

# Knox County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Panel

Dec. 9, 2004

R. Joe Clark  
Special Agent in Charge  
Federal Bureau of Investigations  
710 Locust St. Suite 600  
Knoxville, TN 37902

Dear Mr. Clark:

On May 22<sup>nd</sup> of 2000, Tennessee Code Annotated 36-3-624 was enacted to reduce domestic violence related fatalities through a multi-disciplinary review of domestic violence related deaths in Knox County. We are writing on behalf of the Knox County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Panel (DVFRP), which was formed pursuant to this law. The DVFRP is made up of agency members including law enforcement, D.A.'s office, hospital administration, health department, domestic violence shelters, and many other community agencies. These participants, acknowledging their role in promoting and protecting the well being of children, families, and the public health, seek to review domestic related fatalities in order to make recommendations for intervention and prevention.

Our mission is "To reduce domestic violence related fatalities through a systematic, multi-disciplinary review of domestic violence fatalities in Knox County." Additionally, the purpose of this review process is not to assign blame or to challenge difficult decisions made by any participant. The review is intended to refine, improve and coordinate a response toward intervention and prevention in domestic violence cases. Therefore, any questions, suggestions, or recommendations that we make are not intended to offend or criticize, but to improve the overall system in order to reduce the chance of future domestic violence-related fatalities.

In the year 2003, we reviewed four cases of domestic related fatalities, and one case in particular raised several questions that we thought might best be answered by the FBI. We would request that your agency take some time to reply, in writing, to the following recommendation:

- Recommend education and training for FBI personnel on the dynamics of domestic violence including safety issues, lethality assessment, warning signs, and resources.

Some particular questions that would be helpful to answer include:

1. What is currently being done in the above areas currently?
2. Are there any future plans to address these areas in the future? (Please elaborate.)
3. What other issues or comments should we be aware of?

Your response will be presented to the panel at the next scheduled meeting the first week in January; therefore we would like to receive your reply by January 3, 2004 in order to have time to compile the responses for the meeting.

Thank you so much for taking the time to address these concerns and recommendations. While we are aware that, with limited resources, it is challenging for any one agency or person to single-handedly affect change, we think that organizations such as yours take a lead role in addressing such issues, and therefore consider this recommendation best suited for your attention.

Please address your response either in email to [ahill@cityofknoxville.org](mailto:ahill@cityofknoxville.org) or mail to:

Angela Hill  
Knoxville Police Department  
P.O. Box 3610  
Knoxville, TN 37927

Thank you,

Angela Hill  
Chairperson  
Domestic Violence Fatality Review Panel