

DENVER METRO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE

2015 SUMMARY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED FATALITIES IN COLORADO

This is a *draft* of the list of domestic violence related fatalities in Colorado in 2015. 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 2015 (or any) list. We will alert you as soon as we garner new information.

As is always the case, we are currently tracking domestic violence related fatalities that have occurred in 2016 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 dvfrc@hotmail.com

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

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The Denver Metro Domestic Violence
Fatality Review Committee & Advisory Group

- 01/07/2015 **Cindy Johnson (61)** was strangled to death by William Blackburn (45) after she refused to join him in bed. Blackburn told a CBI Investigator, "When I put my arms around her I didn't think I was going to strangle her." (Dove Creek, Delores County CO, 22nd JD) (1M)
- 01/09/2015 **Phenia Martinez (25)** was 8 months pregnant when she was reported missing early in January. Her boyfriend **Joseph Romero (56)** was arrested for second-degree murder after fleeing to Pueblo County and turning himself in. He stabbed Martinez multiple times in the torso. Neither Martinez nor her unborn son survived the attack. (Pueblo County) (1) (M)
- 01/11/2015 **Danya Spiess (38)** was shot once by her husband, **Steven Scott Spiess**, in their Fruita home. Danya called police concerned about her husband being drunk, argumentative, and armed. The couple had been fighting about money. Danya was shot while on the phone with dispatch. After shooting his wife Steven then turned the gun on himself. Unsuccessful suicide. Police took him to the hospital for treatment and then arrested him. Even though she died 3 months after being shot, he was convicted of 2nd degree murder. (Fruita, Mesa County) (1M)
- 02/01/2015 **Angela Howard (36)** was found dead in her Loveland home with multiple gunshot wounds. Her presumed partner, **Russell Woolman (52)**, the main suspect, was found dead in Howard's truck near Lyons, CO. The gun found with Woolman was consistent with the gunshot wounds inflicted on Howard. Woolman's cause of death has not been released, but there were no traumatic injuries. (Loveland, Larimer County) (2) (M/S)
- 02/04/2015 **Larissa Tiffany-Schiess (28)** was retrieved from her burning house in Fountain, CO. The death was suspicious and the arson suggested a murder cover-up. According to a coroner's report, Tiffany-Schiess was strangled and had her throat slit before the arson occurred, she also reeked of gasoline. The main suspect is **Thomas Turley (29)**. Turley and Tiffany-Schiess were suspected of having some type of intimate relationship says close friends. Turley fled and was arrested in Pueblo. He had in his possession Tiffany-Schiess' car, cellphone, and other belongings. He has since pled guilty to the charges of murder and arson and faces up to 70 years. (Fountain, El Paso County) (1) (M)
- 02/10/2015 **Dorthe "Dorde" Mcnaul (73)** was found dead after being shot multiple times by her husband of 52 years, **James Mcnaul (72)** in their home near Silverthorne. James then turned the gun on himself after one fatal shot. James had filed for divorce only a month before the incident. (Summit County) (2) (M/S)
- 02/10/2015 **Brian P Fritze (45)** was shot & killed by Garfield County Deputies. He was armed with a loaded handgun and had an extraordinarily high level of methamphetamine in his system. He was pursued after officers tried to contact him regarding a domestic violence call. His wife had reported that Fritze had violated a protection order by slamming his wife against a wall and brandishing a weapon. The initial crime of DV was in the parachute area, but he was killed by Garfield County Sheriffs Office in the Glenwood Springs area. (Glenwood Springs – Garfield County) (1) (Suicide by Cop)

