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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Anoka County Creates New Tool for Domestic Violence Victims

Building on its innovative and effective approach to combatting domestic violence, Anoka County has created and launched a new tool for victims.

Domestic Abuse Connect, which is going public this week, is an online resource providing step-by-step details on bringing a domestic violence case to court. Site visitors can also access resources and service providers.

The digital resource center, which includes videos and written materials, is the collaborative effort of Anoka County criminal justice and advocacy agencies that have been working together since 2010 on the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP).

The Lethality Assessment Program was created because of a need to address domestic violence homicides, amid an increase of deadly assaults in Anoka County. The Anoka County Attorney's Office obtained a federal grant to fund the effort, which resulted in the LAP screening tool and Intensive Domestic Assault Pre-Trial Program (IDAPP).

The lethality program is designed to identify cases where there is a high risk for lethality and to immediately connect a victim with supportive services. The abuser is placed under pre-trial supervision when appropriate and the case is fast-tracked through the courts.

The Domestic Abuse Connect website is aimed at further closing the gap of information and services for victims, offering one more place to turn for help. Video vignettes feature all the agencies involved in a domestic abuse case, starting with the 911 call to the judge and disposition.

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“Helping victims and their families understand the court process goes a long way in reducing their fear of the process,” Anoka County Attorney Tony Palumbo said. “It makes it easier for them to get the help they need.”

The newly launched website can be viewed at anokadomesticabuseconnect.com.

PARTNER AGENCIES:

Alexandra House

All law enforcement agencies in Anoka County

Anoka County Communications Department

Anoka County Attorney’s Office

Anoka County Central Communications

Anoka County Community Corrections

Anoka County District Court

Anoka County municipal prosecutors

Anoka County Victim/Witness Services

Coon Rapids and Fridley Victim Witness Program

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