



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL GLENN FUNK

METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE DAVIDSON COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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(Nashville, TN) District Attorney General Glenn Funk has announced the creation of a new investigative division in the DA's office that will focus solely on domestic violence cases. The new division, called Domestic Violence Prosecution Support, will ensure greater support for victims, partnerships with police and the removal of handguns from persons convicted of domestic assault. "We know that tempers are high in domestic situations. In order to ensure the safety of all parties, it is important to take weapons out of the environment," Funk said.

Half of all crimes committed against persons in Tennessee are domestic related. In 2013, 26% of all homicides in our city were domestic violence related. Under Tennessee law, persons convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence and those subject to an order of protection are prohibited from carrying or possessing a firearm.

Funk has named Tim Dickerson, a former chief criminal court officer and chief investigator for the Public Defender's Office as Director of the Domestic Violence Prosecution Support Division. Dickerson will be responsible for case coordination and investigation, victim-witness support and will serve as a liaison between the DA's office and other law enforcement agencies.

"Due to the nature and complexity of domestic abuse cases, many victims are reluctant to come to court and testify against their abusers," Assistant District Attorney Katy Miller, who heads the Family Protection Unit, said. "Investigators who are exclusively assigned to the domestic abuse prosecution team will help ensure these cases are handled in a manner that considers the safety of the victim and holds the abuser accountable."

In September, Funk increased staffing in the DA's office to eight lawyers who focus their attention on domestic violence prosecution.



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CORRESPONDENCE: DORINDA CARTER, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS ♦ (615) 862 -5500 Ext. 148 ♦ Dorinda.Carter@nashville.gov