

SERVING ADAMS COUNTY

Sheriff's Department	303 654-1850
<i>Victim Advocate Program</i>	720 322-1242
Arvada Police Department	720 898-7000
<i>Victim Outreach Information</i>	303 202-2196
Aurora Police Department	303 627-3100
<i>Victim Services Unit</i>	303 739-6087
Brighton Police Department	303 655-2300
<i>Victim Assistance Program</i>	303 655-2308
Broomfield Police Depart	303 438-6400
<i>Victim Services</i>	303 438-6429
Commerce City Police Dept	303 287-2844
<i>Victim Services Unit</i>	303 289-3655
Federal Heights Police Dept	303 428-8538
<i>Victim Advocate Program</i>	303 412-3541
Northglenn Police Dept	303 450-8892
<i>Victim Services Unit</i>	303 450-8759
Thornton Police Dept	720 977-5140
<i>Victim Services Unit</i>	720 977-5172
<i>Espanol</i>	720 977-5176
Westminster Police Dept	303 658-2400
<i>Victim Services Unit</i>	303 658-4210
Detention Facility	303 655-3490
<i>Inmate Information</i>	303 655-3494
District Attorney's Office	303 659-7720
<i>Victim Witness Services Unit</i>	303 659-7735
<i>Victims Compensation</i>	303 835-5615
Broomfield District Attorney's Office	720 887-2199
Adams County Probation	303 451-5555

Information for Victims of Domestic Violence

FAST TRACK COUNTY COURT PROSECUTION



DAVE YOUNG
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**VICTIM WITNESS
SERVICES UNIT**

Basic Information about the County Court Criminal Justice Process

ADVISAL: After the defendant is arrested, he/she is brought before a judge and advised of the charges the next business day and the amount and nature of bond. A criminal protection order is automatically put into effect when the defendant is arrested. The criminal protection order may also include a “no contact” provision as a condition of the defendant’s bond.

ARRAIGNMENT: The victim is subpoenaed for an arraignment approximately three days after an arrest. A disposition of the case may be reached at this hearing. The victim has the right to confer with a deputy district attorney prior to a plea being offered. The defendant has the opportunity to speak with a Deputy District Attorney before entering a plea. If the defendant enters a plea of guilty, the judge may decide to proceed to immediate sentencing, or the judge may set sentencing for a later date. The “no contact” provision of the defendant’s bond may be reviewed.

PRE-TRIAL: A pre-trial hearing may be set after the arraignment hearing to allow the defendant the opportunity to consult with legal counsel. The defendant may enter a guilty or not guilty plea at the pre-trial hearing. The court could go to immediate sentencing, so it is important the victim inform the Deputy District Attorney if they wish to speak at sentencing.

TRIAL: A Jury of six or the judge will examine evidence and charges to determine whether or not the defendant is guilty of committing a specific crime. The victim may or may not be subpoenaed to testify at trial, but has the right to be present and informed.

SENTENCING: The judge determines the appropriate sentence for a defendant who enters a guilty plea or who is found guilty at trial.

Possible sentences are set by law and generally include offense specific counseling.

COUNSELING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

ACCESS Housing		303 289-7078
Adams County Dept of Social Services		303 287-8831
Alcoholics Anonymous		303 322-4440
Al-Anon		303 321-8788
Alternatives to Family Violence		303 289-4441
Asian Pacific Center		303 393-0304
Aurora Community Mental Health Center		303 617-2300
Broomfield County Dept of Social Services		720 887-2200
Broomfield Mental Health Center		303 466-3007
Community Reach Center		303 853-3500
Denver Center for Crime Victims		303 894-8000
DVI for Women with Disabilities		303 839-5510
DOVE		303 831-7932
Gateway Women’s Shelter		303 343-1851
Mi Casa Women’s Center		303 573-1302
Rape Assistance & Awareness		303 322-7273
Servicios De La Raza		303 458-5851
Suicide/Depression Hotline		303 894-9000

LEGAL INFORMATION

Project Safeguard	Denver	303 863-7233
	Adams	303 637-7761
Colorado Legal Services		303 837-1313

SAFEHOUSE SERVICES

Alternatives to Family Violence (Adams)	303 289-4441
Safehouse Progressive Alliance for NonViolence	303 444-2424
Denver Safehouse (Denver)	303 318-9989
Gateway Battered Women’s Shelter (Arapahoe)	303 343-1851
Family Tree (Jefferson)	303 420-6752
A Woman’s Place (Weld County)	970 356-4226

BI-LINGUAL 24 HOUR HOTLINES

Servicios De La Raza	303 458-5851
Ayuda de Violacion	303 953-9550

SERVING BROOMFIELD COUNTY

Detention Facility	720 887-2000
Court Clerk’s Office	720 887-2100

Sentencing Options for Misdemeanor Cases

Below is an explanation of potential options the Judge will have when determining the appropriate sentence for the defendant in your case. This will provide you information regarding the options so you can make an informed recommendation to the Deputy District Attorney and/or the court. Please review this information and let the advocate or Deputy District Attorney if you have any questions.

The Judge has the discretion to utilize a combination of any of the listed sentencing options.

Jail: The defendant can be sentenced to jail for a period of days to years. A jail sentence could mean the defendant will have to serve their time before they are released. This time is typically served at the Adams County Jail located at 150 North 19th Street Brighton, CO (303)654-1850.

Work Release: The defendant could be sentenced to jail and the **JUDGE** can authorize work release. During the day the defendant is let out of jail to attend work and must report back to the jail at night.

