

CITY OF PHOENIX
**DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
FATALITY**
REVIEW TEAM

2016-17
ANNUAL REPORT



SUBMITTED TO:
MARK BRNOVICH,
ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL



City of Phoenix

July 31, 2017

To the Arizona Domestic Violence Community;

As Co-Chairs of the Phoenix Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFRT), we are pleased to share our annual report with you. The Phoenix team was appointed by the Phoenix City Manager; this is the fifth full report submitted to the Attorney General's Office. The report provides information on a domestic violence fatality review case and includes recommendations for system change and improvement, as well as updates on the implementation of previously identified recommendations.

Domestic violence calls represent one of the most frequent violence related calls for service to the Phoenix Police Department. In 2016, the Phoenix Police Department received 43,811¹ emergency calls for domestic violence incidents (9-1-1 and Crime Stop) with approximately 16,833 investigations conducted. Both figures have increased from the prior year. Domestic violence is a public safety issue, representing danger not only for the victim, but also for friends, family and co-workers; law enforcement; and the community at-large. The DVFRT is dedicated to identifying system gaps or areas for improvement in an effort to reduce the number of domestic violence homicides in our community.

Riann Balch
DVFRT Co-Chair
Director, Family Advocacy Center
Human Services Department

Commander John Collins
DVFRT Co-Chair
Family Investigations Bureau
Phoenix Police Department

¹Calls for service with missing or incorrect information may not be properly depicted in this report. Calls are based on the final call type as entered by communications and for Patrol.

DVFRT

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DVFRT

MEMBERSHIP

The Phoenix DVFRT members are appointed by the Phoenix City Manager. In 2016, the DVFRT reconvened and new members were added to the Team. The DVFRT is co-chaired by the Family Advocacy Center Director and the Family Investigations Bureau Commander.

Members come from a variety of fields, providing a unique opportunity to work across disciplines to evaluate system barriers and develop comprehensive recommendations for improvement. DVFRT members may be replaced through the process outlined in the DVFRT By-Laws (Appendix I) as needed.

This is the second report provided during this appointment term. The purpose of the DVFRT is to examine incidents of domestic violence related fatalities and near fatalities, to better understand the dynamics of these incidents, and to report findings and recommendations to prevent future incidents.

The Co-Chairs would like to thank the 2016-2017 DVFRT for their continued commitment to preventing domestic violence fatalities through systems analysis and improvement. Members dedicated a tremendous amount of knowledge, passion and time to the process.

The Co-Chairs extend a particular debt of gratitude to a subset of members who drafted the final report following the review process: Thank you to Amy Offenber, Troy Finley, Shawn Steinberg, Jaime Watson, Karin Kline, Hilary Weinberg, and Anissa Salazar-Blair for documenting the work of the Team.

Finally, on behalf of the entire DVFRT, the Co-Chairs sincerely thank Dr. Neil Websdale, Stephanie Mayer, and Melissa Knight of the Northern Arizona University Family Violence Institute for providing technical assistance to advance and enhance the Phoenix review process. Their experience and expertise were invaluable to the work of the Team and subsequently to the prevention of family and domestic violence.



DVFRT

MEMBERS

Members

Riann Balch (Co-Chair)
John Collins (Co-Chair)
Shane Disotell
Dolores Ernst
Troy Finley
Sallie Gaines
Heidi Gilbert (Liaison)
Dawn Gingerich (Liaison)
Candice Hewitt
Elvira Hidalgo (Liaison)
Kristen Kidd
Karin Kline
Patricia Lucero (Liaison)
Carl Mangold
Dana Martinez
Amy Offenbergl
Jill Rable
Amy Rebenar
Anissa Salazar-Blair (Liaison)
Matt Siekmann
Shawn Steinberg
Jaime Watson
Hilary Weinberg
Erin Yabu

Phoenix Family Advocacy Center
Phoenix Police Department
Phoenix Police Department
Phoenix Fire Department
Phoenix Police Department
Retired Judge
Phoenix Law Department
Phoenix Law Department
Phoenix Family Advocacy Center
Phoenix Family Advocacy Center
Arizona Department of Child Safety
ASU Center for Child Well-Being
Phoenix Municipal Court
Defendant Treatment & Mental Health
A New Leaf
Phoenix City Prosecutor's Office
HonorHealth
Maricopa Association of Governments
Phoenix Family Advocacy Center
Phoenix Police Department
Arizona Attorney General's Office
Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
Maricopa County Attorney's Office
Phoenix City Prosecutor's Office

Former Members

Darren Viner (Former Co-Chair)
Edward DeCastro

Phoenix Police Department
Phoenix Police Department



The Process

This year, the DVFRT selected a murder-suicide case involving a female victim and a male perpetrator. Police reports, criminal histories of both parties, medical examiner reports, court records, and print and social media were reviewed. The DVFRT also interviewed a family member of the victim, a friend of the victim, and the investigating detective. Additional contacts were made, but requests for interviews were declined.

