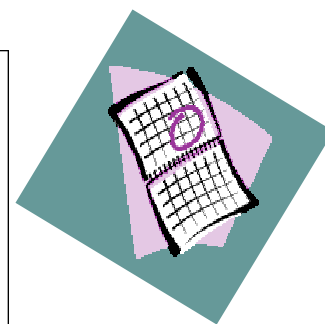
To access an additional copy of this newsletter go to

[http://www.ok.gov/dac/Federal\\_Grants/Domestic\\_Violence\\_Resource\\_Prosecutor\\_/](http://www.ok.gov/dac/Federal_Grants/Domestic_Violence_Resource_Prosecutor_/)

For further information, please contact Melissa Blanton or Sandra Thompson at (405) 264-5008.

### 2010 Training Opportunities

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>
Jan. 12 - 15, 2010	National Institute on the Prosecution of DV	Dallas, TX	AEquitas
Feb. 23 - 26, 2010	National Institute on the Prosecution of DV	New Orleans, LA	NDAA
March 8 - 10, 2010	Conference on Crimes Against Women	Dallas, TX	Genesis Women's Shelter and Dallas Police Dept.
April 13 - 14, 2010	Advanced CCR Team Training on Stalking	Oklahoma City	DAC
April 26 - 30, 2010	Domestic Violence Instructor Training Program	Ada, OK	Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
June 6 - 11, 2010	Oklahoma Victim Assistance Academy	Ada, OK	OAG
June 14 - 18, 2010	Domestic Violence Instructor Training Program	Tahlequah, OK	Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
June 16 - 18, 2010	OCADVSA Annual Conference	Tulsa, OK	OCADVSA
July TBA	Advanced Training for Prosecutors on Strangulation	Oklahoma City	DAC



Action is the  
foundational  
key to all  
success.

~Pablo Picasso

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