- 02/16/2015 **Maria Carminda Portillo-Amaya (30)** was brutally killed by her husband with a machete in their Carbondale apartment. Naverette-Portillo had made threats before about killing himself or Maria to close friends. After Arturo fled the scene he crashed into the back of a cattle truck intentionally. **Arturo Naverrete-Portillo (46)** was airlifted after the crash. During the flight he confessed to emergency workers that he killed his wife on Feb 16th, 2015. Naverette-Portillo claims that his crash was a suicide attempt. Maria did not survive the attack and Arturo is being charged with first –degree murder. (Carbondale, Garfield County) (1) (M/ Attempted S)
- 02/16/2015 **Nora Reachel Deleon (40)** was stabbed to death, Monday, February 16, 2015. At about 6:30 a.m. on Monday [February 16, 2015], police were called to the Birch Apartments to investigate and found Deleon dead inside. **Severino Almendariz (55)** was arrested. Almendariz was found in the laundry room and was arrested. The nature of Deleon and Almendariz’s relationship is not clear. (Glendale, Arapahoe County) (1) (M)
- 02/21/2015 **Jacqueline Degarmo (55)** was found dismembered in the woods on May 3rd by hikers. Degarmo’s hands and head were both removed and missing. After being able to identify her body through the combination of a missing person’s report and a distinguished tattoo, law enforcement began to investigate her family. Her daughter, Alisia Blythe, told officers that after Degarmo and Blythe’s fiancé (**John Brant**) got into an argument. He then strangled her to death. Brant (32) then pulled her body out into the backyard. When she returned home her mother’s body was gone. Brant disposed of her body in the woods and was found almost 3 months later. Brant is being charged with first-degree murder, concealing death, and abuse of a corpse. (Englewood, Arapahoe County) (1) (M)
- 02/24/2015 **Alvin Eugene Carrethers (55)** was found stabbed to death at a local quadplex. **Toni Carrethers (51)** was taken into custody for questioning but has not been charged and has since been released. Both Alvin and Toni have extensive criminal records. (Aurora, Arapahoe County) (1) (M) (Update 2.28.27 – According to Aurora PD VAU Toni is considered a victim.)
- 02/25/2015 **Kendra Chavez (21)** was brutally stabbed by her former boyfriend, Leonard Martinez (21). The incident occurred after an altercation between the two. Chavez called her mom and warned her that Martinez was exceptionally angry. Chavez was stabbed in her throat at the Curve Motel. Martinez pled with other hotel residents to take care of her while he fled from the scene. Chavez was unable to speak due to the amount of blood in her throat. She passed away a week later due to the injuries. Martinez was apprehended and will now be charged with homicide. (Lakewood, Jeff County) (1) (M)
- 3/1/2015 **Stacy Feldman (45)** was found unresponsive in her bathtub and her husband, **Robert Feldman (53)**, was arrested for her murder on Feb. 13, 2018. The medical examiner had originally classified the cause and manner of Stacy’s death as “undetermined,” so it remained a mystery for nearly three years. A report from an unnamed doctor that was provided Denver police detectives said Stacy Feldman's "injuries are the result of an assault, which included blunt force trauma, strangulation and suffocation." On June 11, 2015, police received a call to the Metro Denver Crime Stoppers tip line. The female caller told police that she had met Robert in February 2015 through the online dating

site Tinder, but believed that he was divorced. She later researched him online and discovered he was likely married to Stacy Feldman. The female tipster told police that she emailed Stacy on the morning of March 1, 2015 and asked if she and Robert were divorced. Stacy told the woman that she and Robert were not divorced and the woman then told Stacy about what had occurred between her and Robert. According to an affidavit, Stacy told the woman that Robert Feldman had cheated on her before and that she was "done with him." Denver, Denver County) (1) (M)

