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Senate

State of Minnesota

S.F. No. 2870 - Human Trafficking Provisions

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Date: March 14, 2006

Article 1

Department of Public Safety; Human Trafficking Task Force

Section 1 extends the current statutory definitions for human trafficking to the new provisions created by the bill. It also expands the duties of the Commissioner of Public Safety to include analyses of data on human trafficking and the establishment of policies to provide assistance to trafficking victims.

Section 2 requires the commissioner to develop and implement a plan to address human trafficking. The plan must include training initiatives for law enforcement, prosecutors, social service providers, and public awareness initiatives. Training and awareness initiatives must be evaluated annually to ensure their effectiveness.

Section 3 requires the commissioner to establish policies to enable the state and nongovernmental organizations to provide assistance to trafficking victims.

Section 4 creates a 21-member human trafficking task force to advise and assist the commissioner to implement the provisions of the bill. This section also details task force membership and procedures, and provides for the appointment of a task force coordinator. The task force expires June 30, 2011.

Article 2
Criminal Provisions

Section 1 amends Minnesota Statutes, section 609.282 (Labor Trafficking) by creating a 20-year felony for trafficking persons under the age of 18. Current law does not make an age distinction. The 15-year felony for trafficking persons 18 or older remains.

Section 2 amends Minnesota Statutes, section 609.283 (Unlawful Conduct With Respect to Documents in Furtherance of Labor or Sex Trafficking) by creating a ten-year felony complicity in trafficking persons under the age of 18. Current law does not make an age distinction. The five-year felony for complicity in trafficking persons 18 or older remains.

CT:rer

Senators Pappas, Limmer, Ranum and McGinn introduced-

S.F. No. 2870: Referred to the Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety.

A bill for an act

relating to public safety; directing the commissioner of public safety to analyze and use trafficking data to address trafficking problems in Minnesota; directing the commissioner of public safety to establish policies to provide assistance to trafficking victims; creating a human trafficking task force; creating the unclassified service position of trafficking coordinator; enhancing penalties for trafficking crimes; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2005 Supplement, sections 299A.78; 609.282; 609.283; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 299A.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

ARTICLE 1

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY;
HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2005 Supplement, section 299A.78, is amended to read:

299A.78 STATEWIDE HUMAN TRAFFICKING ASSESSMENT.

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** For purposes of sections 299A.78 to ~~299A.785~~ 299A.7955, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.

(b) "Nongovernmental organizations" means nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations that provide legal, social, or other community services.

(c) "Blackmail" has the meaning given in section 609.281, subdivision 2.

(d) "Debt bondage" has the meaning given in section 609.281, subdivision 3.

(e) "Forced labor or services" has the meaning given in section 609.281, subdivision

4.

(f) "Labor trafficking" has the meaning given in section 609.281, subdivision 5.

2.1 (g) "Labor trafficking victim" has the meaning given in section 609.281, subdivision
2.2 6.

2.3 (h) "Sex trafficking" has the meaning given in section 609.321, subdivision 7a.

2.4 (i) "Sex trafficking victim" has the meaning given in section 609.321, subdivision 7b.

2.5 (j) "Trafficking" includes "labor trafficking" and "sex trafficking."

2.6 (k) "Trafficking victim" includes "labor trafficking victim" and "sex trafficking
2.7 victim."

2.8 Subd. 2. **General duties.** The commissioner of public safety, in cooperation with
2.9 local authorities, shall:

2.10 (1) collect, share, and compile trafficking data among government agencies to assess
2.11 the nature and extent of trafficking in Minnesota;

2.12 (2) analyze collected data to develop a plan to address and prevent human
2.13 trafficking; and

2.14 (3) use its analyses to establish policies to enable state government to work with
2.15 nongovernmental organizations and other elements of civil society to provide assistance to
2.16 trafficking victims.

2.17 Subd. 3. **Outside services.** As provided for in section 15.061, the commissioner of
2.18 public safety may contract with professional or technical services in connection with the
2.19 duties to be performed under ~~section~~ sections 299A.785, 299A.79, and 299A.795. The
2.20 commissioner may also contract with other outside organizations to assist with the duties
2.21 to be performed under ~~section~~ sections 299A.785, 299A.79, and 299A.795.

2.22 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2006.

2.23 **Sec. 2. [299A.79] TRAFFICKING STUDY; ANALYSIS AND USE OF DATA.**

2.24 **Subdivision 1. Data analysis.** (a) The commissioner shall analyze the data collected
2.25 in section 299A.785 to develop and carry out a plan to address current trafficking
2.26 and prevent future trafficking in Minnesota. The commissioner may evaluate various
2.27 approaches used by other state and local governments to address trafficking. The plan
2.28 shall include, but not be limited to, the following initiatives:

2.29 (1) training agencies, organizations, and officials involved in law enforcement,
2.30 prosecution, and social services;

2.31 (2) increasing public awareness of trafficking; and

2.32 (3) establishing procedures to enable the state government to work with
2.33 nongovernmental organizations to prevent trafficking.

3.1 Subd. 2. Training initiatives. The commissioner shall provide and strengthen
3.2 training for law enforcement, prosecutors, social services, and other relevant officials in
3.3 addressing trafficking. The training shall include:

3.4 (1) methods used in identifying trafficking victims, including preliminary interview
3.5 techniques and appropriate interrogation methods;

3.6 (2) methods for prosecuting traffickers;

3.7 (3) methods for protecting the rights of trafficking victims, taking into account
3.8 the need to consider human rights and special needs of women and children trafficking
3.9 victims; and

3.10 (4) methods for promoting the safety of trafficking victims.

3.11 Subd. 3. Awareness initiatives. (a) The commissioner shall, in cooperation
3.12 with appropriate nongovernmental organizations, establish public awareness programs
3.13 designed to educate persons at risk of trafficking. The programs shall include, but not be
3.14 limited to, information on the following subjects:

3.15 (1) the risks of becoming a trafficking victim;

3.16 (2) common recruitment techniques; use of debt bondage, blackmail, forced labor
3.17 and services, prostitution, and other coercive tactics; and risks of assault, criminal sexual
3.18 conduct, exposure to sexually transmitted diseases, and psychological harm;

3.19 (3) crime victims' rights; and

3.20 (4) reporting recruitment activities involved in trafficking.

3.21 (b) The commissioner shall, in cooperation with appropriate agencies and
3.22 nongovernmental organizations, disseminate public awareness materials to educate the
3.23 public on the extent of trafficking and to discourage the demand that fosters and leads to
3.24 trafficking, in women and children in particular. These materials may include information
3.25 on:

3.26 (1) the impact of trafficking on individual victims;

3.27 (2) the aggregate impact of trafficking worldwide and domestically; and

3.28 (3) the criminal consequences of trafficking.

3.29 The materials may be disseminated by way of the following mediums: pamphlets,
3.30 brochures, posters, advertisements in mass media, or any other appropriate methods. All
3.31 materials must preserve the privacy of any individual trafficking victim and the victim's
3.32 family.

3.33 Subd. 4. Annual evaluation. The commissioner shall evaluate its training and
3.34 awareness initiatives annually to ensure their effectiveness.

3.35 EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2006.

4.1 **Sec. 3. [299A.795] TRAFFICKING VICTIM ASSISTANCE.**

4.2 (a) The commissioner shall establish policies to enable state government to work
4.3 with nongovernmental organizations and other elements of civil society to provide
4.4 assistance to trafficking victims.

4.5 (b) The commissioner may review the existing services and facilities to meet
4.6 trafficking victims' needs and recommend a plan that would coordinate such services
4.7 including, but not limited to:

4.8 (1) medical and mental health services;

4.9 (2) housing;

4.10 (3) education and job training;

4.11 (4) English as a second language;

4.12 (5) interpreting services;

4.13 (6) legal and immigration services; and

4.14 (7) victim compensation.

4.15 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2006.

4.16 **Sec. 4. [299A.7955] HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE; COORDINATOR.**

4.17 **Subdivision 1. Creation and duties.** By December 1, 2006, the commissioner shall
4.18 appoint a 21-member task force on human trafficking to advise the commissioner on its
4.19 duties, as well as the implementation and continued operation of the initiatives set forth in
4.20 sections 299A.78 to 299A.795. The task force shall also serve as a liaison between the
4.21 commissioner and agencies and nongovernmental organizations that provide services
4.22 to trafficking victims. The members shall receive expense reimbursement as specified
4.23 in section 15.059.

4.24 **Subd. 2. Membership.** To the extent possible, the human trafficking task force
4.25 consists of the following individuals, or their designees, who are knowledgeable in
4.26 trafficking, crime victims' rights, or violence protection:

4.27 (1) a representative of the Minnesota Police Chiefs' Association;

4.28 (2) a representative of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension;

4.29 (3) a representative of the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association;

4.30 (4) a peace officer who works and resides in the metropolitan area, composed of

4.31 Hennepin, Ramsey, Anoka, Dakota, Scott, Washington, and Carver Counties;

4.32 (5) a peace officer who works and resides in the nonmetropolitan area;

4.33 (6) a county attorney who works in Hennepin County;

4.34 (7) a county attorney who works in Ramsey County;

4.35 (8) the attorney general;

5.1 (9) a representative of the Department of Public Safety's office of justice program;

5.2 (10) a representative of the federal Homeland Security Office;

5.3 (11) a representative of the Department of Health and Human Services;

5.4 (12) the chair or executive director of the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans;

5.5 (13) the chair or executive director of the Minnesota Chicano Latino Affairs

5.6 Council; and

representative from the U.S. Attorney's office

5.7 (14) eight representatives from nongovernmental organizations which may include

5.8 representatives of:

5.9 (i) the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women;

5.10 (ii) the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault;

5.11 (iii) a statewide or local organization that provides civil legal services to women

5.12 and children;

5.13 (iv) a statewide or local organization that provides mental health services to women

5.14 and children;

5.15 (v) a statewide or local human rights and social justice advocacy organization;

5.16 (vi) a statewide or local organization that provides services to victims of torture,

5.17 trauma, or human trafficking;

5.18 (vii) a statewide or local organization that serves the needs of immigrants and

5.19 refugee women and children from diverse ethnic communities; and

5.20 (viii) a statewide or local organization that provides legal services to low income

5.21 immigrants.

