



CHANGING SYSTEMS
TRANSFORMING LIVES



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: GEORGIA

Across the country, communities are disarming domestic violence offenders by implementing and enforcing firearm prohibitions in domestic violence cases. Leaders and innovators in these communities have developed pragmatic and responsible policies, protocols and practices directed at all aspects of firearm surrender and seizure.

BWJP

DeKalb County, GA

Gun owners convicted of domestic violence in DeKalb County have few choices. Under the firearm surrender program run by the DeKalb County State Court Probation Department, anyone convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence must surrender his or her weapons to probation officers. Convicted defendants are given 24 hours to surrender their guns at DeKalb's probation office. They are not allowed to keep or sell their guns.

"We are all in the homicide prevention business."

Georgia does not have state legislation that mirrors the federal legislation on firearm surrender for misdemeanor domestic violence offenses; however, there were two attempts in DeKalb county to establish a protocol enforcing the federal ban. The first attempt, in 2006, lost momentum for a lack of commitment by necessary stakeholders. Several individuals, including probation officer Jennifer Waindle, remained committed to the mission. A second attempt at enforcing federal gun laws began in 2011, and this time it was successful. With committed stakeholders from the probation department, Solicitor General's Office, Clerk of State Court and State Court Judges involved, the team developed an effective protocol for the notification and surrender of firearms following a conviction for a domestic violence offense. According to Jennifer Waindle, this collaboration was crucial because "we're all in the homicide prevention business."

Probation Officer Waindle makes it look easy

Sometimes, offenders make it easy for law enforcement to catch and punish them. Kenneth Favours was found guilty of misdemeanor domestic violence and placed on probation. He was sentenced in 2012 to 12 months probation. Later that year, Favours produced a music video titled "I Make It Look Easy," showing himself repeatedly firing an assault rifle at an Atlanta area shooting range, and posted it on YouTube. After identifying the shooting range where the video was filmed, Ms. Waindle's previous work--having Favours sign an acknowledgment that he was not allowed to possess guns--made the probation violation hearing easy. Favours was sent to jail for the 11 months that remained on his probation for possessing that gun. This was the first of many firearm surrender victories for DeKalb County Probation.

Safer Georgia Public Service Announcements

Safer Georgia, an organization that promotes legislation that will help law enforcement in Georgia save lives, produced two PSAs as a part of their public safety initiative. [Watch the videos here.](#)