

Prosecutor

City attorneys handle misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor cases. The county attorney's office handles felonies. The level of the offense is based on the severity of the offense and the criminal history of the defendant.

After a suspect is taken into custody, county corrections staff will compile a bail evaluation. This involves running a criminal background check, incorporating information from the lethality assessment which officers conducted at the scene, and calling you, the victim.

When Corrections calls you, they will ask questions like whether you are afraid, if there are children, and whether the defendant may be a flight risk. They'll also want information about chemical dependency or mental health issues. That information will be shared with the judge and the prosecutor for bail and DANCO decisions.

Typically, the defendant will appear within the first few days after arrest for their first court appearance, also known as an arraignment. It's during that first appearance the judge may issue the DANCO – which is requested by prosecutors in almost every case. Prosecutors will also make recommendations for bail, conditions of release and Intensive Domestic Assault Pre-Trial Program (IDAPP).

Your input is very important in domestic abuse criminal cases. You have the right to input in your case. However, your input and consent is not required in Minnesota to move forward. The final decision as to the outcome of the case rests with the prosecutor.

There's a wide spectrum of ways to resolve a case. And although some victims will ask that charges be dropped or lowered, we as prosecutors are tasked with charging crimes committed in Anoka County. You may receive a subpoena if the case goes to trial. We're coming from a public safety standpoint, and your participation is crucial.

Prosecutors often hear victims' concerns that conviction will affect child support, ability to hold a job, household income, or their relationship in the future. Our job is not to separate families or end relationships. Your safety is a high priority and our job is to hold the defendant accountable.

Our experience and training tells us that without intervention, domestic violence tends to escalate. And our goal is to interrupt that escalation.