5.22 Subd. 3. Officers; meetings. (a) The task force shall annually elect a chair and

5.23 vice-chair from among its members, and may elect other officers as necessary. The task

5.24 force shall meet at least quarterly, or upon the call of its chair. The task force shall meet

5.25 sufficiently enough to accomplish the tasks identified in this section.

5.26 (b) The task force shall seek out and enlist the cooperation and assistance of

5.27 nongovernmental organizations and academic researchers, especially those specializing in

5.28 trafficking, representing diverse communities disproportionately affected by trafficking, or

5.29 focusing on child services and runaway services.

5.30 Subd. 4. Coordinator. The commissioner of public safety shall appoint a statewide

5.31 trafficking coordinator recommended by the task force. The coordinator is a position

5.32 in the unclassified service and shall continue beyond the dissolution of the committee.

5.33 The coordinator shall:

5.34 (1) coordinate and monitor the activities of the agencies implementing sections

5.35 299A.78 to 299A.795;

6.1 (2) facilitate local efforts and ensure statewide coordination of efforts to prevent
6.2 trafficking;

6.3 (3) facilitate training for personnel;

6.4 (4) monitor compliance with investigative protocols; and

6.5 (5) implement an outcome evaluation and data quality control process.

6.6 Subd. 5. Expiration. Notwithstanding section 15.059, the task force expires June
6.7 30, 2011, or once it has implemented and evaluated the programs and policies in sections
6.8 299A.78 to 299A.795 to the satisfaction of the commissioner, whichever occurs first.

6.9 EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2006.

6.10 Sec. 5. APPROPRIATION.

6.11 \$200,000 is appropriated in fiscal year 2007 from the general fund to the
6.12 commissioner of public safety to carry out the commissioner's duties in sections 1 to 4.
6.13 The base for this appropriation is \$200,000 in fiscal year 2008 and \$150,000 thereafter
6.14 until the task force expires.

6.15 EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2006.

6.16 **ARTICLE 2**
6.17 **CRIMINAL PROVISIONS**

6.18 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2005 Supplement, section 609.282, is amended to read:

6.19 **609.282 LABOR TRAFFICKING.**

6.20 Subdivision 1. Individuals under age 18. Whoever knowingly engages in the
6.21 labor trafficking of an individual who is under the age of 18 is guilty of a crime and
6.22 may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than 20 years or to payment of a fine of
6.23 not more than \$40,000, or both.

6.24 Subd. 2. Other offenses. Whoever knowingly engages in the labor trafficking of
6.25 another is guilty of a crime and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than 15
6.26 years or to payment of a fine of not more than \$30,000, or both.

6.27 Subd. 3. Consent or age of victim not a defense. In a prosecution under this
6.28 section the consent or age of the victim is not a defense.

6.29 EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective August 1, 2006, and applies to crimes
6.30 committed on or after that date.

7.1 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2005 Supplement, section 609.283, is amended to read:

7.2 **609.283 UNLAWFUL CONDUCT WITH RESPECT TO DOCUMENTS IN**
7.3 **FURTHERANCE OF LABOR OR SEX TRAFFICKING.**

7.4 Subdivision 1. Crime defined. Unless the person's conduct constitutes a violation
7.5 of section 609.282, a person who knowingly destroys, conceals, removes, confiscates, or
7.6 possesses any actual or purported passport or other immigration document, or any other
7.7 actual or purported government identification document, of another person:

7.8 (1) in the course of a violation of section 609.282 or 609.322;

7.9 (2) with intent to violate section 609.282 or 609.322; or

7.10 (3) to prevent or restrict or to attempt to prevent or restrict, without lawful authority,
7.11 a person's liberty to move or travel, in order to maintain the labor or services of that person,
7.12 when the person is or has been a victim of a violation of section 609.282 or 609.322;

7.13 is guilty of a crime and may be sentenced as provided in subdivision 2.

7.14 Subd. 2. Penalties. A person who violates subdivision 1 may be sentenced as
7.15 follows:

7.16 (1) if the crime involves a victim under the age of 18, to imprisonment for not more
7.17 than ten years or to payment of a fine of \$20,000, or both; or

7.18 (2) in other cases, to imprisonment for not more than five years or to payment of
7.19 a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.

7.20 Subd. 3. Consent or age of victim not a defense. In a prosecution under this
7.21 section the consent or age of the victim is not a defense.

7.22 EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective August 1, 2006, and applies to crimes
7.23 committed on or after that date.

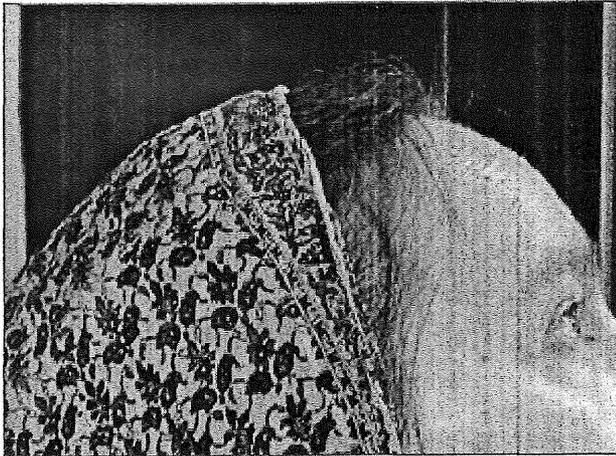


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Human trafficking has come to Minnesota

by Marisa Helms, Minnesota Public Radio
March 14, 2006

<http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2006/03/13/trafficking>



Tatiana Ivanova is a victim of international human trafficking. (MPR Photo/Marisa Helms)

Public safety officials say human trafficking has come to Minnesota. They don't have enough information on exactly how many victims of this modern form of slavery are here, but they believe it's probably more than 100. Traffickers bring victims to the United States by fraud or coercion, and compel them to work in the sex industry or as forced laborers. A Senate anti-trafficking bill is expected to get a hearing Tuesday in the Crime Prevention and Public Safety committee. The legislation is part of a move to understand the extent of human trafficking in Minnesota and how to combat the problem.

St. Paul, Minn. — The story of international human trafficking is primarily about women. Women with dreams of a better life who are lured into the U.S. with promises. When they get here, though, they find a very different world than they imagined. One of prostitution or servitude.

Tatiana Ivanova, an attractive Russian woman in her early 40s, unwittingly became a trafficking victim.

In 2002, she met an American man on Yahoo personals. After a short Internet courtship, he came to Moscow and they married. Ivanova says they then moved to Minnesota.



[Sonseere Goldenberg](#)

"When I moved here," she says, "after the first week, it was like a different person. It's not the same man anymore."

Ivanova, not her real name, is hiding her identity because she fears being discovered by her former husband. She says the man she married enslaved her, punished her physically and sexually, and manipulated her emotionally.

"Sometimes we're going for shopping," she explains, "and it's like, 'Why you looking at this man, why is this man looking at you?' 'Which man, I don't see any man around.' Or he will stop and will ask somebody, 'Why are you looking at my wife?' I don't know, maybe it's something wrong with his head, I don't know."

Ivanova's husband would not allow her to leave the house without him. He forbade her from getting a job, even

AUDIO

[Human trafficking has come to Minnesota \(feature audio\)](#)

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though she has a degree in computer science. The husband wouldn't let her use the phone or the computer.

They're courted by men who are looking for submissive non-American wives who will keep a home, who will be a slave in the bedroom, who will do all of their tasks, and control everything they do.

- Attorney
Sonseere
Goldenberg

Ivanova was not allowed to speak Russian in the house with her teenage son. And he forced her to spend her days cleaning the house, and one of his old apartments.

After about five months, Ivanova met another Russian woman living nearby in Eden Prairie who helped her escape to a battered woman's shelter.

Ivanova's lawyer, Sonseere Goldenberg, says at first glance, Ivanova's case doesn't look like trafficking, because she went willingly into the relationship with somebody she met online.

"But, it's a typical pattern," Goldenberg says. "Where they're courted by men who are looking for submissive non-American wives who will keep a home, who will be a slave in the bedroom, who will do all of their tasks, keep them cooped up in a little apartment, and control everything they do."

Goldenberg says in these cases, the husband, or trafficker's, trump card is the threat of deportation.

Goldenberg secured Ivanova's permanent residency through the federal Violence Against Women Act. It's one of several pieces of legislation in recent years making it possible for trafficking victims to stay in the country legally.

Last year a U.S. Department of Justice report likened trafficking in humans to modern-day slavery. It estimates up to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. From that number, the report estimates 18,000 come into the United States each year.



