

Firearms pose the greatest danger to victims of domestic violence

More DV homicides are committed with firearms than all other weapons

57% of mass shootings are DV related, most involving children.

A study by the UW of SPD reports found the strongest predictor of repeat DV in Seattle was weapons: “83% more SPD calls for IPV.”

HB 1840, the DV Firearm surrender law, and HB 1857, extreme risk protection order, require anyone subject to a protection order to surrender firearms. Currently there is no system for surrender or compliance. See <http://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/taking-guns-out-of-the-hands-of-domestic-abusers/>

Building a System for Surrender and Compliance:

1. Firearms Program Manager for Domestic Violence and Extreme Risk

*Develop procedures and coordinate with over 20 jurisdictions in King County to implement firearms restrictions, including communities, courts (superior, district, municipal and tribal), police, prosecutors, defense attorneys, probation and advocates to develop best practices.

*Enhance court and police response by implementing best practices in the field and recommendations of the firearms removal system reform work groups.

* Facilitate coordinated community response and problem-solving on a range of issues including access to justice for families seeking to have firearms temporarily removed, hearings, information sharing, and training.

2. Firearms Court Resource Coordinator for Domestic Violence and Risk

*Several thousand protection orders are issued every year and 90% involve unrepresented victims and their children, many who need interpreters to access the Courts.

*Courts lack staff and information when making decisions. This results in protection orders not being issued and firearms not being removed, leaving survivors and their families at risk.

*When respondents are out of compliance, there is no prosecutor or staff to file a report with law enforcement or even confirm the respondent has complied with the surrender order.

*The position would ensure Courts have comprehensive information when making decisions regarding protection and extreme risk orders and ensure compliance with firearm surrender.

3. High Risk and Firearms Prosecutor City/County Liaison

*Process and identification needs proactive enforcement to coordinate with police, facilitate surrender, draft search warrants, prosecute non-compliance, and manage increased case load of enforcement of HB 1840 and HB 1857 and unlawful possession of a firearm.

*Coordinate with law enforcement agencies to develop a rapid response to high risk domestic violence offenders unlawfully in possession of firearms.