

Northwestern District Attorney David E. Sullivan



The primary functions of the District Attorney's Office are to prosecute criminal offenses and prevent crimes in the Northwestern District, which includes Hampshire and Franklin counties and the town of Athol. There are specialized units for prosecution and community safety, including Community Prosecution, Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, and Elder and Disabled Persons, Juvenile Justice, Consumer Protection and Victim and Witness Assistance. Our mission is to seek justice.

Investigation and Prosecution

The NWDA prosecutes crimes in the Superior, District and Juvenile courts in Hampshire and Franklin counties and the town of Athol. Prosecutions include both felony and misdemeanor criminal offenses. District Attorney Sullivan's office includes the following specialized units to more effectively handle complex and difficult prosecutions:

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit

The Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit specializes in the prosecution of cases involving family, partner or household violence. The unit provides domestic violence and sexual assault prosecution and prevention trainings for law enforcement, battered women's advocates and community groups.

Child Abuse Unit

The Child Abuse Unit provides prosecution, support services and advocacy to child victims of physical and sexual abuse and to their families. CAU attorneys and family service advocates are trained in the area of child abuse. This unit seeks safety, healing and justice for child victims of abuse.

Juvenile Justice Unit

Reducing youth violence and crime requires a multifaceted, multidisciplinary and coordinated approach that includes the critical components of early intervention and prevention. The Juvenile Justice Unit has specialized assistant district attorneys for the prosecution of juvenile cases. The unit works with schools through its Community-Based Justice initiative and Safe Schools Response Team to insure that students have a safe and healthy school environment.

Northwestern Fire Intervention, Response, Education and Safety (NoFIRES) is a collaboration of NWDA law enforcement and social service agencies committed to providing a coordinated and appropriate response to youths through the age of 16 who set fires or engage in fire-related behavior.

Elder and Persons with Disabilities Unit

The Elder and Disabled Persons Unit helps provide equal access to the criminal justice system for people with disabilities and for elder victims of crime. It aims to improve protection, increase awareness and expand outreach and education for all segments of the community.

Victim Witness Assistance Unit

In accordance with the Massachusetts Victim Bill of Rights, this unit provides advocacy services and information about the court process, victim rights, and referrals to community resources to victims and witnesses of crimes. Advocates provide crisis intervention counseling and support to victims of violent crimes and can assist victims of domestic violence in filing for abuse prevention orders.

Consumer Protection Unit

In cooperation with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, the Consumer Protection Division mediates individual consumer disputes and investigates complaints of unfair or deceptive business practices. Consumers may contact the Consumer Protection Division at the Northwestern District Attorney's Office in **Northampton at (413) 586-9225** and in **Greenfield at (413) 774-3186**.

State Police Detective & Narcotics Units

State Police assigned to the Detective Unit investigate major felonies and handle special investigations in the jurisdiction. The State Police Narcotics Unit works closely with the Detective Unit, local police departments and federal law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute drug cases in the jurisdiction. The State Police and NWDA lead the Northwestern District Anti-Crime Task Force.

Community Outreach and Education

The goal of this unit is to provide crime prevention and safety information to the citizens of the Northwestern District. Special emphasis has been placed on the reduction of violence in the schools, Internet safety, diversity awareness, alcohol and drug abuse prevention and enhancing awareness of crimes against elders.

OUTREACH INITIATIVES

Children's Advocacy Centers

The Children's Advocacy Centers in Northampton and Greenfield provide support for a multi-disciplinary approach to child abuse intervention and investigation through training, community outreach and the use of the collective resources of law enforcement, social services, medical, mental health and education groups.



Domestic Violence Intervention Project

The Franklin/Hampshire Domestic Violence Intervention Project (DVIP) is an early intervention program that combines the efforts of the NWDA, police, local battered women's programs and men's batterers-intervention programs. Advocates provide immediate contact and crisis intervention to victims of abuse.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Task Forces

The Northwestern District Attorney sponsors Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Task Forces with over 80 members from the criminal justice system, shelters, batterers-counseling programs and the community participating in or both task forces. The NWDA leads the **Campaign Against Sexual Assaults**. A prime mission is to prevent sexual assaults on our college campuses.

Citizens Advisory Board

The mission of the Citizens Advisory Board is to advise and assist the Office of the Northwestern District Attorney in the areas of community outreach and education, crime prevention, community prosecution, civic engagement and civil rights issues.

Drug Abuse Prevention

DA Sullivan and the NWDA are founding members of the Opioid Task Force of Franklin County and North Quabbin Region and Hampshire HOPE (Heroin/Opioid Prevention & Education) focusing on increasing treatment and recovery options; expanding community outreach and education; coordinating law enforcement response and supporting health care solutions.



TRIAD

TRIAD is a local community crime prevention partnership between elders, law enforcement and human service providers. It aims to reduce criminal victimization of elders through education and to enhance the delivery of law enforcement services. The Triad program is coordinated and supported by the joint efforts of District Attorney David E. Sullivan, Hampshire and Franklin counties Sheriffs Offices; local police departments and Councils on Aging.
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