



**CITY OF
TUCSON**

NEWS RELEASE

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Domestic Violence Court Website and Fact Sheet

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and in recognition of the month, the Domestic Violence Court of Tucson City Court activated its official website <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/DV> and published the Domestic Violence Court Fact Sheet (below).

Tucson's Domestic Violence Court is unique in the state of Arizona and in the Southwest for its collaborated community response with Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse, the Tucson City Prosecutor's Office, the City of Tucson Public Defender's Office, and many other community partners.

Tucson City Court recently received a three-year Justice for Families Grant in the amount of \$549,000 from the Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women to support the efforts of the special Domestic Violence Court.

Meanwhile, Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild delivered a proclamation that says Oct. 18 will be Wear Purple Day to stand in solidarity with victims of domestic violence. Emerge!, which partners with the Pima County Sheriff's Department, Tucson Police Department, and Pima County Attorney's Office, reports that there are 13,000 domestic violence calls each year in Pima County, at a response cost of \$3.3 million.

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Tucson City Court Domestic Violence Court



Founded in October 2012, with a grant from the US Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women.

DV Court has received a total of \$1,546,000 in federal grants, including a new grant awarded October 1, 2018.

In 2017, the DV Court was designated a National Domestic Violence Mentor Court, and received a grant to provide training and assistance to other courts across the United States. The Court is featured on the Center for Court Innovation's website: <https://www.courtinnovation.org/mentor-courts>.

DV Court recently launched its website, enabling the court to provide information to victims, defendants, the Deaf community, and other courts seeking our expertise as a Mentor Court. <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/DV/>

Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse, a DV Court partner, provides two advocates full-time in the courthouse, to attend all court hearings in DV Court, to help victims in other courtrooms and to help them with the protective order process.

Over 4,000 victims of domestic violence have been given access to services at Emerge! through DV Court.

DV Court has also partnered with Community Outreach Program for the Deaf, to help provide more access to court and services for Deaf victims of domestic violence.

DV Court is now partnering with COPE Community Services and Emerge! to ensure victims of domestic violence have access to appropriate mental health treatment.

In March of 2019, DV Court will be hosting a Mentor Court Open House, where judges and other stakeholders from courts all around the country will attend to learn from the Court and its partners.

The DV Court was recently featured in the Center For Court Innovation's National Newsletter

The federal funding for DV Court is based upon our continuing community partnerships, especially with Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse, our relationship with the City Prosecutor and City Public Defender and the policies and procedures that have been put in place by Judge Wendy Million. Our funding as a Mentor Court is also based upon our best practices and coordinated community response, which are unique to the State of Arizona and the Southwest.