In Home Detention: The defendant could be sentenced to jail however the judge authorizes in-home detention. The defendant can serve his/her time from home, supervised by private probation. The defendant cannot live in the home of the victim, regardless if the protection order is lifted or not. The defendant is required to pay for this service.

Probation: Probation is a sentence which may be imposed by the court in lieu of or in addition to jail. An offender on probation is ordered to follow certain conditions set forth by the court, under the supervision of a probation officer. The probation department is located at 12421 Washington Street, Unit H Thornton CO 80241. You can reach them at (303) 451-5555.

Domestic Violence Counseling (Evaluation): As part of the defendant's sentence, the court can order Domestic Violence Counseling/Classes/Treatment. Treatment is not voluntary. The defendant must enroll in treatment at the court's direction, and sanctions are applied for failure to participate. The defendant must

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS A CRIMINAL PROTECTION ORDER? A criminal protection order applies to any person charged with a violation of the Colorado Criminal Code. The criminal protection order is for the protection of victims and witnesses ONLY. It is NOT the same thing as a civil protection order. The standard criminal protection order restrains the defendant or any third party acting on the defendant's behalf from harassing, molesting, intimidating, retaliating against, or tampering with any witness or victim of the criminal acts charged. A violation of this order is punishable by the court. As a condition of the defendant's bond, there may be a "NO CONTACT" provision that prohibits direct or indirect contact or communication with the victim. **The "NO CONTACT" remains in effect until and unless changed by a judge.**

HOW CAN I MODIFY THE CRIMINAL PROTECTION ORDER? The protection order can ONLY be modified by the court. In order to ask for a modification, you must come to court on a scheduled court date and time or any day of the week before 8:00am. Go to the first floor, window number 5 and ask to be an add-on to the docket. You will have to go in front of the court to ask the Judge to consider a modification. Please speak with your advocate for specific questions about modification of the protection order.

WHAT IF SOMEONE TRIES TO HAVE ME DROP THE CHARGES OR TELLS ME NOT TO TESTIFY? If anyone has attempted to coerce you not to testify, that person may have committed a crime. **IMMEDIATELY contact your local law enforcement agency** to make a report.

WHAT IF I CHANGE MY MIND ABOUT PROSECUTING OR DON'T WANT TO TESTIFY? According to Colorado law, a crime against a person is a crime against the state. Victims and witnesses are often served a subpoena that requires them to appear for court and testify. A subpoena is an official court order. It is natural that you may be anxious or have questions about testifying. An advocate is available to talk with you at both the Adams office 303 659-7735 or at the Broomfield office at 720 887-2199.

SAFETY PLANNING

One of the most important steps you can take for yourself is to create a safety plan for protection, even if you don't think that you need one. When violence has occurred once in a relationship, it is likely to happen again. Here are some things to consider in making a personal safety plan:

BEFORE THE NEXT TIME:

1. **Decide and plan where you will go if you leave home.** Have a bag packed and ready with some toiletries and extra cash. Keep a copy of important paperwork in a secret but accessible place in case you need to leave quickly.
2. **Teach your children how to dial 9-1-1.** Identify a safe place for them to go if violence does erupt in the home. Have a safe word that you practice with the children. If they hear this word, it is their cue to leave the home and get help.
3. **Tell someone you trust about your situation.** Let someone know what is going on so they are looking out for you and check in on you. Tell someone at work so you can be escorted to and from your car. Try not to be left alone.
4. **Change your routine.** Consider making daily changes to your routine, drive a different route, shop at a different store, and change your work hours.

DURING THE NEXT TIME:

1. **If at all possible, LEAVE.** Locate your escape items and go, or get a room with a lock on the door and a phone nearby.
2. **SCREAM** so that someone may hear you and call the police.
3. If you have talked about it before hand, have your child **call 911**
4. If you leave by car, **lock your car doors** and do not unlock the doors until you arrive at a safe place
5. If you cannot leave, **protect yourself** to the best of your ability.

BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF

Read through this list and check the things your partner has done more than once.

- CONTROLLING BEHAVIOR** *Do you have to account for every minute of your time? Are you "allowed" to work outside of the home? Does your partner control all the money? Do you have to ask "permission" to buy things?*
- EXTREME JEALOUSY** *Have you been accused of having an affair? Of constantly flirting? Have you been forced to have sex against your will to "prove" your love and loyalty?*
- CONSTANT CRITICISM / BLAMING OTHERS** *How many times do you hear that you can't do anything right? How many times have you been told that it is always your fault? Does your partner humiliate you in front of others?*
- UNPREDICTABLE BEHAVIOR** *Do you often wonder what's next? Try to figure out what it was that you did? Or what you could do different next time? How often do you feel confused because of your partner's lies and promises?*
- ISOLATION** *Do you often feel all alone, with no one to confide in? Does your partner keep you away from family and friends? Do you stay away from family and friends **because** of your partner?*
- VERBAL ABUSE** *Have you been told that you are stupid, lazy or ugly, etc.? That you are a bad parent? That no one else would want you?*
- EXPLOSIVE TEMPER** *Have you been locked out of the house or your car keys taken away from you? Are objects thrown or broken before, during or after arguments? Has your partner hit, slapped, shoved, choked or kicked you or your child or a family pet?*
- MAKING THREATS OF VIOLENCE** *Have you ever heard the words, "If I can't have you, nobody will." Have you ever been afraid for yourself or for the safety of other family members?*

IF YOU CHECKED YES TO ONE OR MORE OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS, YOU SHOULD CONTACT YOUR ADVOCATE