

Denver District Attorney's Office Witness Protection Program

Website: <http://www.denverda.org>

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Criminal Justice Partners: State Witness Protection Board, the Colorado U.S. Attorney's Office, US DOJ, FBI US Marshalls, HIS-ICE, Denver Police Dept, Denver Metro Gang Task Force, Probation and Parole, multiple surrounding jurisdiction's police departments, Victim Services Network

Information: The Denver District Attorney's Witness Protection Program was developed in response to this growing threat to victims and witnesses in criminal cases. The program has developed into a robust response to witness intimidation in the city and has grown from one part-time investigator to three investigators working these time-intensive cases. During its five years of operation, the Witness Protection Program has opened a total of 268 cases with 195 victims and witnesses protected. To date, the program has not had a single successful attack against its protected witnesses and victims that are in compliance with the program.

The Witness Protection Program employs three pillars of its operations to combat witness intimidation.

1) *Tactical VW Protection Strategies* – Tactical protection strategies are the cornerstone of the Program and these measures include threat intelligence gathering and analysis; security assessments; housing and transportation; interstate relocation; and jail and corrections housing strategies.

2) *VW Assistance Services* – Collaboration with system based and community based advocacy agencies is central to combatting the physical, economic, social, spiritual and emotional impact of a violent crime on individuals and their families. For victims/witnesses in high-risk cases, the initial impact of the crime is exacerbated by fear created through threats and intimidation. Maintaining collaboration with service agencies is essential to ensure victims/witnesses are adequately supported throughout the protection process.

3) *Lifestyle Transformation* –By nature, all protection cases involve some form of lifestyle change that can include physical relocation, change of employment or normal routine and limited communication with loved ones. However, cases where victims and witnesses are involved in high-risk lifestyles, such as gang involvement, drug addiction or the commercial sex industry, often demand intensive lifestyle transformation.

The Witness Protection Team utilizes each of these strategies in every case it handles to ensure individuals are provided with the most comprehensive protection services possible. The Team is on call day and night to respond to any new intelligence or threats from defendants while being attentive to the needs and concerns of protected individuals and their families.

Evaluation/Research: No evaluation conducted at this time; however, cases have demonstrated a 100% success rate for victims and witnesses in compliance with the program.