- 04/17/2015 **Marsha Watson (60)** was killed by her husband **Stanley Watson (72)** in an RV park in Canon City, CO. After the police were called to the RV Park, Stanley barricaded himself inside the RV. The negotiation process for Watson to exit the vehicle was about 4 hours. Upon his exit he fired multiple shots, in return the police shot him, which resulted in his death. Marsha was found dead in the front of the vehicle. Marsha's cause of death is due allegedly to shots fired by Stanley. (Canon City, Fremont County) (2) (M/Suicide by cop)
- 04/23/2015 **Merta Martindale Hoyer (Martie, 62)** was shot and killed by her husband **Darrell Hoywer (65)**. He also shot and killed their two dogs. After the incident Darrell drove to a parking lot and shot and killed himself in his truck. (Fort Collins, Larimer County) (2) (M/S) (2 animal deaths)
- 05/08/2015 **Leah Cabrera (33)** was shot and fatally killed by her husband. **Joshua Cabrera (35)** is alleged to have shot Leah, set their house on fire, and then killed himself. It is still unsure whether Leah was shot before or after the house was set ablaze. They had an 8 year old and a 15 year old that resided with them; neither was home at the time of the incident. (Colorado Springs, El Paso County) (2) (M/S)
- 5/26/2015 **Coresa Breault (44)** was killed by her husband **Christopher Michael Winters (45)**. He was embarrassed that he was caught taking part in an unusual sexual fetish. Christopher was charged with first degree murder. (Aurora, Adams County) (1) (M).
- 5/29/16 **Lawrence Marez (50)**, was thought by Dr. Robert Kurtzman to have been dead 48 to 72 hours before his body was discovered by relatives around 4 p.m. on June 1, inside his home, according to the Mesa County Sheriff's Office. Barbara Blanton-Marez stabbed her ex-husband to death — 40 stab wounds were found on his body — within hours after leaving Mesa County Community Corrections staff on the night of May 29. The couple was described as "estranged", according to the records. She filed for divorce in December 2014 which became final in March, nine months after they married. **Barbara Ann Blanton-Marez (39)**, was found dead in a stolen pickup truck after a high-speed chase with police in Weld county. Blanton-Marez had a history of violence and had previously pled guilty to two felony charges- assault causing serious bodily harm and menacing with a weapon. (Grand Junction, Mesa County & Weld county) (2) (M/S)
- 06/01/2015 **Abigail "Abby" Cozad (31)** was found dead in an Adam's County hotel room (Primrose Motel). The alleged suspects are Emiliano Urioste and Teresa Dean. Urisote and Cozad met a month before the incident outside of a mental health clinic. Witnesses said they saw Cozad enter the hotel with plastic wrapped around her legs. Cozad's father states that due to a traumatic brain injury (Cozad suffered as a teen due to a drunk driver) she

was “too trusting”. The cause of death was due to blunt force trauma to the back of the head and neck. Her body was discovered inside the hotel couch by the maintenance man. Police said they discovered sexually explicit photos of Abby on Urioste’s phone. (Thornton, Adams County) (1) (M)

- 06/03/2015 **Maria Stoian (45)** was found dead from a single gunshot wound to her head in the couple’s home in Thornton, CO by a family member. **Stefan Stoian (47)**, her husband, was the main suspect. He fled to and was apprehended in Sparks, Nevada. He is charged with first-degree murder and domestic violence. (Thornton, Adams County) (1) (M)
- 06/22/2015 **Louis Joseph Antencio (50)** was shot and killed by Greeley Police after refusing to drop his weapon in a stand-off in the street. A witness found **Angelina Abeyta (41)** outside on the neighbor’s porch with gunshot wounds presumably from Antencio. The police were contacted and Abeyta was taken to the hospital. Abeyta survived the attack. (Greeley, Weld County) (1) (Suicide by cop)
- 06/25/2015 **Camille Harrell (29)** was shot and killed by **Brandon Foote (30)** and **Merita Curry-Swanson (36)**. They broke into her sister, Carmen’s, hotel room and began assaulting her. Camille, who was staying in a separate room, came in to help her and fired warning shots, after which she was shot several times. Foote was found guilty of first-degree murder after deliberation, first-degree felony murder and first-degree burglary and sentenced to life in prison plus 32 years. (1) (Denver, Denver County) (M)
- 07/18/2015 **Kirsten Russell Lockett (36)** sought refuge from her estranged ex-husband in her brother’s house. Her husband, **Richard Allen Lockett (44)**, entered through the window into the room where she and her 5 children were staying. Richard stabbed her in the neck multiple times. By the time law enforcement was able to get to the scene, Kirsten had passed away. Richard had a history of abusing and threatening her. When Richard was taken into custody stab marks were found on his neck as well. Some suspect that he attempted suicide. None of the children were injured at the time of the incident. Richard has been charged with first-degree murder, kidnapping, burglary, stalking, and violation of a protection order. (Castle Rock, Douglas County) (1) (M)
- 07/24/2015 **Amanda M. Ybarra Velasquez (23)** was found with multiple stab wounds at a home she shared with **Edward Lawrence Aragon (33)**. The location is in Rocky Ford, CO in Otero County. He is awaiting trial and is being charged with first-degree murder. (Otero County) (1) (M)
- 07/31/2015 **Dydrick Martin** was fatally stabbed in the chest by his girlfriend, **Shandrea Bowie (32)**. After an argument between the two, Martin went to the kitchen and threw three kitchen knives on the ground. He told Bowie to stab him. He hit her phone out of her hand; she then took a kitchen knife and stabbed him in the chest. Her daughter went to a neighbor’s house who then called the police. Bowie is in custody and is being charged with 2nd degree murder and 4 counts of child abuse because her children were present at the time of the incident. (Denver, Denver County) (1) (M)
- 08/16/2015 Police were called to an Elbert residence after a call about domestic violence was made (caller not identified). The police proceeded to do a welfare check and that is when they

found **Donna (40)** and **Rick Hunt (64)** both dead. Law enforcement says there is no threat to the community. The cause of death or type of death has not been released. It appears to be a murder/suicide. (Elbert County) (2) (M/S)