State Sen. Sandy Pappas

Lawmakers in a number of states, including Minnesota, are starting to take notice of the problem.

"It's a worldwide problem," says Sen. Sandy Pappas, DFL-St. Paul. "To the extent that we have international women in Minnesota, we're not sure yet."

Pappas is authoring several anti-trafficking bills in the Senate this session. One bill proposes spending \$200,000 to create a statewide human trafficking task force, to root out what she calls a "hidden problem."

"They don't speak the language," she says. "They don't know the culture. They may come from a country where law enforcement is paid off, or in cahoots with what's going on, and so they really have nowhere to go. When you think of all the basements, all the locked rooms where people could be, how do you even find them? It's going to be very, very difficult."

If the Legislature funds a task force, it would build on last year's trafficking legislation. Pappas and her House colleague, Rep. Kathy Tingelstad, R-Andover, sponsored legislation setting penalties for those convicted of trafficking, and secured \$100,000 to commission a comprehensive report on the problem in Minnesota.

That report is due to lawmakers next Fall.



Danette Buskovick

The study's author, Danette Buskovick, is a researcher with the Department of Public Safety's Office of Justice Programs. She says there's no data on trafficking in the state. She thinks that may be because police and social service providers don't know it when they see it.

"Minnesota has been in denial that this could happen in our state," Buskovick says. "But it is happening."

To collect data, Buskovick sent a survey with some clear definitions of trafficking to 200 service providers across Minnesota.

"We got a count of 14 victims of labor trafficking," she says. "And a very conservative estimate of 107 victims of

sexual trafficking."

The victims come from countries including Mexico, Russia, Laos and the Phillipines.

Buskovick suspects the numbers are much higher. She believes trafficking mostly goes unreported, because of victims' fear of deportation and lack of knowledge about how to get help.



Linda Miller

When Buskovick asked survey respondents whether trafficking is a growing problem in the state, she says, tellingly, half the survey respondents said yes, and half said they didn't know, because they just don't understand what it is.

Efforts are already underway in the city of St. Paul to combat trafficking and educate police and service providers on how to recognize traffic victims.

St. Paul Police Sgt. John Bandemer works full time investigating human trafficking. He was assigned in December after his department received a grant from the federal government.

Bandemer says, right now, he's investigating two possible rings sexually trafficking foreign women in the Twin Cities. He thinks there could be between eight and 20 victims. He says while arresting traffickers is a priority, his role is to help victims, not put them in jail.

"The act they're committing may be illegal," Bandemer says. "But because of the circumstances they're doing it under, we're not going to prosecute those people and we're certainly not going to send them back. Because oftentimes -- it's been documented -- they get sent back and they go right to the hands that trafficked them in the first place."

Bandemer works closely with lawyers at Civil Society, a nonprofit agency, which helps trafficking victims obtain visas, get work permits and access health care.

Executive Director Linda Miller says in the past 10 months, Civil Society has helped 24 international trafficking victims in Minnesota. All but four are women who have 15 children among them.

Miller says assuring trafficking victims they won't be deported is critical to building trust and helping them survive.

"Forming that trust is particularly a problem, because they are in a situation where why would they trust anyone again," Miller says. "And they're from non-democratic countries where they have not learned of a system that can help, they've only learned of systems that hurt."

Miller's organization provided the lawyer who helped Tatiana Ivanova stay in the country and divorce her abusive husband. Ivanova says finding her way to Civil Society, and getting the help she needed, saved her life.

"The most important thing is to meet good people in your life," Ivanova says through tears. "It doesn't matter if American or Russian or whatever, but if you meet them they will help you. And now, if I can help somebody I'll be happy to do that."

Ivanova says she's already encouraged a handful of women she knows to call Civil Society and get help.

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« I'M SURPRISED THAT PEOPLE THINK THAT MINNESOTA IS IMMUNE TO THIS KIND OF ACTIVITY. » Diane Cushman, director of the Office on the Economic Status of Women



CARLOS GONZALEZ • cgonzalez@startribune.com

Tatiana Ivanova, a trafficking victim, shared her experience Friday with the Minnesota Human Trafficking Watch. Ivanova, who used a pseudonym to protect her identity, said she was virtually imprisoned by her husband in a Twin Cities apartment shortly after marrying him in Moscow in 2002.

The fight against modern-day slavery

by HERÓN MÁRQUEZ ESTRADA
hmeron@startribune.com

At first, undercover officers looking into several Edina-based massage parlors and escort services last month thought they had stumbled across a prostitution ring.

Further investigation revealed that the suspects instead might be part of a growing problem in the Twin Cities and Minnesota: human trafficking, which state and federal officials describe as modern-day slavery.

"It is a bigger issue than people think," said St. Paul Sgt. Steve Bandemer, who in December was assigned to form a regional task force focusing on human trafficking. "We're not going to reach the levels of say, Chicago or San Francisco, but the victims are out there."

Bandemer was one of about 125 people

- With the Twin Cities labeled one of the 13 worst metro areas in the U.S. for human trafficking, officials step up their response.

who participated Friday in St. Paul in the first meeting of Minnesota Human Trafficking Watch. The group, which will meet quarterly, is being funded by federal grants as a way to find and rescue human trafficking victims.

"This should not be happening in a civilized society," said state Sen. Sandy Pappas, DFL-St. Paul, who attended the meeting and will introduce legislation next week increasing the penalties for human trafficking. "These people are incredibly vulnerable."

Human trafficking has become a billion-dollar-a-year industry worldwide, said several people at Friday's meeting. The U.S. State Department estimates that as many as 800,000 men, women and children are transported across international borders.

Human trafficking involves transporting people across international borders by force, coercion or fraud. Although victims are mostly transported for sexual exploitation, many are also being used for forced labor and unpaid domestic help.

The U.S. Department of Justice, without offering specific numbers, has identified the Twin Cities as one of the 13 worst metro areas in the country for human trafficking.

Trafficking continues: A regional task force aims to stop the practice in Twin Cities. **B5▶**
Related: Where recent victims in Minnesota came from and what they endured. **B5**

The fight against modern-day slavery

◀ **TRAFFICKING** from B1

"Am I surprised that [human trafficking] is this big in Minnesota? I'm surprised that people don't think it happens in Minnesota," Diane Cushman, director of the Office on the Economic Status of Women, which advises the Legislature, said after the meeting. "I'm surprised that people think that Minnesota is immune to this kind of activity. But Minnesota as a source state for young girls in prostitution is well established."

Wellstone took up the cause

Combating human trafficking was one of the last causes of Sen. Paul Wellstone, who helped pass legislation to address the issue before he died in a plane crash in 2002.

In the past year, human trafficking has become a higher-profile issue in the state. The state Department of Public Safety was given \$100,000 last year to conduct a statewide survey of the problem. The findings will be released later this month.

St. Paul police received \$450,000 from the Justice Department in December to start a regional task force aimed at halting human trafficking in the Twin Cities.

Smaller federal grants also have been provided to non-profit groups such as Civil Society and Breaking Free to find and help trafficking victims.

Linda Miller, executive director of Civil Society, said Friday that in the past 10 months alone, the group has rescued dozens of people who

were brought into Minnesota for sex, forced labor, indentured servitude or as mail-order brides.

An American in Moscow

Many people at Friday's meeting said slavery is an accurate description of what happens to people brought to the United States under false pretenses.

"If slavery means being under someone's complete control and oppressed by it, then it fits," said attorney Sonseere Goldenberg. "It really does involve men controlling every single aspect of a woman's life. I've had women tell me that their husbands had them go have ribs removed so they would have a thinner waist"

Tatiana Ivanova, a Russian woman who spoke Friday but

used a pseudonym to protect her identity, was the first human trafficking victim rescued by Civil Society when it began addressing the issue.

She married an American in Moscow in 2002 after meeting him online. She said he became abusive within weeks of their returning to his suburban Twin Cities apartment. At one point, she said, he threatened her with a baseball bat.

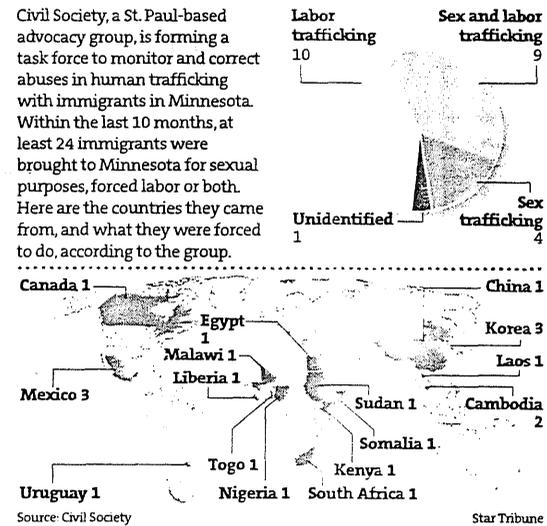
"He wouldn't let me use the phone, the computer, or go out by myself," said Ivanova, who contacted Civil Society after five months of marriage.

"If I did not meet these people who cared I don't know what would have happened," she told the hushed audience. "I might not be alive now."

Heron Marquez Estrada • 651-298-1554

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN MINNESOTA

Civil Society, a St. Paul-based advocacy group, is forming a task force to monitor and correct abuses in human trafficking with immigrants in Minnesota. Within the last 10 months, at least 24 immigrants were brought to Minnesota for sexual purposes, forced labor or both. Here are the countries they came from, and what they were forced to do, according to the group.