In preparation for the review, staff liaisons obtained case information, arranged presentations, and organized materials to review. The DVFRT reviewed and discussed the case at length before developing recommendations. All members of the DVFRT agreed to maintain the confidentiality of the information learned during the review process.

Introduction

The case reviewed illustrates the lethal connection between domestic violence and firearms. According to Everytown for Gun Safety, 50 women are killed with a gun by intimate partners in an average month in the United States.² Further, domestic violence assaults involving a firearm are 12 times more likely to result in death than those involving other weapons or bodily force.³ The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence reports that women who are abused are five times more likely to be killed by their abuser if the abuser owns a firearm.³

In Arizona, someone died in a domestic violence related incident every three days in 2016.⁴ Domestic Violence Homicide Help reports that over the past 25 years in the United States, more intimate partner homicides have been committed with guns (57.4%) than with all other weapons combined.⁵ In addition, ex-wives are killed with a firearm in 77% of cases.⁶ Firearms continue to be the primary weapon in domestic violence related homicides and were used in 76%⁷ of the cases in Phoenix in 2016. In addition, the number of domestic violence deaths in 2016 represents an increase from prior years as demonstrated in the Phoenix DV Homicide Investigations 2014-2016 chart on page 5.

² Everytown for Gun Safety, URL: <https://everytown.org>.

³ Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, URL: <http://smartgunlaws.org>.

⁴ Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence in Arizona, URL: <http://www.acesdv.org>.

⁵ Domestic Violence and Firearms: Research on Statutory Interventions, Zeoli, 2013, URL: <http://domesticviolencehomicidehelp.com>.

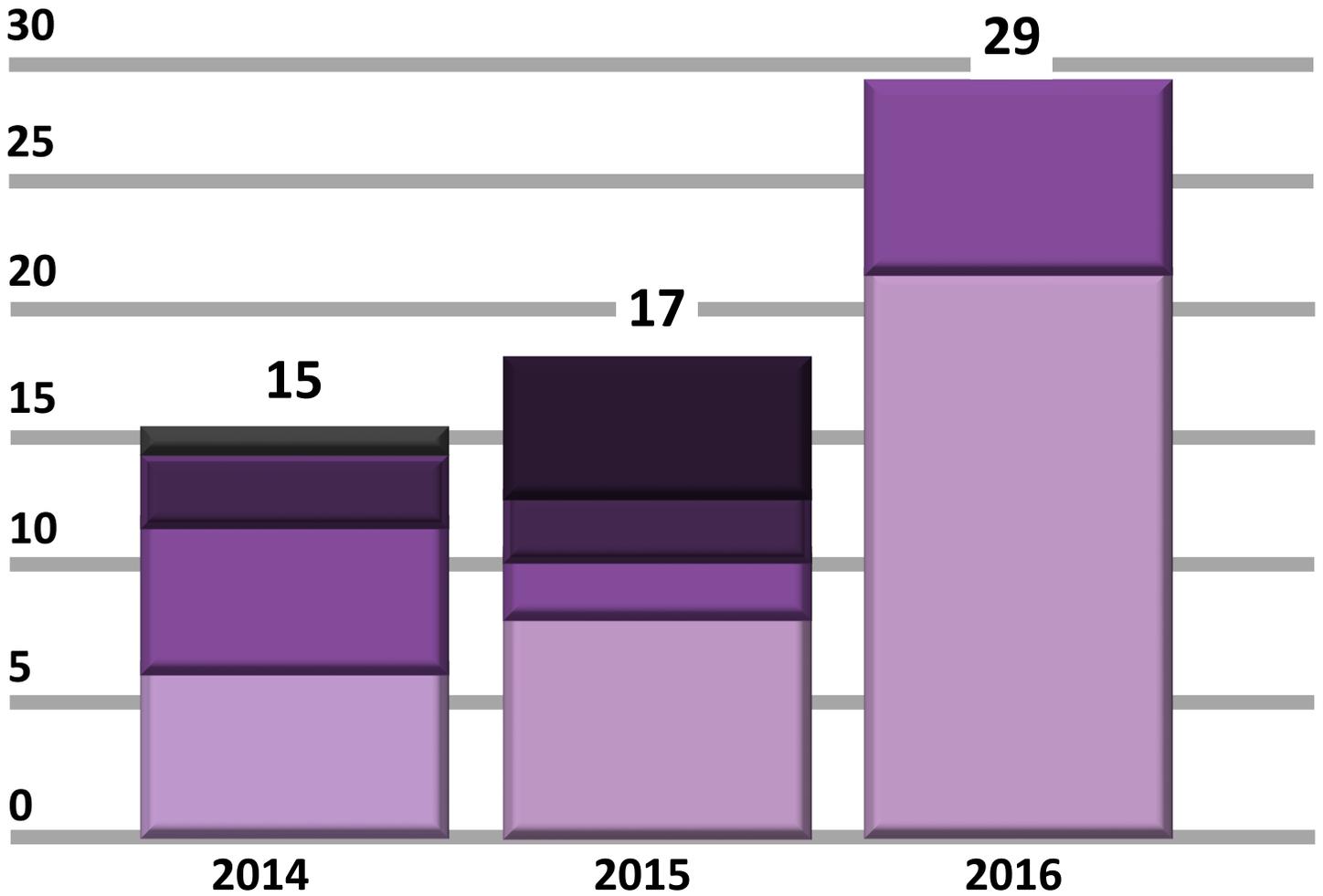
⁶ Homicide trends in the United States, Fox, J.A., & Zawitz, M.W., 2004.

