This is a draft of the list of domestic violence related fatalities in Colorado in 2012. This information is distributed and available to every person in our state that has an interest in domestic violence prevention. We have given due diligence to compiling the most accurate information possible and in that spirit we welcome feedback from law enforcement, prosecution, victim service and any other agencies, or individual professionals, statewide to help ensure our research is accurate and complete.

Thanks to you diligent professionals who assist us in keeping this tally accurate. Again, please forward this document to any and all that may have information or knowledge of a domestic violence related death that we have not listed. As in past years, our numbers will differ from those released by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation due to the fact that we count all fatalities in the context of domestic violence, including those that occur in same-sex relationships, collateral deaths and suicides. It is our understanding that CBI does not include domestic violence related deaths (or suicides) in these categories. There is always the potential to add to the 2012 (or any) list. We will alert you as soon as we garner new information, assuming that we will.

As is always the case, we are currently tracking domestic violence related fatalities that have occurred in 2013 in Colorado. If you have knowledge of any fatal incidents in your communities that appear to be in the context of domestic violence, please alert us as soon as possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions, suggestions, etc. – 303-522-0932 or via email dvfc@hotmail.com

Thank you all for your support, patience and interest as well as your hard work.

Dora-Lee Larson
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The Denver Metro Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee & Advisory Group

The Denver Metro Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee is a project of the Denver Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
PO Box 40041
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1/25/12 The East Morgan County Hospital went into lockdown when a local woman who was being treated for injuries sustained in a violent assault at her residence reported that Jasper Carter (57) told her he would kill her and himself and was armed with a handgun. Carter, a retired law enforcement officer from the Denver metro area with SWAT experience, was discovered sitting in his pickup alongside the main parking lot of EMCH. Carter refused commands to surrender and drop his gun, shot himself under the chin and was immediately incapacitated. He died a short time later. (Brush) (1) (S)

2/2/2012 LaVon A. Hoffman (52) died as a result of two shotgun wounds. Her boyfriend, Robert A. Matile (47), died of a self-inflicted shotgun wound to the head. Friends of LaVon stated that she had been worried since Robert was released on bail following a previous domestic violence incident in which he assaulted her and threatened both her and her daughter. (Mesa) (2) (M/S)

2/13/2012 Daniel M. Bessey (41) is suspected in the shooting deaths of couple Sarah Beasley (29) and John Salazar (54). Bessey had an on-again, off-again relationship with Beasley. Three children were in the house at the time. Later that day, Bessey was slated to face Beasley in court on a child custody case involving the couple’s then two-year-old son, Edward. He was arrested in OK. On suspicion of first-degree murder and other pending charges in January 2013. (Del Norte) (2) (M)

2/14/2012 Claude Ouellette (53) shot himself during an argument with his companion Valorie Jean Rice (45) in their motorhome at the Mountaintale Campground, 15 miles northwest of Penrose near the Beaver Creek State Wildlife Area. She was arrested but released after an autopsy and on-scene investigation confirmed her story of Claude’s suicide. (Fremont County) (1) (S)

2/21/2012 Jeffrey Lawrence (29), a soldier who had been discharged several years ago with PTSD, shot his wife, Tara Buckler-Lawrence (27), and himself in their home. Their ten-year-old son called the police, and firefighters found Jeffrey and Tara’s three children, ages 2, 4, and 10, in the basement without injuries. Days before the incident, Jeffrey had told his best friend that he looked for help in the military. (Colorado Springs) (2) (M/S)

2/23/2012 After police busted through a barricaded door, firefighters rescued an 18-month-old boy and 5-year-old girl, as well as their father, William Johnson (27), who police say severely beat the children’s mother, Rosie Jungst-Johnson (30), and started the blaze. One dog was rescued, but another dog and a cat died in the blaze. William Johnson later died from his injuries. Johnson’s wife had filed for divorce on January 12th. (Northglenn) (1) (S)

2/25/2012 When Charity Gilbert (20) and her girlfriend, Patricia Briggs went to Patricia’s husband’s home to pick up the Briggs kids’ things, Randy Briggs (31) shot Charity and then himself. The Briggs’ four children were found in the home without injuries. Patricia was separated from Randy, and Charity had previously intervened when he was abusive in the past. (Montrose) (2) (M/S)
3/12/13  Crysta Chisholm, (32) was found dead wrapped in a blanket under Howard Lee York’s (44) trailer. Crysta was strangled after rejecting York’s advances. York plead to felony murder and was sentenced to 48 years in prison. (Manitou Springs) (1) (M)

