



Bringing a public eye to justice

www.watchmn.org
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FACT SHEET

Promoting Victim Safety and Offender Accountability: Improving the Response to Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Cases

- Key findings:
 - A lack of accountability for repeat offenders
 - A lack of emphasis on victim safety
 - A need to improve the courtroom environment.
- 31 volunteers and 6 staff members spent 1,915 hours monitoring 1,419 appearances.
- The most notable difference in cases outcomes are the number of cases continued for dismissal in the suburban courts (15%) as compared to Minneapolis' domestic violence (DV) court (<1%).
- Pre-sentence investigations were not ordered in 25% of required domestic violence cases as compared to 7% in Minneapolis' DV court.
- 25% of domestic violence defendants convicted were sentenced to probation to the court rather than supervised probation.
- Judges failed to explain the no contact order to defendants in one third of domestic violence cases.
- The firearms prohibitions were detailed in just 10% of domestic violence cases at the time of sentencing.
- Monitors documented that it was difficult or impossible to hear proceedings 54% of the time.