⁷ Based on Police Department CARU report data for domestic violence chargeable homicides.



DVFRT

PHOENIX DV HOMICIDES



-  Firearm
-  Knife
-  Blunt Force

-  Other
-  Strangulation



DVFRT

CASE SUMMARY

The DVFRT selected to review a murder-suicide case involving a female victim and a male perpetrator. Both of the deaths were caused by a handgun. The victim had a child from a previous relationship. The perpetrator and the victim married in another state in 2006, and moved to Arizona approximately one year later. The parties divorced about two years later following an incident of domestic violence in which the perpetrator strangled the victim. The couple remarried in 2009, and seven months later, their first child together was born.

In 2010, police responded to a verbal argument between the parties that resulted in the victim choosing to leave temporarily with the children. The victim returned a short time later. In 2011, the perpetrator reportedly attempted suicide. The police report referenced an alleged mental health diagnosis. It is unknown what treatment, if any, the perpetrator received after the alleged suicide attempt. However, a bottle of anti-anxiety medication that had been filled less than a month before the shooting was found at the scene. The couples second child was born in 2012.

The police report indicated that the victim had disclosed to a family member physical abuse of the victim's son about a month before the shooting. The DVFRT was unable to verify that a report had been made to police or a child welfare agency. At some point before the incident, the victim developed an online relationship with another man who lived out-of-state. They never met in person.

Approximately one week before the shooting, the perpetrator phoned the male friend telling him not to pursue the victim. Around the same time, the victim served the perpetrator with divorce papers. The filing noted domestic violence in the relationship, but the victim did not request full custody of the children or a protective order. The victim and perpetrator continued living together.

The day before the shooting, the victim and a female friend attended a baseball game together. That same day, the perpetrator legally purchased a 9 mm handgun from a licensed firearms retailer. The day of the shooting, the perpetrator asked the victim to engage in sex and she refused.