MORE ON TRAFFICKING For more information, see the Civil Society website at www.civsociety.org.

**Senate Counsel, Research,
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Senate

State of Minnesota

**S.F. No. 2911 - Enhancing Penalties For Violating
Domestic Abuse No Contact Orders**

Author: Senator Jane B. Ranum

Prepared by: Chris Turner, Senate Research (651/296-4350) CT

Date: March 14, 2006

Section 1 creates a gross misdemeanor penalty for persons who violate domestic abuse no contact orders within five years after discharge sentence for a previous “qualified domestic violence-related offense.”

Section 2 expands the definition of “qualified domestic violence-related offense” to include violation of domestic abuse no contact orders.

CT:rer

Senators Ranum, Limmer and Skoglund introduced—

S.F. No. 2911: Referred to the Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety.

A bill for an act

relating to domestic abuse; creating enhanced penalties for the crime of violating a domestic abuse no contact order; adding the crime of violating a domestic abuse no contact order to the list of qualified domestic violence-related offenses; amending Minnesota Statutes 2005 Supplement, sections 518B.01, subdivision 22; 609.02, subdivision 16.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2005 Supplement, section 518B.01, subdivision 22, is amended to read:

Subd. 22. **Domestic abuse no contact order.** (a) A domestic abuse no contact order is an order issued by a court against a defendant in a criminal proceeding for:

(1) domestic abuse;

(2) harassment or stalking charged under section 609.749 and committed against a family or household member;

(3) violation of an order for protection charged under subdivision 14; or

(4) violation of a prior domestic abuse no contact order charged under this subdivision.

It includes pretrial orders before final disposition of the case and probationary orders after sentencing.

(b) A person who knows of the existence of a domestic abuse no contact order issued against the person and violates the order is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(c) A person is guilty of a gross misdemeanor who knowingly violates this subdivision during the time period between a previous qualified domestic violence-related offense conviction and the end of the five years following discharge from sentence for that offense.

2.1 (d) A peace officer shall arrest without a warrant and take into custody a person
2.2 whom the peace officer has probable cause to believe has violated a domestic abuse no
2.3 contact order, even if the violation of the order did not take place in the presence of the
2.4 peace officer, if the existence of the order can be verified by the officer. The person shall
2.5 be held in custody for at least 36 hours, excluding the day of arrest, Sundays, and holidays,
2.6 unless the person is released earlier by a judge or judicial officer. A peace officer acting
2.7 in good faith and exercising due care in making an arrest pursuant to this paragraph is
2.8 immune from civil liability that might result from the officer's actions.

2.9 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2006, and applies to crimes
2.10 committed on or after that date.

2.11 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2005 Supplement, section 609.02, subdivision 16, is
2.12 amended to read:

2.13 Subd. 16. **Qualified domestic violence-related offense.** "Qualified domestic
2.14 violence-related offense" includes the following offenses: sections 518B.01, subdivision
2.15 14 (violation of domestic abuse order for protection); 518B.01, subdivision 22
2.16 (violation of domestic abuse no contact order); 609.221 (first-degree assault); 609.222
2.17 (second-degree assault); 609.223 (third-degree assault); 609.2231 (fourth-degree assault);
2.18 609.224 (fifth-degree assault); 609.2242 (domestic assault); 609.2247 (domestic assault
2.19 by strangulation); 609.342 (first-degree criminal sexual conduct); 609.343 (second-degree
2.20 criminal sexual conduct); 609.344 (third-degree criminal sexual conduct); 609.345
2.21 (fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct); 609.377 (malicious punishment of a child);
2.22 609.713 (terroristic threats); 609.748, subdivision 6 (violation of harassment restraining
2.23 order); and 609.749 (harassment/stalking); and similar laws of other states, the United
2.24 States, the District of Columbia, tribal lands, and United States territories.

2.25 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2006, and applies to crimes
2.26 committed on or after that date.

1.1 Senator moves to amend S.F. No. 2911 as follows:

1.2 Page 1, after line 7, insert:

1.3 "Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 518B.01, subdivision 14, is amended
1.4 to read:

1.5 Subd. 14. **Violation of an order for protection.** (a) A person who violates an
1.6 order for protection issued by a judge or referee is subject to the penalties provided
1.7 in paragraphs (b) to (d).

1.8 (b) Except as otherwise provided in paragraphs (c) and (d), whenever an order for
1.9 protection is granted by a judge or referee or pursuant to a similar law of another state,
1.10 the United States, the District of Columbia, tribal lands, or United States territories, and
1.11 the respondent or person to be restrained knows of the existence of the order, violation of
1.12 the order for protection is a misdemeanor. Upon a misdemeanor conviction under this
1.13 paragraph, the defendant must be sentenced to a minimum of three days imprisonment and
1.14 must be ordered to participate in counseling or other appropriate programs selected by
1.15 the court. If the court stays imposition or execution of the jail sentence and the defendant
1.16 refuses or fails to comply with the court's treatment order, the court must impose and
1.17 execute the stayed jail sentence. A violation of an order for protection shall also constitute
1.18 contempt of court and be subject to the penalties provided in chapter 588.

1.19 (c) A person is guilty of a gross misdemeanor who knowingly violates this
1.20 subdivision ~~during the time period between~~ within ten years of a previous qualified
1.21 domestic violence-related offense conviction ~~and the end of the five years following~~
1.22 ~~discharge from sentence for that offense~~ or adjudication of delinquency. Upon a gross
1.23 misdemeanor conviction under this paragraph, the defendant must be sentenced to a
1.24 minimum of ten days imprisonment and must be ordered to participate in counseling or
1.25 other appropriate programs selected by the court. Notwithstanding section 609.135, the
1.26 court must impose and execute the minimum sentence provided in this paragraph for
1.27 gross misdemeanor convictions.

2.1 (d) A person is guilty of a felony and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not
2.2 more than five years or to payment of a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both, if the
2.3 person knowingly violates this subdivision:

2.4 (1) ~~during the time period between~~ within ten years of the first of two or more
2.5 previous qualified domestic violence-related offense convictions ~~and the end of the five~~
2.6 ~~years following discharge from sentence for that offense~~ or adjudications of delinquency;
2.7 or

2.8 (2) while possessing a dangerous weapon, as defined in section 609.02, subdivision 6.
2.9 Upon a felony conviction under this paragraph in which the court stays imposition or
2.10 execution of sentence, the court shall impose at least a 30-day period of incarceration
2.11 as a condition of probation. The court also shall order that the defendant participate in
2.12 counseling or other appropriate programs selected by the court. Notwithstanding section
2.13 609.135, the court must impose and execute the minimum sentence provided in this
2.14 paragraph for felony convictions.

2.15 (e) A peace officer shall arrest without a warrant and take into custody a person
2.16 whom the peace officer has probable cause to believe has violated an order granted
2.17 pursuant to this section or a similar law of another state, the United States, the District of
2.18 Columbia, tribal lands, or United States territories restraining the person or excluding the
2.19 person from the residence or the petitioner's place of employment, even if the violation
2.20 of the order did not take place in the presence of the peace officer, if the existence of the
2.21 order can be verified by the officer. The probable cause required under this paragraph
2.22 includes probable cause that the person knows of the existence of the order. If the order
2.23 has not been served, the officer shall immediately serve the order whenever reasonably
2.24 safe and possible to do so. An order for purposes of this subdivision, includes the short
2.25 form order described in subdivision 8a. When the order is first served upon the person
2.26 at a location at which, under the terms of the order, the person's presence constitutes a
2.27 violation, the person shall not be arrested for violation of the order without first being
2.28 given a reasonable opportunity to leave the location in the presence of the peace officer.
2.29 A person arrested under this paragraph shall be held in custody for at least 36 hours,
2.30 excluding the day of arrest, Sundays, and holidays, unless the person is released earlier by
2.31 a judge or judicial officer. A peace officer acting in good faith and exercising due care
2.32 in making an arrest pursuant to this paragraph is immune from civil liability that might
2.33 result from the officer's actions.

2.34 (f) If the court finds that the respondent has violated an order for protection and
2.35 that there is reason to believe that the respondent will commit a further violation of the
2.36 provisions of the order restraining the respondent from committing acts of domestic abuse

3.1 or excluding the respondent from the petitioner's residence, the court may require the
3.2 respondent to acknowledge an obligation to comply with the order on the record. The court
3.3 may require a bond sufficient to deter the respondent from committing further violations
3.4 of the order for protection, considering the financial resources of the respondent, and not
3.5 to exceed \$10,000. If the respondent refuses to comply with an order to acknowledge the
3.6 obligation or post a bond under this paragraph, the court shall commit the respondent to
3.7 the county jail during the term of the order for protection or until the respondent complies
3.8 with the order under this paragraph. The warrant must state the cause of commitment,
3.9 with the sum and time for which any bond is required. If an order is issued under this
3.10 paragraph, the court may order the costs of the contempt action, or any part of them, to be
3.11 paid by the respondent. An order under this paragraph is appealable.

