**What is a DVFRT?**

A domestic violence fatality review team (DVFRT) is a multidisciplinary group of individuals with expertise in the area of domestic violence. The purpose of a DVFRT is to review and analyze data from domestic violence related fatalities and/or near-death incidents. Findings are disseminated to create better understanding of the dynamics associated with domestic violence related fatalities, which will potentially improve risk assessment and safety planning for victims, their families and friends, and the community. DVFRTs do not place blame on any system or community-based entity. Data gathered from the work of DVFRTs has the potential to impact positive changes in policies and practice in an attempt to reduce the prevalence of domestic violence related fatalities in Colorado.

**Why does Colorado need DVFRTs?**

Each year in Colorado, dozens of people are killed in the context of domestic violence. DVFRTs provide information that can enhance advocacy efforts to effectively leverage the civil and criminal legal systems. Data on trends, common risk factors, and gaps in services can potentially help victims and their families achieve long-term safety. The success of a statewide domestic violence fatality review process will necessitate the most varied expertise of the DVFRT members, as well as drawing on the most current research and practices regarding risk assessment and management.

Please submit information about domestic violence related fatalities that occurred in your community for inclusion in the statewide report online at www.DDVCC.org/fatality-review.

**Colorado Domestic Violence Fatality Review**

What you need to know about creating a domestic violence fatality review team in your Judicial District

Requests for training and technical assistance related to establishing a local DVFRT can be directed to the Denver Metro Domestic Violence Fatality Review at denverdvcouncil@gmail.com or 303-522-0932.
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Denver Metro Domestic Violence Fatality Review (DMDVFR) is the longest standing domestic violence fatality review team (DVFR) in Colorado. In 2017, staff from the DMDVFR helped to pass a bill creating a statewide fatality review board within the Office of the Attorney General. The Colorado Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board (CDVFRB) is charged with producing an annual report to present to the state legislature, which is based on the findings of DVFRTs across the state and includes policy recommendations intended to help prevent future domestic violence related fatalities. The CDVFRB also sets standards and guidelines for data collection to ensure a consistent process statewide.

HOW TO START A LOCAL DVFR

While it is not required, any judicial district in Colorado may choose to form a DVFRT. These multidisciplinary teams should include individuals with expertise, or experience in the field of intimate partner abuse. DVFRT membership should follow the recommendations defined in C.R.S. 24-31-703.

DVFRTs are charged with conducting in-depth reviews of closed cases from their judicial district in which domestic violence resulted in one or more fatalities. Case information is then compiled and presented to the full DVFRT, followed by discussion about risk factors and interventions used and/or missed.

Additional information and resources can be found at www.DDVCC.org/fatality-review

DVFRT Membership

**DVFRT members may include:**
- Law Enforcement
- Department of Public Health
- Coroner’s Office
- Probation and/or Parole
- Judge/Magistrate
- Intimate Partner Abuse Survivor
- Domestic Violence Service Providers
- District Attorney’s Representative
- Department of Human Services

DVFRTs should use the Red Flags Checklist and data collection tool (modeled after instruments established and utilized by the DMDVFR) selected by the CDVFRB, as per legislation.

Data from case reviews should be submitted to the DMDVFR to be entered into a research database and analyzed by Dr. Joanne Belknap with the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado-Boulder. The resultant findings will be used to produce an annual report and incorporated into the current body of research.