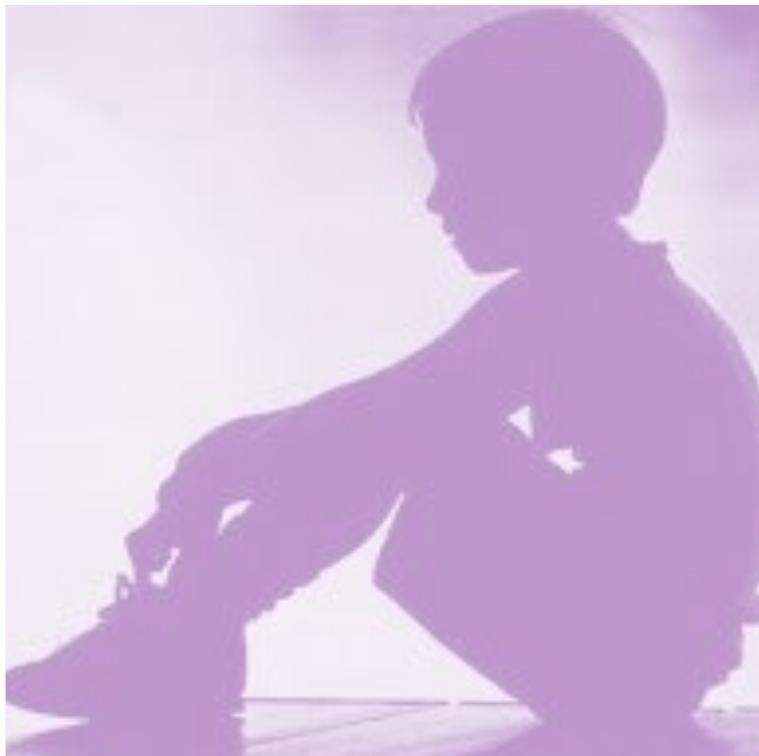


DVFRT

CASE SUMMARY

Shortly thereafter, the victim was in the bathroom on the phone with the male friend she met online when the perpetrator entered. The victim ended the phone call and within 30 minutes the perpetrator shot her to death with the handgun he had purchased the day before.

The perpetrator messaged pictures of the victim's dead body to the male friend and threatened to come for him next. The perpetrator also messaged the pictures to the victim's female friend, apologizing for what he had done, "Just shot [the victim], sorry everybody."



The female friend called local police. The perpetrator attempted to clean up the crime scene and then also called the police. The perpetrator then left the home alone in a vehicle and killed himself with the same weapon a short time later. The children were in the home, reportedly asleep, during the incident.

After the incident, autopsies were performed on both parties. Toxicology testing was not conducted on the perpetrator based on the Medical Examiner's determination it would not add to the manner of death. Whether the perpetrator was under the influence of prescribed or illegal drugs or alcohol is unknown.



DVFRT

KEY FINDINGS

The DVFRT identified the following key findings:

- Based on the number of indicators identified utilizing Dr. Jacqueline Campbell's Danger Assessment, there was a high potential for lethality in this relationship:
 - ✓ Purchase of a firearm,
 - ✓ Prior strangulation leading to first divorce,
 - ✓ Presence of the victim's child from a previous relationship,
 - ✓ Perpetrator's history of suicide attempts, and
 - ✓ The victim served the perpetrator with divorce papers several days before the homicide.
- Social media likely played an important role in this case and appeared to be a prime trigger for the perpetrator's rage after he learned that his wife was communicating with another man.
- Public sources indicated that the perpetrator may have a mental health diagnosis and had previously attempted suicide.
- The gun was purchased in compliance with all local, state, and federal laws perpetrator used the gun to kill the victim within 24 hours of its purchase.
- There was no indication that the victim sought out domestic violence resources.
- The previous strangulation did not result in a domestic violence conviction because the state did not pursue prosecution. This strangulation happened before the statute changed in 2010 to make aggravated assault by strangulation, A.R.S. section 13-1204(B), a felony. In 2012, the County Attorney changed the protocol for handling strangulation cases to include examination by a forensic nurse and increased training for law enforcement. The changes have resulted in a significant increase in the successful prosecution of domestic violence cases involving strangulation.



Following careful consideration of the case and the identification of key findings, the DVFRT makes the following recommendations:

Recommendations for the Legislature:

- Explore the potential benefits and drawbacks of firearm waiting periods.

Recommendations for the community:

- Encourage Domestic Courts to explore ways to increase education and awareness about the increased danger and lethality surrounding domestic relations proceedings. Encourage domestic courts to include domestic violence information and education in co-parenting classes
- Increase the use of validated risk assessments by all community partners. Provide information and resources to victims about their assessments and potential danger in their relationships.
- Educate school administrators and staff on recognition of domestic violence and child abuse to foster an environment that encourages students to report abuse.
- Increase on-scene domestic violence advocacy.
- Increase awareness of domestic violence resources and silent witness reporting via social media.
- Increase technology safety training for domestic violence victims.
- In cases of domestic violence related murder-suicides, encourage the medical examiner to conduct toxicology testing on all decedents.
- Explore potential relationships between mental health and domestic violence activities.