3.12 (g) Upon the filing of an affidavit by the petitioner, any peace officer, or an interested
3.13 party designated by the court, alleging that the respondent has violated any order for
3.14 protection granted pursuant to this section or a similar law of another state, the United
3.15 States, the District of Columbia, tribal lands, or United States territories, the court may
3.16 issue an order to the respondent, requiring the respondent to appear and show cause within
3.17 14 days why the respondent should not be found in contempt of court and punished
3.18 therefor. The hearing may be held by the court in any county in which the petitioner or
3.19 respondent temporarily or permanently resides at the time of the alleged violation, or in
3.20 the county in which the alleged violation occurred, if the petitioner and respondent do not
3.21 reside in this state. The court also shall refer the violation of the order for protection to the
3.22 appropriate prosecuting authority for possible prosecution under paragraph (b), (c), or (d).

3.23 (h) If it is alleged that the respondent has violated an order for protection issued under
3.24 subdivision 6 or a similar law of another state, the United States, the District of Columbia,
3.25 tribal lands, or United States territories, and the court finds that the order has expired
3.26 between the time of the alleged violation and the court's hearing on the violation, the court
3.27 may grant a new order for protection under subdivision 6 based solely on the respondent's
3.28 alleged violation of the prior order, to be effective until the hearing on the alleged violation
3.29 of the prior order. If the court finds that the respondent has violated the prior order, the
3.30 relief granted in the new order for protection shall be extended for a fixed period, not to
3.31 exceed one year, except when the court determines a longer fixed period is appropriate.

3.32 (i) The admittance into petitioner's dwelling of an abusing party excluded from the
3.33 dwelling under an order for protection is not a violation by the petitioner of the order
3.34 for protection.

3.35 A peace officer is not liable under section 609.43, clause (1), for a failure to perform
3.36 a duty required by paragraph (e).

4.1 (j) When a person is convicted under paragraph (b) or (c) of violating an order for
4.2 protection and the court determines that the person used a firearm in any way during
4.3 commission of the violation, the court may order that the person is prohibited from
4.4 possessing any type of firearm for any period longer than three years or for the remainder
4.5 of the person's life. A person who violates this paragraph is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.
4.6 At the time of the conviction, the court shall inform the defendant whether and for
4.7 how long the defendant is prohibited from possessing a firearm and that it is a gross
4.8 misdemeanor to violate this paragraph. The failure of the court to provide this information
4.9 to a defendant does not affect the applicability of the firearm possession prohibition or the
4.10 gross misdemeanor penalty to that defendant.

4.11 (k) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (j), when a person is convicted
4.12 under paragraph (b) or (c) of violating an order for protection, the court shall inform
4.13 the defendant that the defendant is prohibited from possessing a pistol for three years
4.14 from the date of conviction and that it is a gross misdemeanor offense to violate this
4.15 prohibition. The failure of the court to provide this information to a defendant does not
4.16 affect the applicability of the pistol possession prohibition or the gross misdemeanor
4.17 penalty to that defendant.

4.18 (l) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (j), a person is not entitled to possess a
4.19 pistol if the person has been convicted under paragraph (b) or (c) after August 1, 1996,
4.20 of violating an order for protection, unless three years have elapsed from the date of
4.21 conviction and, during that time, the person has not been convicted of any other violation
4.22 of this section. Property rights may not be abated but access may be restricted by the
4.23 courts. A person who possesses a pistol in violation of this paragraph is guilty of a gross
4.24 misdemeanor.

4.25 (m) If the court determines that a person convicted under paragraph (b) or (c) of
4.26 violating an order for protection owns or possesses a firearm and used it in any way during
4.27 the commission of the violation, it shall order that the firearm be summarily forfeited
4.28 under section 609.5316, subdivision 3.

4.29 EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective August 1, 2006, and applies to crimes
4.30 committed on or after that date."

4.31 Page 1, line 23, delete "during the time period between" and insert "within ten
4.32 years of"

4.33 Page 1, line 24, delete everything after "conviction"

4.34 Page 1, line 25, delete "that offense" and insert "or adjudication of delinquency"

4.35 Page 2, line 23, strike the first "and"

5.1 Page 2, line 23, after the second semicolon, insert "and 609.78, subdivision 2
5.2 (interference with an emergency call);"

Page 2, after line 26, insert:

5.4 "Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 609.224, subdivision 2, is amended to
5.5 read:

5.6 Subd. 2. **Gross misdemeanor.** (a) Whoever violates the provisions of subdivision
5.7 1 against the same victim ~~during the time period between~~ within ten years of a previous
5.8 qualified domestic violence-related offense conviction or adjudication of delinquency ~~and~~
5.9 ~~the end of the five years following discharge from sentence or disposition for that offense,~~
5.10 is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than
5.11 one year or to payment of a fine of not more than \$3,000, or both.

5.12 (b) Whoever violates the provisions of subdivision 1 within ~~two~~ three years of
3 a previous qualified domestic violence-related offense conviction or adjudication of
5.14 delinquency is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and may be sentenced to imprisonment for
5.15 not more than one year or to payment of a fine of not more than \$3,000, or both.

5.16 (c) A caregiver, as defined in section 609.232, who is an individual and who violates
5.17 the provisions of subdivision 1 against a vulnerable adult, as defined in section 609.232, is
5.18 guilty of a gross misdemeanor and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than
5.19 one year or to payment of a fine of not more than \$3,000, or both.

5.20 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2006, and applies to crimes
5.21 committed on or after that date.

5.22 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 609.224, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

5.23 Subd. 4. **Felony.** (a) Whoever violates the provisions of subdivision 1 against
5.24 the same victim ~~during the time period between~~ within ten years of the first of any
5.25 combination of two or more previous qualified domestic violence-related offense
5.26 convictions or adjudications of delinquency ~~and the end of the five years following~~
5.27 ~~discharge from sentence or disposition for that offense~~ is guilty of a felony and may be
5.28 sentenced to imprisonment for not more than five years or payment of a fine of not more
5.29 than \$10,000, or both.

5.30 (b) Whoever violates the provisions of subdivision 1 within three years of the first
5.31 of any combination of two or more previous qualified domestic violence-related offense
5.32 convictions or adjudications of delinquency is guilty of a felony and may be sentenced
33 to imprisonment for not more than five years or to payment of a fine of not more than
5.34 \$10,000, or both.

6.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2006, and applies to crimes
6.2 committed on or after that date.

6.3 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 609.2242, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

6.4 Subd. 2. **Gross misdemeanor.** Whoever violates subdivision 1 ~~during the time~~
6.5 ~~period between~~ within ten years of a previous qualified domestic violence-related
6.6 offense conviction or adjudication of delinquency against a family or household member
6.7 as defined in section 518B.01, subdivision 2, ~~and the end of the five years following~~
6.8 ~~discharge from sentence or disposition for that offense~~ is guilty of a gross misdemeanor
6.9 and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than one year or to payment of a fine
6.10 of not more than \$3,000, or both.

6.11 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2006, and applies to crimes
6.12 committed on or after that date.

6.13 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 609.2242, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

6.14 Subd. 4. **Felony.** Whoever violates the provisions of this section or section 609.224,
6.15 subdivision 1, against the same victim ~~during the time period between~~ within ten years of
6.16 the first of any combination of two or more previous qualified domestic violence-related
6.17 offense convictions or adjudications of delinquency ~~and the end of the five years following~~
6.18 ~~discharge from sentence or disposition for that offense~~ is guilty of a felony and may be
6.19 sentenced to imprisonment for not more than five years or payment of a fine of not more
6.20 than \$10,000, or both.

6.21 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2006, and applies to crimes
6.22 committed on or after that date.

6.23 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 609.748, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

6.24 Subd. 6. **Violation of restraining order.** (a) A person who violates a restraining
6.25 order issued under this section is subject to the penalties provided in paragraphs (b) to (d).

6.26 (b) Except as otherwise provided in paragraphs (c) and (d), when a temporary
6.27 restraining order or a restraining order is granted under this section and the respondent
6.28 knows of the order, violation of the order is a misdemeanor.

6.29 (c) A person is guilty of a gross misdemeanor who knowingly violates the order
6.30 ~~during the time period between~~ within ten years of a previous qualified domestic
6.31 violence-related offense conviction ~~and the end of the five years following discharge from~~
6.32 ~~sentence for that offense~~ or adjudication of delinquency.

7.1 (d) A person is guilty of a felony and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not
7.2 more than five years or to payment of a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both, if the
7.3 person knowingly violates the order:

7.4 (1) ~~during the time period between~~ within ten years of the first of two or more
7.5 previous qualified domestic violence-related offense convictions ~~and the end of the five~~
7.6 ~~years following discharge from sentence for that offense~~ or adjudications of delinquency;

7.7 (2) because of the victim's or another's actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex,
7.8 sexual orientation, disability as defined in section 363A.03, age, or national origin;

7.9 (3) by falsely impersonating another;

7.10 (4) while possessing a dangerous weapon;

7.11 (5) with an intent to influence or otherwise tamper with a juror or a judicial
7.12 proceeding or with intent to retaliate against a judicial officer, as defined in section
7.13 609.415, or a prosecutor, defense attorney, or officer of the court, because of that person's
7.14 performance of official duties in connection with a judicial proceeding; or

7.15 (6) against a victim under the age of 18, if the respondent is more than 36 months
7.16 older than the victim.

7.17 (e) A peace officer shall arrest without a warrant and take into custody a person
7.18 whom the peace officer has probable cause to believe has violated an order issued under
7.19 subdivision 4 or 5 if the existence of the order can be verified by the officer.

7.20 (f) A violation of a temporary restraining order or restraining order shall also
7.21 constitute contempt of court.

