



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Michael T. Dougherty, District Attorney

**District Attorney's Office Recognized with Achievement
Award from the National Association
of Counties for Domestic Violence Program**

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The District Attorney's Office's Domestic Violence Acute Response Team (DV ART) has been recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) Award. These awards honor innovative, effective government programs that strengthen services for community members.

The District Attorney's Office prioritizes the prosecution of domestic violence cases. In November 2020, our office developed a protocol to enhance the response on domestic violence cases with an innovative, victim-centered approach to the investigation and prosecution of these important cases. Our team of two prosecutors and an investigator possess specialized skills and experience, as well as the use of best practices to more effectively address victim safety and offender accountability.

DV ART's primary focus is on immediate contact with domestic violence victims to ascertain information about the victim and offender beyond what is reported to police, as well as to develop trust with the victim. DV ART seeks to learn about unreported violence, threats, access to firearms, and other coercive and controlling offender behavior. Those factors enable prosecutors to more effectively assess and respond to lethality risk and offender danger. The early collection of more comprehensive information strengthens criminal cases, thereby increasing the likelihood of appropriate offender accountability. DV ART's immediate contact with victims also allows us to more quickly connect victims with community service partners for support and resources.

DV ART's approach is unique in Colorado and has already demonstrated significant success. DV ART continues to successfully partner with law enforcement agencies and several community-based resource providers to enhance victim safety.

District Attorney Michael Dougherty stated, “Our office is honored by this award recognizing our strong, innovative response on domestic violence cases. The Team members did an outstanding job developing this program to better support victims and hold offenders accountable. Our office cannot do this work alone; this award is the result of our united efforts with dedicated community organizations and law enforcement agencies.”