This provides information on progress made on recommendations in the 2015-16 DVFRT report:

Improve tools within the criminal justice system for identifying both non-domestic violence and domestic violence related lethality indicators, and address those issues earlier and more thoroughly.

A change to the form mandated by the Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure for all suspects booked into jail has been proposed. The amendment would create a state-wide uniform risk assessment that would be reviewed by a judge before making a release decision for the suspects in domestic violence cases. The assessment was developed by a multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary committee through the Administrative Office of the Courts and is pending approval.

Increase awareness, education, and enforcement of existing gun laws regulating firearm transfers among private parties.

No progress has been made in this area. Other states, including California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Washington require all firearms transfers to be conducted through a licensed dealer, which includes a federal background check. Implementing such a requirement in Arizona would require a change in state statute.

Encourage the media to periodically emphasize domestic violence awareness and resources in a coordinated campaign, including an overview of shelter programs and supportive services offered.

The City of Phoenix continues to implement education and awareness activities and make information about shelter and services available through the Domestic Violence Roadmap and Paint Phoenix Purple Campaigns. Visit paintphoenixpurple.org for more information. Activities included:

- ✓ In October 2016, Phoenix Police Department participated in the Maricopa Association of Governments' Domestic Violence Awareness Month press conference, where it provided a demonstration of GPS tracking devices to assist domestic violence stalking victims.
- ✓ Members of Paint Phoenix Purple participated in a phone bank through Univision for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month in February.
- ✓ Phoenix City Council approved the designation (set-aside) of 25 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers for permanent housing for victims of domestic violence victims.



DVFRT

2015-16 UPDATE

Encourage K-12 school districts and post-secondary education institutions to provide domestic and/or dating abuse awareness and information for staff, students, and families.

In 2016, the Phoenix Paint Phoenix Purple initiative facilitated 15 resource fairs at area high schools, three domestic violence awareness events at high school sports events, and fifty “In Their Shoes” presentations. In addition, the city of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department’s Project Brave conducted 22 educational presentations to elementary and middle school students.

Encourage landlords and property management companies of large housing complexes to provide domestic and/or dating abuse awareness for staff and residents. This should include information about landlord tenant issues regarding victims of abuse.

The city of Phoenix Housing Department’s Administrative Plan clearly defines the implementation of victim’s rights as required by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). In 2017, the department will incorporate VAWA training into its landlord liaison curriculum to facilitate awareness and understanding in the rental housing community.

Improve public awareness of non-traditional, social service oriented resources that do not require police or criminal justice intervention.

Phoenix added 900 designated safe spaces by incorporating city buses into the Safe Place Initiative. Bus drivers are trained to assist youth in getting out of bad situations. Additionally, the school resource fairs organized by Paint Phoenix Purple include 10-15 agencies, including various shelters, Terros, and Teen Lifeline.

Significantly increase and improve resources and interventions to individuals who are incarcerated to address reentry into the community, as well as concerns related to mental health, anger management, domestic violence, and substance abuse.

In 2016, the Arizona Department of Corrections reorganized and created the Division of Inmate Programs and Reentry. Working in close collaboration with Offender Operations, the new division will focus on ensuring that inmates are placed in evidence-based programs geared toward their individual needs, commensurate with their classification risk scores and custody level, from the time of their initial assessment at reception, through their incarceration, and upon their transition to release to community supervision.



Maricopa County Correctional Health Services (CHS) launched a 7-week curriculum for medium and high risk inmates who struggle with substance abuse. The Mosaic program facilitates awareness and understanding of the interrelationships between exposure to trauma, poverty, violence, substance abuse and incarceration. Once participants are aware of the root causes of their substance abuse, they learn skills to deal with the challenging emotions that arise from past trauma – skills that, ideally, replace the need for drugs or alcohol. The program serves 500 men and women each year.

Provide long-term wrap-around services for minor children who have witnessed domestic violence.

The Family Violence Institute at Northern Arizona University has implemented a new victim services project called The Arizona Child and Adolescent Survivor Initiative (ACASI).

ACASI's mission is to deliver a multi-county, trauma-informed system of care to provide specialized victim services and support to children who have lost a parent to intimate partner homicide. ACASI recognizes the lasting impacts intimate partner homicide has on surviving children. Experienced staff and mental health providers with specialized training use a trauma-informed approach to help navigate the aftermath of a death. Assisting the child means working closely with caregivers, and we recognize that they may be experiencing their own grief as they welcome young household members. Emotional support, personal advocacy and information and referral services are available at any point after the intimate partner homicide, until the child reaches the age of 18.

