



# WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Conserving the Peace Through Values Driven Service  
Sheriff Pat Garrett

## PRESS RELEASE

### Domestic Violence Resource Team Deputies Assist Those in Need

October 26, 2015-According to the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, nearly one in four women and one in seven men experience severe physical violence by an intimate partner. As Domestic Violence Awareness Month comes to an end, we highlight the Washington County Sheriff's Office commitment to combat domestic violence year round.

In 2011, the Washington County Sheriff's Office formed the Domestic Violence Resource Team (DVRT) with a focus on both victim safety and offender accountability. The DVRT is comprised of one sergeant and eight deputies. One of the deputies on the team is assigned to the Jail Division of the Sheriff's Office. The Jail Deputy is primarily responsible for monitoring in-custody offenders including phone calls and letters in violation of no-contact orders.

The DVRT works vigorously to fight this issue by developing innovative approaches and responses to domestic violence. Over the last several years, the team has developed specialized training in the areas of harassment, assault, strangulation and custodial interference. The DVRT partners with the District Attorney's Office, the Department of Human Services (DHS), domestic violence shelters, local hospitals, churches and victim's advocacy groups to ensure the victim receives the support necessary to overcome the trauma caused by the cycle of abuse in domestic violence.

Year to date, DVRT has reviewed approximately 1,400 cases. Hundreds of these are assigned for follow-up from the District Attorney's Office or from DHS for cases specifically involving children. About 80% of the investigated cases were comprised of one person assaulting another.

Deputy Povolny, a member of the team, states "I enjoy being part of DVRT because it gives me the opportunity to help keep families, especially children, safe. We also work to reduce the fear of reporting domestic violence and let anyone in a violent relationship know that we are always here to help".

Last week, Washington County Sheriff's Office DVRT was one of almost 500 agencies nationwide that participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual National Family Violence Apprehension Detail. The DVRT is an example of the commitment the Washington County Sheriff's Office demonstrates to combating the domestic violence issue.

If you or someone you know is the victim of violence, please call the Washington County Crisis Line at 1-866-469-8600 or visit us at [Victim Assistance](#).