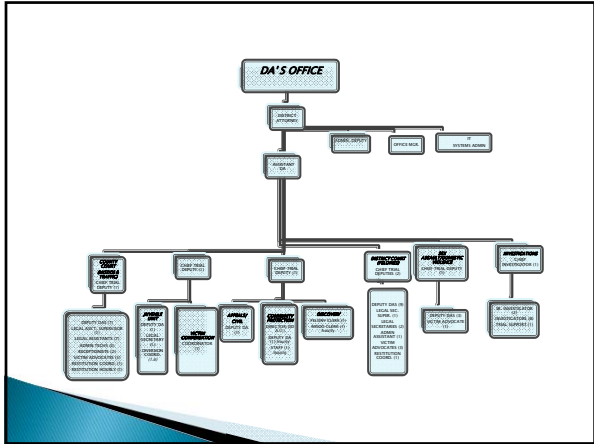


Modernizing the Fight
Against Domestic Violence
in the 21st Century,
A Prosecutor's View

THE POWER OF A PROSECUTOR

- ▶ "The prosecutor has more control over life, liberty and reputation than any other person in America...[T]he citizen's safety lies in the prosecutor who tempers zeal with human kindness, who seeks truth and not victims, who serves the law and not factional purposes, and who approaches his task with humility."

• -Justice Robert Jackson



THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS

AT EACH STAGE, A PROSECUTOR HAS TO MAKE HARD DECISIONS. DECISIONS THAT AFFECT PEOPLE'S LIVES IN SIGNIFICANT, SERIOUS WAYS.

A District Attorney's Baseline Standard for Decision Making Regarding Filing of Formal Charges:

Whether the DA has a good faith reasonable belief that a jury of 12 will unanimously convict, beyond a reasonable doubt, a defendant of the contemplated charge.



National Statistics

- A woman is battered every 12 seconds.
- According to the U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse & Neglect, "*Domestic violence is the single, major precursor to child abuse and neglect fatalities in the U.S.*" In general, 70% of men who abuse their female partners also abuse their children.

Local Statistics

- Boulder County law enforcement investigate over 2000 formal reports of domestic violence each year.
- It is estimated that only one in ten incidents of domestic violence are reported. In our community, that means there could be at least 20,000 incidents occurring per year.

Serious issues for women and children

- ▶ Women were attacked about six times more often by offenders with whom they had an intimate relationship than were male violence victims.
- ▶ Nearly 30% of all female homicide victims were killed by husbands, ex-husbands or boyfriends.
- ▶ Just over 3% of male homicide victims were known to have been killed by wives, ex-wives or girlfriends.
- Source: BJS National Crime Victimization Survey, August, 1995

U-Visa

- ▶ Provides protection for undocumented immigrants to receive assurance they will not be deported during a criminal proceeding.
- ▶ Available to victims of crimes and their immediate family members
 - Crime must be reported
 - Victim must be willing to assist law enforcement in the investigation and prosecution

Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley Services

- ▶ Shelter
- ▶ 24 Hour Crisis line
303-772-4422
- ▶ Individual & Group Counseling for Women and Children
- ▶ Legal Advocacy: Protection Orders
- ▶ Safety Planning
- ▶ Resources & Referrals



BECAUSE WHAT WE DO *DOES*
PROFOUNDLY IMPACT PEOPLE'S LIVES,
IT'S IMPORTANT TO GET IT RIGHT.

THE JOB OF EVERY DEPUTY DA IN MY
OFFICE IS TO *DO THE RIGHT THING.*

THIS IS THE HIGHEST GOAL OF THE
OFFICE.

We haven't won the fight against
Domestic Violence.

But we are winning!

Crime statistics are down.

It the safest time in all of our
history to be woman or child in the
United States and in Colorado.