

Prevention

Progressive prevention initiatives

aiming to prevent crime by addressing its root causes are a cornerstone of the NWDAO's guiding principles. The office works in partnership with community groups to help people from youth to elders as well as schools and youth-serving organizations.

The Consumer Protection Unit

mediates consumer complaints about fraudulent or deceptive business practices and educates the community to have better informed residents be able to identify scams.

TRIAD aims to reduce victimization of elders through education and connection. TRIAD is a cooperative effort of the NWDAO, the Hampshire and Franklin Sheriffs' offices, local police departments and councils on aging.

NoFIRES, or Northwestern Fire Intervention, Response, Education and Safety, is a collaboration among NWDAO, law enforcement, fire departments, and human service agencies to respond to youth who set fires or engage in other fire-related behaviors.

Contact Information

Our vision is to enhance public safety and quality of life for all citizens in the 47 Northwestern communities. We will be leaders in fair and effective prosecutions and progressive prevention initiatives.

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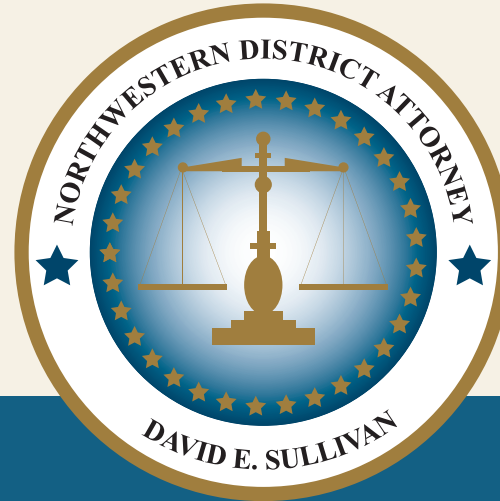
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NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S WEBSITE
NorthwesternDA.org



To Seek Justice For All

The Office of the Northwestern District Attorney, in partnership with the communities we serve, is dedicated to the pursuit of truth and justice, protection of the innocent, and safety of the public.

NorthwesternDA.org

Message from the District Attorney

The Northwestern District Attorney's Office promotes the safety of all who live and work in the 47 communities in the Northwestern District, made up of Hampshire and Franklin counties and the town of Athol, fostering relationships to work on a shared goal of thriving communities.

The office fulfills its responsibilities with justice, equity and compassion, undertaking fair and just prosecutions in coordination with law enforcement partners, attending to the needs of victims of crime and promoting progressive prevention initiatives.

The NWDAO strives for equal justice through its Conviction Integrity and Equity in Prosecution committees and the implementation of Prosecutor Performance Indicators. Prosecutors seek alternatives to convictions and incarceration through diversion and restorative practices with juveniles and adults. The office is steadfast in its focus on addressing the root causes of crime, helping people who struggle with addiction and working to fight stigma.

Sincerely,

David E. Sullivan
Northwestern District Attorney

Investigation and Prosecution Units

Northwestern Assistant District Attorneys work with law enforcement to ensure effective, ethical investigations and prosecutions.

State Police detectives assigned to the office investigate major felonies and other serious matters. The Northwestern District Anti-Crime Task Force, made up of State Police detectives working with local police departments, investigates human trafficking, homicides, drug trafficking and more.

The Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit prosecutes cases involving family, partner and household violence and adult sexual assault, with special attention to protecting victims. The unit advocates for best practices to prevent domestic and sexual violence.

The Child Abuse Unit prosecutes offenders and supports child victims. ADAs and family service advocates are specially trained in the unique needs of child victims, balancing prosecution with trauma-informed approaches to help victims on a path towards healing.

The Juvenile Justice Unit seeks to reduce youth violence and crime through prevention, early intervention and diversion, working with schools to keep youth out of the criminal justice system whenever possible.

Victim/Witness Advocates support victims and witnesses to crime by following the Massachusetts Victim Bill of Rights. Advocates guide victims through the criminal justice process and in finding resources for safety and healing.

The Elders and Persons with Disabilities Unit investigates and prosecutes crimes against elders and people with disabilities, working with communities and adult protective services to protect the most vulnerable people from harm and exploitation.

Community Partnerships

Collaboration is a hallmark of the Northwestern DA's office as staff forge connections with people in the district to address social issues that interfere with thriving and healthy communities.

The **Veterans Justice Partnership**, created in 2011 by District Attorney Sullivan working with other community leaders, helps court-involved and incarcerated veterans, providing services to improve their lives. The **Western Massachusetts Veterans Treatment Court** was developed out of the belief that those who dedicated their lives to their country deserve second chances and support when they fall on hard times.

The **Children's Advocacy Centers** in Northampton and Greenfield provide safe havens and trauma-informed responses to children and families in cases of alleged child sexual and physical abuse by bringing law enforcement, social services, health care providers and attorneys together to determine the best way to help children.

Understanding the role of addiction and substance use disorders in many people's involvement with the criminal justice system, District Attorney Sullivan takes a leadership role in the **Opioid Task Force of Franklin County and the North Quabbin Region** and the **Hampshire HOPE** opioid prevention coalition. The office works with youth substance use prevention coalitions to prevent early use of substances, better protect developing teen brains, and leads efforts to prevent drug misuse, promoting safe drug disposal through **drug collection kiosks** and **National Prescription Drug Take Back Days**.

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