Continue educating patrol officers on signs and symptoms of domestic violence, the available resources for victims including Crisis Response, and improving interactions with those in crisis.

The Phoenix Police Department created a required two-hour domestic violence training for all sworn police employees. The primary goal of the training is to increase recognition of the unique needs of domestic violence victims and enhance investigation techniques in domestic violence related crimes. The training covers victimology, report writing, and perpetrator arrest in cases where probable cause exists. The training also emphasizes the importance of connecting victims and their families to supportive services to facilitate recovery and provide assistance navigating the criminal justice system.



Bylaws and Rules of Procedures for the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team of the City of Phoenix.

ARTICLE I – ORDINANCE AUTHORITY

The Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team is created/appointed by the Phoenix City Manager in accordance with Arizona State Senate Bill 1071 (A.R.S. § 41-198) and as subsequently amended.

ARTICLE II – POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM (DVFRT)

Advisory Body. The DVFRT is an advisory body to the Phoenix City Council and the Attorney General’s Office whose purpose is to provide advice to the City to better enable the City to meet the needs of its residents. Its powers are advisory only unless additional powers and authority is provided by ordinance or state or federal law or regulation.

Powers and Duties. The powers and duties of the DVFRT shall be:

- ✓ Examine incidents of domestic violence related fatalities and near fatalities to better understand the dynamics of these incidents.
- ✓ Report to the office of the Attorney General its findings and recommendations as to how incidents of domestic violence related fatalities and near fatalities may be prevented and how the system can be improved. The report shall not contain any information that identifies individuals in specific incidents of domestic violence related fatalities.
- ✓ Determine the number and type of incidents it wishes to review.
- ✓ Comply with the confidentiality and records retention requirements set forth in A.R.S. § 41-198.



ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICERS

Membership. The DVFRT shall consist of no more than 20 appointed members. Members shall be City staff and community members engaged in responding to and serving victims of domestic violence. At a minimum, those members may represent:

- ✓ Family Investigations Bureau
- ✓ City Victim Services Professionals
- ✓ Faith Community Representative
- ✓ Family Advocacy Center Director
- ✓ Maricopa County Attorney's Office
- ✓ Medical Professional
- ✓ Mental Health Professional
- ✓ Offender Treatment Professional
- ✓ Phoenix Police Department Domestic Violence Lieutenant
- ✓ Phoenix Domestic Violence City Prosecutor's Office
- ✓ Phoenix Police Department Homicide Lieutenant
- ✓ Public Defender or Criminal Defense Attorney
- ✓ Valley Shelter Professional
- ✓ Victim Related
- ✓ Judicial Representative.

Appointment. Co-Chairs and Members shall be appointed by the City Manager on a bi-annual basis. Team liaisons shall also be appointed by the City Manager on a bi-annual basis. Team members and liaisons and the agency each represents will sign a confidentiality agreement.

Term. Members shall serve terms of two years and may be reappointed to successive terms. In the event a member becomes incapacitated or resigns or is unable to perform the duties of the office or is otherwise removed, an interim member may be named in his/her place through the end of that calendar year and officially replaced at the beginning of the next year.



Team liaisons shall serve terms of two years and may be reappointed to successive terms. In the event a Team liaison becomes incapacitated or resigns or is unable to perform the duties of the office or is otherwise removed, another member may be chosen to fill the unexpired term of the member replaced.

In the event that a member is replaced in his/her position, the new position member may assume the role.

Removal of Members. A Team member may be removed by the City Manager for nonattendance at three consecutive meetings, conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude, repeated disruptive behavior after warning, or when in the opinion of the City Manager removal is in the best interest of the Team.

Officers/Staff/Representation.

Co-Chairs. The Co-Chairs shall be appointed by the City Manager to serve for a term of two years. Co-Chairs may be appointed to serve successive terms as deemed appropriate by the City Manager. In the event the Co-Chair resigns, becomes incapacitated or unable to perform the duties of office or is otherwise removed, the City Manager will appoint a replacement.

Duties of Co-Chairs. The Co-Chairs shall be responsible for:

- ✓ Establishing a regular meeting schedule;
- ✓ Presiding over Team meetings, including deciding upon all points of order or procedure;
- ✓ Appointing board members to serve on committees, ad-hoc committees, and subcommittees;
- ✓ Determining whether retaining a facilitator or other assistance is appropriate to assist with case review discussions.
- ✓ Prior to Team meetings and other such mutually convenient times review with the staffing department agenda items for future meetings;
- ✓ Consider other such matters and concerns of the commission or board as set forth in these bylaws or as directed by the Mayor and City Council.