3/31/2012  James David Bryan, Sr. (69) and Bonnie Lynn Bryan (64) were found shot in the master bedroom of their home. 64-year-old Bonnie Lynn Bryan, died of a gunshot wound and her death was ruled a homicide. 69-year-old James David Bryan Sr. also died of a gunshot wound and his death was ruled a suicide. The couple was supposed to move out of their home that day. Their bodies were found two days later when relatives, worried about their safety, broke into the home. (Colorado Springs) (2) (M/S)

4/3/2012  Police found Damion Morine (40) and his son, Toby (7), dead in their home’s garage from apparent gunshot wounds. Morine was divorced from Toby’s mother about two years before the murder, and wanted to reconcile. She declined. (Denver) (2) (M/S)

4/8/2012  Angela Moser (44) was found stabbed to death in the home she shared with her husband Bobby Harris (31). Police responded after receiving a hang-up 911 call. Harris was arrested and charged with first-degree murder. (Colorado Springs) (1) (M)

6/14/2012  Jamie Myrick (36) and Perry Scott Adams (47) were found shot to death in an upstairs bedroom of Adams’ home on Myrick’s birthday. Myrick and Adams had a previous relationship. (Montrose) (2) (M/S)

7/11/2012  Larry Appel shot his wife, Chris Appel, of 42 years before taking his own life at their rural Routt County home. Their son said he knew his parents had been dealing with some financial hardships and he thought his father “was just confused.” (Steamboat Springs) (2) (M/S)

7/13/2012  Christina Cornejo (39) was found dead in her home by police doing a welfare check at the request of her family. Four days later, Brian Hedglin (40), who had a previous relationship with Cornejo and who was wanted in connection with her death attempted to steal a passenger plane from a small southern Utah airport, then shot himself in the head after crashing the aircraft in a nearby parking lot. (Colorado Springs) (1) (M)

7/24/2012  Richelle Ann Best (21) was found to be unresponsive when police arrived. Her boyfriend, Corey Lopez (22), has been arrested and charged with first-degree murder and domestic violence. Autopsy results indicate Best died of “non-visible trauma.” In less than one hour of deliberation a jury found Lopez guilty of First Degree murder in the strangulation death. (Lakewood) (1) (M)

8/6/2012  Christopher Bates was taken off of life support in early September. He had been stabbed by Dean Scott (28) when Bates intervened in an assault on his sister, Necoya Smith. Scott plead guilty to criminally negligent homicide and was sentenced to 6 yrs. in prison. (Denver) (1) (M)

8/10/2012  Natasha N. Carrillo (20) was found dead in her home by officers responding to of a shooting. Her boyfriend, Robert Trujillo (30) is being held for investigation of first degree murder and other outstanding warrants. (Denver) (1) (M)
9/8/2012  Authorities found Andrew Mazeika (68) Judi Mazeika (54) on the lawn of their residence. Judi was pronounced dead at the scene. Andrew Mazeika died later in the day at Valley View Hospital. Autopsy results confirmed that Andrew Mazeika shot his wife before turning the handgun on himself. In October, Andrew filed for divorce, and in January, a separation agreement was entered in court. It’s unclear whether they were actually married at the date of the incident. (Missouri Heights) (2) (M/S)

10/2/2012  Police found the naked body of Darius Norris (24) in the backyard of an Aurora townhome. Tishia Allen (26), who was in a relationship with Darius, was arrested on suspicion of second-degree murder and manslaughter involving a weapon. (Aurora) (1) (M)

10/5/2012  Nicole Marie Ryan (23) called 911 reporting that she had injured her "husband" during an argument. When police arrived they found Raymond Neal Wimmer (30) with a severe knife wound to his neck. He died while being transported to Poudre Valley Hospital. Ryan pled guilty to reckless manslaughter and was sentenced to 6 years. (Fort Collins) (1) (M)

10/19/2012  James D. Smith III (65) died of a self-inflicted gunshot to the head. He shot himself after law enforcement responded to a call from Smith’s former girlfriend who reported that he had shown up at her house and had overdosed and needed medical attention. She locked herself inside her residence and Smith was attempting to break in when deputies arrived. Smith pointed his gun at the deputies and then shot himself. (Glacier View) (1) (S)

10/23/2012  Karen Mamo (25) was found shot to death in her apartment. She was going through a divorce with Louis Mamo (26) at the time of her death. Louis was found guilty of second-degree murder and child abuse and was sentenced to 48 years in prison. (Colorado Springs) (1) (M)

10/24/2012  Rebecca Knox was killed by her husband, Michael Burnette (55) who pled guilty to second-degree murder after deliberation and was sentenced to 48 years in DOC. (Denver) (1) (M)