7.22 (g) Upon the filing of an affidavit by the petitioner, any peace officer, or an interested
7.23 party designated by the court, alleging that the respondent has violated an order issued
7.24 under subdivision 4 or 5, the court may issue an order to the respondent requiring the
7.25 respondent to appear within 14 days and show cause why the respondent should not be
7.26 held in contempt of court. The court also shall refer the violation of the order to the
7.27 appropriate prosecuting authority for possible prosecution under paragraph (b), (c), or (d).

7.28 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2006, and applies to crimes
7.29 committed on or after that date."

7.30 Renumber the sections in sequence and correct the internal references

7.31 Amend the title accordingly

1.1 Senator moves to amend S.F. No. 2911 as follows:

1.2 Page 2, after line 26, insert:

1.3 "Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 609.749, subdivision 4, is amended to
1.4 read:

1.5 Subd. 4. **Second or subsequent violations; felony.** (a) A person is guilty of a
1.6 felony who violates any provision of subdivision 2 ~~during the time period between~~
1.7 within ten years of a previous qualified domestic violence-related offense conviction
1.8 or adjudication of delinquency ~~and the end of the ten years following discharge from~~
1.9 ~~sentence or disposition for that offense~~, and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not
1.10 more than five years or to payment of a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.

1.11 (b) A person is guilty of a felony who violates any provision of subdivision 2 ~~during~~
1.12 ~~the time period between~~ within ten years of the first of two or more previous qualified
1.13 domestic violence-related offense convictions or adjudications of delinquency ~~and the~~
1.14 ~~end of ten years following discharge from sentence or disposition for that offense~~, and
1.15 may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than ten years or to payment of a fine of
1.16 not more than \$20,000, or both.

1.17 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2006, and applies to crimes
1.18 committed on or after that date."

1.19 Renumber the sections in sequence and correct the internal references

1.20 Amend the title accordingly

March 14, 2006

If anything needs clarification, let me know.

Some of these offenses occurred while we were still on the Tcis court information system so misdemeanor files are still designated with a T and gross misdemeanor and felonies are designated by a K. Since we went to the Mncis all files are designated CR

Armando Coronado

Filing Date	Case File #	Charges	Court Date	Disposition
10-6-03	K3-03-154	DA, Asslt 5, No Con Vio	4-14-04	Convicted DA, No con vio.
12-2-03	T1-03-5742	Da, Asslt 5, No Con Vio.	4-14-04	Dismissed in Plea
12-3-03	T1-03-5871	No Con Vio.(2)	4-14-04	Convict 90 days,\$100.00 No probation
12-16-03	T2-03-6091	OPF Vio.	4-14-04	Dism. In Plea

Jaime Skaalerud

Filing Date	Case File #	Charges	Court Date	Disposition
4-6-04	K8-04-497	Int. 911,DA(2)	10-19-04	Convict Da (1)
4-6-04	KX-04-498	False Imprison. DA(2)	10-19-04	Convict
9-27-04	T6-04-4497	Vio Rel. Cond.	10-19-04	Convict-Time Served
11-17-04	CR-04-72	Da,Asslt 5 (fel.)	5-17-05	Acquitted

Brent Pankow

Filing Date	Case File #	Charges	Court Date	Disposition
9-13-04	K9-04-1366	Asslt 2, & 5		
10-25-04	T8-04-4906	Da	10-25-04	Convict
11-17-04	CR-04-68	Da, No Con. Vio.	1-11-05	Dism.
1-6-05	CR-05-34	Harr./Stlk,Tresp.	4-25-05	Plea Tresp.
2-16-05	CR-05-261	DA, OPF Vio.	4-25-05	Convict
5-20-05	CR-05-832	DA, OPF Vio..	9-19-05	Snt as Misd.
10-26-05	CR-05-1835	DA,OPF Vio.	Pending	Finally, a Rule 25

This should have been a clear Harr//Stlk charge again on CR-05-1835. This guy has some serious mental health issues and, due to budget restraints, the courts only order Rule 25s in felony cases but we couldn't get there until recently.

Willie Gonzalez

8-16-04	T7-04-3844	DA	11-29-04	Convict
9-7-04	T6-04-1492	,No Con. Vio.	11-29-04	Convict
2-25-05	CR-05-67	No Con. Vio.	3-15-05	Convict

Two Previous Convictions and CR-05-67 is a misdemeanor and might have been a felony. I have illusions about getting felony convictions on these all the time, but it would improve the prosecution's negotiating position in plea negotiations.

.No contact violations should also enhance new domestic related charges such as domestic assault and OPF violations, but I don't think so.

There is a serious unfairness in our systems when family services can order a woman involved in a CHIPs proceeding to get an OPF and report all violations and when she does all those calls he's made to her from jail violating the no contact order won't ever lead to enhancements or more serious charges. We ask a lot from battered women considering how little protection we can offer them through the courts. After a while they give up, stop reporting and stop cooperating with prosecutors. Perpetrators are quick to learn they can get by with violations of release conditions without significant consequences. I'm troubled that judges don't seem to take their orders very seriously.

Submitted by Kathy Oxenreider, Advocate
Shelter House
Wilmar, MN

The 2005 Minnesota Femicide Report

We remember our mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, daughters, sons, wives, husbands, partners, family members, friends, co-workers, neighbors and fellow Minnesotans lost to the terrible toll of domestic violence and child abuse...

Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women



*590 Park Street, Suite 410
St. Paul, MN 55103*

*Voice: (651) 646-6177
or (800) 289-6177*

Fax: (651) 646-1527

Web: www.mcbw.org

About the Femicide Report

The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women monitors information about women and children murdered in our state to educate the public about the lethality of violence against women and child abuse. We pledge to remember the women, children, and family members and/or friends who die each year from domestic violence, and also the women and children who are murdered while being used in prostitution and sex trafficking. Women and children used in prostitution and sex trafficking are battered women and abused children in need of protection from abuse. We also remember the women and children who were murdered by friends, acquaintances, strangers, or unknown perpetrators.

We challenge communities to respond to battered women and their children by providing adequate funding for safe shelter and advocacy services, prevention education for all elementary and secondary students, laws to protect women and children, effective enforcement of those laws, and aggressive prosecution of all domestic assault crimes and all prostitution crimes targeting perpetrators, pimps, and "johns."

In reporting the total number of deaths, it is important to note that *at least* this many women and children have been murdered. We cannot be certain we have not missed some deaths since we must use a method of data collection that primarily relies on news accounts. No state or federal agency collects comprehensive data on domestic homicides. In addition, the murders of women of color, Native American women, women living in poverty, rural women, lesbian/bisexual/transgender women, and women and girls used in prostitution and sex trafficking may be under-reported in our listing as they frequently go unreported in mainstream media.

The 2005 Femicide Report is compiled from news accounts. Please contact MCBW if we have missed a death or if you have updated or more complete information on any femicide.

We ask that the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women be credited when information from this report is used.

Women and Children Murdered in Minnesota: 1988-2004

1988	<u>At least 18 women</u> died from domestic violence*	1998	<u>At least 22 women</u> died from domestic violence <u>At least 15 children</u> died from child abuse
1989	<u>At least 18 women</u> died from domestic violence	1999	<u>At least 22 women</u> died from domestic abuse <u>At least 20 children</u> died from child abuse
1990	<u>At least 26 women</u> died from domestic violence	2000	<u>At least 40 women</u> died from domestic violence <u>At least 6 children</u> died from child abuse <u>At least 1 family member</u> was murdered
1991	<u>At least 12 women</u> died from domestic violence	2001	<u>At least 33 women</u> died from domestic violence <u>At least 12 children</u> died from child abuse <u>At least 6 family members/friends</u> were murdered
1992	<u>At least 31 women</u> died from domestic violence <u>At least 8 children</u> died from child abuse** <u>At least 3 women</u> were murdered while being used in prostitution*** <u>At least 2 family members/friends</u> were murdered by a women's current or former partner	2002	<u>At least 16 women</u> died from domestic violence <u>At least 13 children</u> died from child abuse
1993	<u>At least 28 women</u> died from domestic violence <u>At least 13 children</u> died from child abuse <u>At least 6 women</u> were murdered while being used in prostitution <u>At least 5 family members/friends</u> were murdered	2003	<u>At least 14 women</u> died from domestic violence. <u>At least 10 children</u> died from child abuse.
1994	<u>At least 19 women</u> died from domestic violence <u>At least 7 children</u> died from child abuse <u>At least 2 women</u> were murdered while being used in prostitution	2004	<u>At least 13 women</u> died from domestic violence. <u>At least 11 children</u> died from child abuse. <u>At least 3 family members/friends</u> were murdered
1995	<u>At least 29 women</u> died from domestic violence <u>At least 11 children</u> died from child abuse		
1996	<u>At least 22 women</u> died from domestic violence <u>At least 17 children</u> died from child abuse <u>At least 6 women</u> were murdered while being used in prostitution		
1997	<u>At least 17 women</u> died from domestic violence <u>At least 5 children</u> died from child abuse		

*Cases of women murdered where the suspected, alleged or convicted perpetrator was a current or former husband, boyfriend, intimate partner, household or family member.

**Cases of children murdered where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was the father, mother, guardian, babysitter, child care provider, or household/family member of the child; or the perpetrator was the parent's spouse or intimate partner.

***MCBW recognizes prostitution as a system of violence against women and children.

In Minnesota in 2005:

At least 17 women were murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was a current or former husband, boyfriend, or intimate partner of the deceased woman.