09/09/2015 **Laurie Jane Teter's (37)** body was found northeast of Fort Morgan. **Robert Smith (37)**, Teter, and her boyfriend had been living in a tent on a farm. Officials report there was a physical altercation. Laurie was last seen walking away from the farm September 2. And her body was found September 9. (Fort Morgan County) (1) (M)

09/30/15 **Tera Lewandowski** was murdered by **Daniel Meyer** for "disrespecting" a biker "gang" of which he was a member, prosecutors said. **Daniel Meyer + 6 others** A former Pierce Town Board member was found guilty Monday of first-degree murder and immediately was sentenced to life in prison. Tera's body was found in Laramie County Wyoming in April, 2016. Meyer was convicted in the 2015 murder of Tera Lewandowski. Karly Hanchett pleaded guilty in Weld County District Court to conspiracy to commit first-degree murder and violent crime causing death, for her role in the disappearance and [death of 34-year-old Tera Lewandowski](#). Weld County authorities arrested a seventh person in the Oct. 2015 disappearance and [slaying of a woman in Pierce](#) that investigators believe was tied to a biker gang. Thomas Vassil, 54, of Nunn

12/12/2015 **Mireya Ramirez (28)** was fatally stabbed by her boyfriend. The altercation began in their apartment while her mother; June Lee Simpson was in the living room. Simpson tried to intervene and was also stabbed. Ramirez ran outside to flee the fight but the perpetrator continued to stab her repeatedly. Simpson frantically called the police. When they arrived the perpetrator refused to drop his weapon and the police shot and killed him. His name has not been released but, her family says it was Ramirez's boyfriend. (Arapahoe County) (2) (M/Killed by police) (1 ND)

12/20/2015 **Norma Frias (48)** was found with a gunshot wound to her head in her husband's SUV. Police were called to a fender bender and that is when they found Norma. **Hector Frias (50)** was found later that night intoxicated and covered in blood. He admitted to doing it and reported it as an accident. He said he would have never intentionally shot his wife because they were married for over 30 years and funeral expenses are too high for his family. (Adams County) (1) (M)

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

03/24/2015 **Shelley Dorsey (26)** was shot in the Mountain Country Estates apartment complex. There has not been a suspect identified. The death has been considered a homicide. (Colorado Springs, El Paso County) (1) (M)

06/29/2015 **Patricia Richmond (23)** was found dead at a home owned by her future in-laws home. She was strangled to death and tied up face down. The tragedy was worsened when evidence of a post-mortem rape was discovered. The offender, **Cole Pollard (21)**, is a cousin of her fiancé. Pollard has now been sentenced to 60 years in prison. (Routt County) (1) (M)

NEAR DEATH

08/11/2015 **Carmen Bermudez (33)** was arrested after stabbing her husband, **Nerio Pinales (45)** multiple times. After the incident he was able to get to a neighbor's house and call the police to notify them. Bermudez is currently in custody. Pinales' condition is stable. (Broomfield, Broomfield County)

Total Incidents: 28 Total Deaths: 37

Women Killed by Male Partner	22
Women Killed by Female Partner	0
Women Killed by Other Men	1
Women Killed by Other Women	0
Suicides by Women	1

Men Killed by Female Partner	2
Men Killed by Male Partner	0
Men Killed by Other Women	0
Men Killed by Other Men	0
Suicides by Men	11

**Murder Only: 18 Murder/Suicide: 5 Suicide Only: 0 Suicide by Cop: 4 Children killed: 0
Animal Deaths: 2**

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total Deaths	33	48	31	39	41	42	38	37

Locations of Incidents

Adams: 5	Jefferson: 1
Arapahoe: 4	Larimer: 3
Delores County: 1	Mesa: 2
Denver: 3	Otero: 1
Douglas: 1	Pueblo: 1
Elbert: 1	Routt: 1
El Paso: 3	Summit: 1
Fremont: 1	Weld: 1
Fort Morgan: 1	
Garfield: 2	