11/18/2012  Howard Benjamin Adler’s (26) body was found in the backyard of his home by his roommates. He died of multiple stab wounds. Nate Vernon Fischer (25), an associate of Adler’s ex-girlfriend was arrested and held on suspicion of first-degree murder. Police believe Fischer laid in wait for Adler, who knew him, before attacking him. Police described the attack as an ambush. (Wheatridge) (1) (M)

11/18/2012  Loretta Barela (44) was found dead at the home she shared with husband, Christopher Perea (41), almost six hours after neighbors said they first called 911 to report possible domestic violence at the residence. A neighbor said she first called 911 at 2 a.m. after Barela ran to her door for help topless and was dragged across the street by Perea. Police believe Barela was killed between 3:00 and 8:00 am. Perea is charged w/first-degree murder. (Denver) (1) (M)
12/6/2012  Jasper Cates (23) convinced his estranged girlfriend (of 5 years) Rebecca DeLorme (21) to meet him so he could take her to WalMart to purchase diapers for their two children. Rebecca had recently discovered that she was pregnant with their 3rd child. Jasper drove them past WalMart and when Rebecca questioned him he pulled a handgun out from under the car seat and held it to her body and head as he continued to drive her out of town. Jasper first said he would kill her, and then said that if he couldn't have his family, he didn't want to live and she would watch him kill himself. Jasper eventually pulled over, pointed the gun at his head and completed suicide. (Mesa County) (1) (S)

12/12/2012  Miranda Casey (16) murdered by Thomas Dodge (20) who pled guilty to reckless manslaughter and sentenced to 6 years DOC and 3 years mandatory parole. (Estes Park) (1) (M)

12/14/2012  After shots were reported around 7 p.m. at a Westminster hotel, officers found Antida Archuleta (20), a female hotel clerk, who was pronounced dead at the scene and a male suspect, Seth Wilkinson (20), who was able to communicate with officers briefly before being rushed to a hospital. Police believe the shooting was a murder and attempted suicide. (Westminster) (1) (M)

12/18/2012  Six hours after being released from jail in the kidnapping of his ex-girlfriend, Daniel Sanchez (31) shot and killed, Beatriz Cintora-Silva (25), her sister, Maria Cintora-Silva (22) and brother-in-law, Max Aguirre Ojeda (32) before taking his own life in Maria and Max's home. Beatriz had just given the address to the dispatcher when she was killed. (Longmont) (4) (3M/1S)

Animal Fatalities:
05/2012  Samuel Talbert (35) was arrested after police found Talbert’s girlfriend’s dog dead in the man's back yard. Neighbors called police after they saw the dog hit and dragged by its leash while it was being taken on a walk.

Follow up/Other Category:

10/1/2012  Michaela Beth Ford’s (32) decomposing body was found by police who responded to complaints of a foul smell coming from her apartment. Her husband, Steven Ford, and dog were sitting nearby. Michaela appeared to have been dead more than ten days. (Denver) (1) (M)

12/23/2012  Ezequiel Padilla-Villalobos admitted to killing his girlfriend’s sister, Gabriela Acosta (14), and leaving her body along a trash-strewn road. Padilla-Villalobos told police he’d consumed 12-14 drinks and cocaine before he picked up Acosta at her mother’s house in order to take her somewhere to celebrate Christmas. He started having “bad thoughts” and strangled & stabbed Acosta. He’s charged with 1st degree murder and sexual assault. (Commerce City) (1)(M)
Emily Wiekert (25) was shot and killed in an apartment building garage in suburban Denver after an apparent struggle. She had apparently been throwing stuff out of her car on the 3rd floor of the parking structure before the shooting. Robert Lewis (51), a person of interest who had been fired two weeks prior for harassing Wiekert, was found dead from a self-inflicted gunshot in his apartment. (Greenwood Village) (1) (M/S)

2012 SUMMARY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED FATALITIES IN COLORADO

Total Incidents: 30
Total Deaths: 42 (at least)
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**Murder Only:** 17  
**Murder/Suicide:** 7  
**Suicide Only:** 4  
**Children present during the incident or referenced in context:** 8  
**Animal Deaths:** 3

**Locations of Incidents**  
Adams County: 3  
Arapahoe County: 2  
Boulder County: 1  
Denver County: 4  
El Paso County: 6  
Fremont County: 1  
Garfield County: 1  
Jefferson County: 4  
Larimer County: 3
Mesa County: 1
Morgan County: 1
Routt County: 1

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