Officers/Staff/Representation.

Staff. The Family Advocacy Center Director shall appoint a member or members of the department's staff to serve as Staff to the Team. The Staff person shall not be a member of the Team. The Staff person shall take all minutes of Team meetings, including case review discussions, and keep all Team reports in accordance with Arizona statutes. The minutes of all Team meetings shall be provided to the Team in summary/verbatim form. All documentation shall be kept and maintained at the Family Advocacy Center.

Legal Representation. The City Attorney, or his/her designee, shall provide legal representation, parliamentary procedure and advice to the Team as necessary.

Committees. The Team shall establish such committees, ad-hoc committees, and subcommittees as the Team deems necessary and appropriate for carrying out Team business. The Co-Chairs shall appoint the members of the committees, ad-hoc committees, and subcommittees created. Such committees report to the Team in an advisory capacity and such committee shall exist only so long as necessary to fill the purposes for which they were created. Members of committees, ad-hoc committees, and subcommittees are not required to be DVFRT Members. But all committee members must sign for and adhere to the confidentiality requirements of A.R.S. § 41-198(D) and DVFRT policies. The Co-Chairs may remove a committee member at any time with or without cause. Removal of a committee member who is also a Team member does not remove that individual from the Team, it merely relieves the individual from his/her duties on that committee.

The Chairperson of committees, ad-hoc committees and subcommittees will be appointed by the Team Co-Chairs only so long as necessary to fill the purposes for which the committee was created. The Chairperson of such committees must be a Team member.

Meetings shall be called by the Chairperson of such committee or upon petition by a majority of the committee's members. Committee meetings will be noticed and conducted in the same manner as Team meetings as described in Article IV.

Committee recommendations are to be forwarded to the DVFRT for official action.



Compensation. The membership of the Team as well as officers, serve in a voluntary capacity but will be reimbursed for out of pocket expenses as approved by the Co-Chairs and the City Manager or his/her designee.

ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS

Schedule. When there exists business to be conducted, aside from case review, and a quorum can be obtained, the Team shall meet a minimum of quarterly and at such other times when called by the Co-Chairs after consultation with Team members, and the staffing department.

Quorum. A quorum of the Team shall consist of a majority of its appointed members (half plus one). Any action voted on by a majority vote of the quorum present shall be considered an action of the Team. In the event a quorum is not present for a meeting, the Team is prohibited from discussing any items from the agenda and the meeting shall be rescheduled. In the event a quorum is present at the beginning of a meeting and is not maintained throughout the meeting, no votes requiring action may be taken after the loss of a quorum.

Open Meetings. The Team and its committees, ad-hoc committees, and subcommittees shall hold all meetings and conduct all business in accordance with Arizona Open Meeting Laws A.R.S. § 38-431 et seq and shall be open to the public.

Case Review. DVFRT meetings are closed to the public and are not subject to title 38, chapter 3, article 3.1 if the Team is reviewing a fatal or near fatal incident of domestic violence case. Case review includes information gathering, associated discussion, and drafting of the Team’s annual report and recommendations.

Procedure Not Contained in Bylaws. All meetings of the Team shall be, to the extent not in conflict with these bylaws, conducted according to the latest edition of Roberts Rule of Order, with the exception that the Co-Chairs of the DVFRT, committee, ad-hoc committee, or subcommittee shall be permitted to vote on any motion, but cannot make any motions.

Proxy Voting, Telephonic Participation.

- ✓ Proxy voting shall not be permitted.
- ✓ Telephonic participation may be permitted where, in the opinion of the Co-Chairs, members can participate fully by speaker phone.

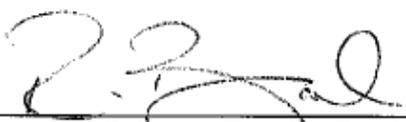


Agenda Items. Items for the agenda may be proposed by any member of the Team. The Co-Chairs shall approve the agenda for each Team meeting or committee, ad-hoc committee and subcommittee meeting.