At least 9 women were murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was a family member or a household member of the deceased woman.

At least 4 children under the age of 18 were murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was the father, mother, guardian, babysitter, child care provider, or household/family member of the child, or the perpetrator was the parent's spouse or intimate partner.

At least 2 friends or family members were murdered in domestic violence-related situations.

At least 7 women or children were murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was an acquaintance of the deceased woman or child, or was a stranger or an unknown assailant.

9 men, women and children were murdered in the Red Lake school shootings on March 21, 2005.

At least 18 children have been left motherless by the murders of their mothers.

Women murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was a current or former husband, boyfriend, or intimate partner.

Tina Gerving, 39

Erskine

January 23, 2005

Polk County sheriff's deputies found Tina's body, along with the body of her boyfriend, David DeFrang, 44, inside their home after being asked to conduct a general welfare check there. It was determined that David murdered Tina and then committed suicide. Tina worked as an accountant and also taught Sunday school at Grace Lutheran Church. She left behind 4 daughters. Tina enjoyed exercising, fishing, reading, and tending to her flower gardens.

Cassandra Koochek, 42

St. Paul

February 15, 2005

Clarence Dunn St., 50, pleaded guilty to beating to death his girlfriend, Cassandra, with a hammer. Dunn made a 911 call from Koochek's apartment. When police arrived, they found her lying on a bed with a blanket, pillow, and a plastic bag over her head. She had been struck on the head at least 5 times. Dunn was taken to Regions Hospital, where he was treated for self-inflicted cuts to his wrist. He pleaded guilty to Cassandra's murder after a psychiatric exam found him competent to stand trial. Dunn was sentenced to 25½ years in prison. In 1995, Dunn pleaded guilty to second-degree assault for stabbing another woman in the throat and was sentenced to four years and four months in prison. Cassandra left behind a teenaged son.

Moonku "Marissa" Persaud, 40

Eagan

February 18, 2005

Police found Marissa strangled to death in the upstairs bedroom of her Eagan home. She hadn't shown up for her job at Blue Cross/Blue Shield for days. Friends and family were concerned about her safety and called law enforcement. Marissa's former live-in boyfriend, Jairam Ganpat, 37, was arrested in Brownsville, Texas, trying to re-enter the United States from Mexico. He was charged with two counts of second-degree murder after being extradited to Minnesota. "Growing up I never had a father figure in my life and my mother was both my mother and father," said Marissa's 17-year-old daughter, Vanessa. A good friend of Marissa's described Ganpat as an obsessive boyfriend who prevented her from socializing with her friends. "He was very, very controlling," said Whanyia Lankah. Eagan police had responded to a suspected case of domestic abuse at Marissa's home on January 23rd. Police gave her information on how to obtain an order for protection against Ganpat. Ganpat was sentenced to life in prison for Marissa's murder.

Jessica Rose, 18

Duluth

March 5, 2005

Jeremy Steenblock, 29, was charged with second-degree murder in the death of his fiancée, Jessica Rose, 18. Police found Jessica dead in the apartment she shared with Steenblock. The medical examiner later ruled her death due to strangulation. Steenblock had called 911 to say that his fiancée had fallen and hit her head in the shower. However, when police interviewed him later, Steenblock admitted to strangling Jessica. Lori Sommer, Jessica's aunt, said, "She didn't have much but she would give you the shirt off her back." Sommer also stated that she knew Steenblock was abusing her niece and tried to get Jessica to leave him. Jeremy Steenblock had been arrested 3 times for domestic abuse in 4 years. In January of 2004, a hearing was held to revoke his probation for assaulting another girlfriend, but the judge ruled that Steenblock remain on probation. Steenblock pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 30 years.

**Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women
2005 Femicide Report**

Mai Yia Lee, 22**Minneapolis****March 26, 2005**

Mai Yia Lee was fatally stabbed by her fiancée, Vou Xiong, 27, after she told him she wouldn't marry him. Lee and Xiong had their marriage arranged in a Thailand refugee camp, but when Xiong tested positive for Hepatitis B, Lee's family no longer wanted her to marry him. Xiong arrived at the home Lee shared with relatives, knocked on the door, and told her he had photos to show her. Across the hall, Lee's uncle heard screaming and ran in. Xiong was standing over Mai Yia with a knife in his hand. He lashed out at the uncle and then went downstairs and found Lee's two female relatives. The uncle came to help and was stabbed in the chest, but managed to overpower Xiong and tie him up until police arrived. Mai Yia died of multiple stab wounds. Vou Xiong was charged with one count of second-degree intentional murder and one count of second-degree assault in the stabbing of Mai Yia Lee's uncle. Mai Yia was described as a "conservative, honest, and really good student who came to school every day," by staff of the Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, where she studied ESL and job skills.

Patricia McGhee, 31**Burnsville****May 14, 2005**

Johnny Clark, 34, turned himself in at the Hennepin County jail, stating, "Arrest me, I hurt my baby." Burnsville police found Patricia McGhee, 31, bleeding in the bathroom of her home from gunshot wounds to the head and chest. She died at the scene. Patricia had been with Johnny since she was 14, and the couple had 3 children, ages 13 to 15. Kelly McGhee, Patricia's sister, said she was trying to end her relationship with Clark and that she'd moved out briefly after police responded to a domestic call. She had also changed the locks because she was afraid of him. "She said, 'I broke away. I feel good to be free.' Those were her last words before she died," said her mother, Shaday Ombasa. Patricia's eldest child said she will remember her mother's energy and cheerfulness, "Even in a sad situation, she'd always have a joke or something to laugh about." Patricia worked as a nurse for 10 years at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis. Clark was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Tammy Hughes, 30**Albert Lea****May 27, 2005**

After a neighbor called police about hearing a popping sound coming from the home Robert and Tammy Hughes had once shared, police found Tammy, 30, dead on the living room floor from two gunshot wounds to the chest. Robert, 34, was found crying in a fire ring in the backyard. He had a liquid propane torch and a gasoline can with him. He was ordered to the ground and arrested. Later, he stated to police, "I screwed up." On her lunch hour, Tammy had returned to the home she until recently, had shared with her husband to resolve some things with him, said a co-worker. Tammy's cousin stated that the couple was "having problems" and that Tammy had left Robert. One of Tammy's co-workers said that Robert had held Tammy captive in their home for as long as three days the week before the murder. Police were called, but Robert was not arrested. "She recently tried to get away from [her husband]," the co-worker said. Relatives, friends, and co-workers described Robert as very controlling. Tammy was remembered as a dedicated, loving mother to her two children, ages 4 and 5, as well as a Girl Scout troop leader, and a friend who frequently helped out an elderly neighbor without being asked. She had worked as an assistant at American Express Financial Advisors for 6 months before her murder. Robert Hughes was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Tiffany Bowes, 22**St. Paul****June 11, 2005**

Tiffany Bowes was scared to go back to the apartment of Michael McGuire, 21, her abusive ex-boyfriend, to pick up some of her belongings. She told her friends to call the police if she didn't return quickly. When those friends couldn't reach her half an hour later, they called St. Paul police. Tiffany and Michael were found dead inside the apartment. According to police, McGuire shot Tiffany several times and then shot himself. "Tiff was real wonderful," said Steve Lundgren, who watched Bowes grow up while he was married to her mother. They have since divorced. "She was light and bubbly and full of fun and energy. A good kid. A beautiful smile and she treated everybody like they were golden."

Sherry Thompson, 15**Bloomington****June 23, 2005**

Daniel Otto, 17, admitted in court that he caused the death of his girlfriend, Sherry Thompson, when he gave her a lethal dose of methadone, a narcotic used to treat heroin addiction. According to court documents, Sherry and Daniel had drunk wine coolers and smoked marijuana at his home. Sherry had also snorted a Prozac tablet in an attempt to get high. Daniel broke into a lock-box where his mother kept large doses of methadone and gave it to Sherry. He watched her drink the methadone, throw up, and fall asleep in the basement. Sherry was found dead later of an overdose of methadone. Daniel Otto was charged with unintentional third-degree murder. He pleaded guilty and is expected to receive a juvenile sentence and a seven-year adult sentence, which will be stayed until he serves his juvenile sentence.

Angelina Garley, 27**Brooklyn Park****June 24, 2005**

Clemmie Tucker, 33, was charged with second-degree murder in the death of his girlfriend, Angelina Garley, 27. Angelina was found in a car in Brooklyn Park with a gunshot wound to her chest. Garley's 12-year-old son told police that Tucker spent the day on June 23rd with him and his mother at a water park and that she had planned to meet Tucker later that night. Police found Angelina shot to death at 2:44 a.m. the following morning after a call about a car horn honking and the sound of someone screaming for help. Tucker pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Susan Keezer, 47**Bagley****July 22, 2005**

Kathy Rabideau, 47, was charged with two counts of second-degree murder and a single count of third-degree murder in the death of her intimate partner, Susan Keezer. At 6:43 a.m. on July 22nd, local law enforcement received a phone call from a woman requesting a welfare check on Susan. When an officer arrived at the home Rabideau and Keezer shared, he saw Rabideau run into the street, covered with blood and waving her arms. She allegedly said, "Wake up my wife! Wake her up!" She led the officer to the kitchen, where he found Susan lying facedown in a pool of blood. Stab wounds were seen in Susan's back and a bloody knife was found in the yard. A neighbor reported that she heard the two women arguing the evening of July 21 and the early morning hours of July 22. The criminal complaint stated that Rabideau and Keezer had been in a relationship for three or four years. Susan enjoyed crossword puzzles and walking. Rabideau was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to twenty years in prison.

