Arizona Domestic Violence Fatality Review

Template for Annual Reports
Prepared by the Governor’s Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women, Domestic Violence Fatality Review Subcommittee
Introduction

- This presentation provides a suggested template for the creation of domestic violence fatality review annual reports in Arizona.
- It includes relevant portions of the enabling statute and a suggested list of topics and content for reports.
Purpose of DV Fatality Review
Team Reports

- Fatality Review Teams’ annual reports allow Arizona teams to share with AZ leaders & stakeholders what they gained from the year’s reviews.
- Report contents will vary across teams depending on the number of cases reviewed, the team’s location, and the annual activity of teams.
- Consistent formatting of reports will facilitate statewide data collection, comparisons, and implementation of recommendations.
- Reports submitted to the AG by Jan. 31 of each year are required by A.R.S. 41-198
Where to Find Answers!

- Examples of reports and other useful information can be found at the website of the National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative, [www.ndvfri.org](http://www.ndvfri.org)

- Contact Gloria Galeno, Systems Advocate, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Gloria@azcadv.org
Section A2 of the statute states the teams shall:

Report to the office of the Attorney General its findings and recommendations as to how incidents of domestic violence related fatalities may be prevented and how the system can be improved. The report shall not contain any information that identifies individuals in specific incidents of domestic violence related fatalities.
Due date and distribution

- **Section H of ARS 41-198 states:**

  The office of the Attorney General shall receive the reports of the domestic violence fatality review teams and distribute copies of them to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Governor, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, AzPOST and AzCADV on or before **January 31** of each year. Copies shall also be provided to the secretary of state and the director of the Arizona state library, archives and public records.
Rationale for Due Date

- The legislature is active during February, March and April. If the reports are made available by Jan. 31, the legislature can act on them during spring session.
- If a team has no report in a given year, we suggest providing a letter to the Attorney General explaining why.
- It is important to document the review process, even absent a full report.
The cover page should include:

- The team name
- Person to whom the report is submitted
- Year of the report
- Date of submission
- May include any design/logo for your team/county/city/region

Example:

NORTH COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM
ANNUAL REPORT, 2010
SUBMITTED TO:
TOM HORNE, ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL
JANUARY 1, 2011
This section is an introduction to the report and should include:

- A reference to the enabling statute, ARS 41-198 and the procedures prescribed for reports.
- A brief statement or letter to the community letting them know what the team did over the past year.
- A statement of the number and type of case(s) reviewed by the team.
- The direction or goals of the team in the future.
January 31, 2011

To the Arizona Domestic Violence Community:

As Chair of the Smithville Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team, I am pleased to share our annual report with you. Our team was appointed through a joint resolution of the Smithville City Council and the Board of Supervisors in November and December, 2009. This report describes the case reviewed in 2010. Like all domestic violence homicides, this case involved a tragic, senseless loss of precious lives. It was a case that involved multiple contacts with systems in the years leading up to the deaths of the victim. We feel hopeful about the potential for fatality review to help mend some of the gaps in our efforts to address domestic violence. While we work within our own community, we look forward to sharing information statewide and joining with you to improve Arizona’s response to domestic violence.

Jane Smith, Smithville Police Department.
Chair
Membership

- This section is a list of the team members and their titles
- If so desired teams can include a more detailed member profile section in the appendix section of the review
Executive Summary

- This section summarizes the report, the team mission and the review process highlighting the most important aspects of the report.
- It will usually contain a brief statement of the review(s) covered, background information on the team, and concise analysis and main conclusions drawn from the review. Bulleted points are most effective here.
The Process section should include:

- How the case(s) were selected
- How the review was conducted
- Time spent on each review
- What materials and resources were used
Overview of the case(s)

- Do not include confidential information. Only include information that is public record as domestic violence fatality review reports are public documents.
  - Timeline of the case (if you have one)
  - Red flags
  - Agency and community involvement and degree of communication, collaboration and coordination among these entities.
  - Questions/unresolved issues
Example of Timeline


- Perp arrested over 11 times as juvenile, larceny, agg assault, MJ, Fla.
- Perp moves to Williams
- Perp cited for violation of OOP held by his mother Stole $300 from her
- Victim calls PD to make perp leave. Arrested for DisCon-DV
- Perp found naked in ditch. Says seeking spiritual awakening. No charge
- Perp arrested for arguing & harassing victim. Agg assault on LE. 1.5 yr prison. Released 2/9/04
- Victim calls PD for removal of perp. Afraid of what he was saying.
- Perp arrested for disturbing peace at mental health center. Found with meth paraphernalia.
- Victim found dead, beaten to death. Perp admits lost control while drunk.
- 1st degree murder, punched & strangled male met at bar, 20 yr. prison. Released in 2000.
Key Findings

- This section summarizes the key findings from the review.
- If there were multiple cases reviewed, this section would provide a summary of the conclusions for all of them.
- Be careful not to include confidential information in your key findings.
Recommendations

- Recommendations should focus on realistic recommendations that can be implemented.
- Provide recommendations for system and or community improvement. Teams can also endorse existing effective practices.
- Recommendations can include policy change, improved communication, implementation of current law, education, reform, and anything else teams feel would be beneficial.
Implementation

- Follow through on recommendations is critical. Report on plans for implementation.
- Be sure you have data to back up your ideas.
- Align with other stakeholders to make change.
- Utilize AZCADV’s system advocates to advance legislative changes.
Appendices

- The appendices will vary for each team.
- Teams can incorporate, but are not limited to:
  - Bylaws and rules for the team
  - Confidentiality agreements
  - Mission statements
  - Ordinance authority
  - Members’ profiles
  - Data collection forms
  - Case selection criteria
  - Protocols for interviewing surviving family members