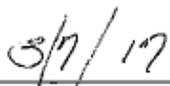
ARTICLE V – MISCELLANEOUS

Conflict of Interest. Any member of the Team who has a substantial interest as defined in A.R.S. § 38-502 in the outcome of any matter brought before the Team shall make known that interest and the minutes of the meeting shall reflect that the member made such fact known. The member shall refrain from voting or in any way participating in that matter.

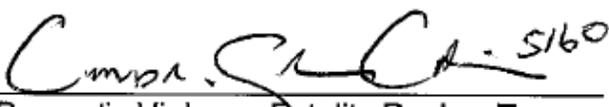
Amending Bylaws. These bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Team after not less than seven (7) days notice has been given to all members of the Team and a copy of the proposed amendment sent with notice. A change in the bylaws shall require a concurring vote of three-fifths of the members present.



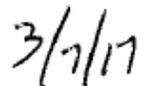
Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team
Co-Chair



Date



Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team
Co-Chair



Date



Approved as to Form
Acting City Attorney



Date



The mission of this team, which is comprised of representatives from the criminal justice system, advocacy community, municipal government and other community resources, is to examine domestic violence fatalities.

The team will analyze the circumstances of past fatalities in an effort to better understand the dynamics of such deaths and make recommendations for prevention and system improvements.

The purpose of this project is not to lay blame, but rather to actively improve all systems that serve persons involved with domestic abuse, and to prevent violence and fatalities in the future.



The purpose of the City of Phoenix Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFRT) is to conduct a complete retrospective analysis of family or intimate partner violence death incidents. The goal of the DVFRT is to address systemic issues and not to place blame.

I, the undersigned, as a family member or relative of the listed victim,
_____, understand my role is to assist the DVFRT by providing information which helps the DVFRT to perform its review.

I understand that the final published report will be a public record and that it will contain no personal identifying information. I understand the DVFRT may not share all of its information with me nor will it provide to me all of the confidential information gathered during the review process. I understand that I will have no editorial authority over the final published report. Upon written request to the Chair of the DVFRT, one copy of the final published report will be made available for all involved family members and relatives to review.

I swear or affirm that I shall not divulge any information, records, discussions and opinions disclosed during any closed meeting to review a specific death. Such information, records, discussions and opinions shall remain confidential and shall not be used for reasons other than those required under § 41-198 of the *Arizona Revised Statutes* or by court order.

Print Name

Signature

Date



The Relationship between Victim and Perpetrator

When/how did they meet?

What were the dynamics surrounding their relationship?

What was the history of abuse? When did it start, what type of abuse was it?

Was there isolation during the relationship?

Was there any escalation of controlling behavior after the separation?

The Children

How old were children at the time of the victim's death?

How much did children witness of the abuse and homicide?

Were children used by the suspect to manipulate the victim and if so how?

What is child's current connection to perpetrator or perpetrator's family?

Was there any abuse to the children by perpetrator?

Perpetrator and Family

Were there suicidal or homicidal statements by perpetrator prior to the homicide?

Have you had contact with perpetrator's family, what has that contact been like?

Law Enforcement/Court

Was there previous interaction with law enforcement? Where and why?

What were the situations/incidents as they were explained to you?

Were there any cases in the court system?

Was there an Order of Protection at the time of the homicide, had there been previous violations of that order? Were there previous orders?

Were there any other illegal activities on the part of the perpetrator?

Did law enforcement/the courts see perpetrator as dangerous?

Health Care

Were there hospital visits as a result of victim's relationship with perpetrator?

When and where?



Did you receive any counseling after the final incident, what type?
Did the relationship affect the health of children?

Friends/Schools/Church

Did the victim's friends know or children's friends know, of the violence?
Did victim and/or children attend church?
Was the church aware of the situation?
Did the church provide any help after the final incident?

Employment

Did victim's employer knowledge of the violence, and if so, did the employer know what to do?
Was the perpetrator working or seeking employment?

The System

How do you feel perpetrator may have manipulated the system?
Do you feel the system 'failed'? If so where and how?
How were you notified of victim's death?
How were you, children and family members treated at the scene of the homicide?
How were you, children treated by the system after the homicide?

Miscellaneous

What was the impact of violence on children and other family members?
Presence of weapons; when and where were they were purchased? Was the victim aware?
Have you had interaction with the perpetrator since the incident?
What rights does perpetrator have with regard to child while he is incarcerated? Are there any rights stipulated for after his release?
Are you in fear of the perpetrator's release, and what rights does he have to child while he is incarcerated?
Is there anything else you would like to share with us that may help us understand the situation for victim?