Laurie Bird, 49**Champlin****August 2, 2005**

Laurie was found dead in her home, shot to death, after her husband called the police. Officers found Laurie dead on the bed and took her husband into custody after finding no signs of forced entry or foul play. Kurt Bird, 52, was charged with 2 counts of first-degree murder and one count of second-degree murder. Family and friends stated the couple had been married about 8 years and were having problems. Laurie died of a single gunshot wound to the head. Kurt Bird claimed the shooting was accidental. Laurie was the mother of 3 daughters and grandmother to 3. Kurt Bird was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Beverly Benson, 72**Bloomington****August 3, 2005**

In the early hours of August 3rd, George Benson, 73, called police to inform them he'd just taken his wife's life and was about to commit suicide. Police arrived at the Bensons' home to find both Beverly, 72, and her husband dead. He had shot his wife and then himself. Beverly was very ill with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, better known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease, and could no longer talk, walk, or even turn over in bed. George Benson was Beverly's 24-hour nurse, but he had developed health problems of his own. Police are still investigating the details of the case and whether or not Beverly consented to die. Before she became ill, Beverly loved to square dance, travel, bowl, and garden.

Roman Kidane, 25**St. Louis Park****August 25, 2005**

Kirill Geilman, 55, was charged with second-degree intentional murder in the death of his girlfriend, Roman Kidane, 25. He had called 911 at about 7:45 a.m. and stated, "I killed my girlfriend just now." Roman bled to death from several large wounds in her neck. She also had defensive wounds on her hands and stab wounds to the back of her head, stated the criminal complaint. Offices said Geilman told them he "punched" Kidane in the neck "lots of times," and he knew he killed her. "This young woman died violently, and she died horrifically," said St. Louis Park Police Chief John Luse. "The crime scene suggests an angry act of passion, loss of control and violent rage." Geilman is serving 20 years for Roman's murder.

Sheila Hollie, 43**Minneapolis****October 14, 2005**

Sheila Hollie, 43, lay dying in her bedroom as her longtime boyfriend aimed a handgun at her adult daughter. Brandon Johnson, 34, shot and wounded the daughter once from across the hall, then again as he walked into the bedroom. Also in that room was Sheila's niece, holding the infant son of Hollie's daughter. When the boyfriend pointed the gun at the baby, the niece rolled over, protecting the boy as she was shot in her chest and her arm. Johnson was arrested and charged with one count of first-degree murder and three counts of attempted first-degree murder. Sheila died of a gunshot wound to her chest. Her daughter and niece were hospitalized, although they survived their injuries. Hollie, a choir member at New Salem Baptist Church, had been Johnson's girlfriend for about five years. Minneapolis police stated that Johnson had been arrested in 1999 on suspicion of terroristic threats, stemming from an incident with Hollie.

Crystal Halloran Drummer, 23**Plymouth****October 18, 2005**

Crystal was found dead by police after a neighbor in her apartment building called 911 at 3:30 a.m. after hearing shouting in the hallway. Crystal's husband, Bernard Obondo, 26, also called police, saying there was a problem in the apartment. When police arrived, they arrested Obondo after finding blood in the hall and Crystal dead inside. Bernard Obondo was charged with intentional murder for allegedly stabbing, strangling, and beating his wife to death. Police recovered a bloody knife and hammer. The couple had married in February 2005. Obondo pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to more than 37 years in prison. "This was a vicious crime, an example of out-of-control domestic abuse that resulted in the death of a young woman," said County Attorney Amy Klobuchar. "Jealousy and anger turned to violence and then ended in murder."

Linda Klyve, 47**Rolling Forks Township****December 18, 2005**

Pope County Sheriff Tom Larsen found Linda Klyve, 47, dead from a gunshot wound in her home. Gary Wroblewski, 46, her ex-boyfriend, was later found dead in a wooded area near Benson, Minnesota, from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Larson said Klyve was killed early Sunday. He said Wroblewski then called a relative, and the information was eventually relayed to law enforcement in the Twin Cities and then to authorities in Pope and Swift counties. Linda worked as a nurse at Swift County-Benson Hospital and had two grown children from a previous marriage. She enjoyed shopping and spending time at her lake cabin. Linda and Gary had been in a relationship for about 4 years, but she had recently ended broken it off.

Women murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was a family member or a household member.

Bonita Thoms, 58

Ross Lake Township

February 26, 2005

More than nine months after Bonita Thoms' body was found submerged in a bathtub at her home, a 35-year-old man, David Tscheu, was arrested for her murder. Thoms was Tscheu's step-aunt. Police were called to Bonita's home after a relative found her body in the bathtub. An autopsy ruled her death a homicide, concluding that someone had intentionally held her head underwater until she drowned. It was also determined that Thoms was sexually assaulted. DNA material taken from her body was matched to Tscheu's DNA. Investigators learned that Tscheu had been working near Bonita's house on February 25 and that he told his girlfriend about her death before a public announcement had been made. David Tscheu's criminal history includes convictions for misdemeanor fifth-degree assault, felony third-degree assault causing substantial bodily harm, and felony terroristic threats—for which he served 24 months in prison. Crow Wing County Sheriff Eric Klang said Tscheu had assaulted girlfriends and law enforcement officers in the past. "We've had a lot of past history with him." Tscheu was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Diane Hedalen, 50

Burnsville

March 18, 2005

Derrek Hopkins, 24, was charged with second-degree murder in the stabbing death of his aunt, Diane Hedalen, 50. Police found Hopkins wandering in the street and mumbling about Osama Bin Laden. He was taken to the hospital. Burnsville police then went to the apartment where Hopkins had been staying with his aunt and found her lying facedown on the bedroom floor. Officers found 2 knives on the floor next to Diane's body and blood around her shoulder and neck area. An autopsy determined that she died as a result of her throat being cut. She also had several broken ribs, a broken wrist, and evidence of having been strangled. Hopkins told authorities that he had been using methamphetamines daily for about a week prior to the murder and that he had gotten into an argument with his aunt. He confessed to murdering her and pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in January 2006. Hopkins was sentenced to 17 years in prison.

Hazel Boswell, 70

Bemidji

June 5, 2005

Ronald Kettle, 45, was arrested after he appeared at the Beltrami County Sheriff's Department and allegedly confessed to murdering his 70-year-old mother, Hazel Boswell. Witnesses stated he was under the influence of drugs at the time. Police officers went to Hazel's home, where they found her body lying in a hallway and covered with a blanket. Officers reported a large amount of blood in the home. Kettle told police officers that he had been taking drugs and that he woke up next to his mother's body. He further said that he believed he'd killed his mother with a kitchen knife and then cut himself in an attempt to take his own life. The preliminary autopsy report found that Hazel died of multiple blunt force trauma to the face and head. Ronald Kettle pleaded guilty to second-degree murder.

Brenda Kirksey, 50**St. Paul****June 26, 2005**

A 23-year-old St. Paul man and his girlfriend crushed his mother's skull repeatedly with a hammer after an argument, then left her dying in her apartment as they walked to a nearby park and drank beer until dawn, according to criminal allegations filed against the pair. Michael Sevier and Tina Kiefer, 24, hid the hammer and their bloody clothes in a garbage can. They later returned to the apartment and called 911 to report that Brenda had apparently been shot in the head by an intruder. In later interviews with police, the couple accused each other of hitting Kirksey in the head with a hammer. Sevier and Kiefer were charged with second-degree murder in Brenda's death. They had been living with Brenda for about a month and neighbors reported hearing frequent arguments. Police found an audiotape inside the residence with Sevier speaking of his violent hatred for his mother. Last fall, Brenda sought an order for protection against her son, saying he had threatened her life, punched her, and knocked out her front teeth. "He is a monster," said LaShondra Exom, Sevier's older sister. "He had no right to take our mother from us." Brenda's neighbor Charlene Lang remembered her as the kind of grandmotherly neighbor children read about in storybooks. "Miss Brenda," as she was known to Lang's grandchildren, used seed packets to teach Lang's grandson to count. Brenda was an avid gardener. Tina Kiefer pleaded guilty to a lesser charge in exchange for testifying against Sevier. However, this proved unnecessary when Sevier pleaded guilty to second-degree murder. He was sentenced to nearly 27 years in prison.

Patricia Niedere, 52**Hastings****October 8, 2005**

Disbelief and sadness over the murders of a Hastings couple deepened as news spread that the couple's son and two high school classmates had been arrested in a connection with the crimes. Patricia and Peter Niedere, both 52, were shot to death in their family's auto glass shop. Within hours, police had arrested the couple's son Matthew Niedere, and Clayton Keister, both 17 and seniors at Concordia Academy in Roseville. The Niederees were shot around 1:50 p.m. and witnesses saw two people run from the store after the shooting and drive away in a Pontiac Grand Am. Tracking tips from the boys' friends, police arrested the teens in Blaine, where Keister lives. The couple's other son, Dan Niedere, spoke about his parents, "My parents were real loving parents. They always wanted the best for you. If you were in a pinch, they would drop everything to be with you." Peter was a leisure pilot and former telephone company worker who loved to work in his yard. In addition to the auto glass shop, Patricia owned a shoe store. She was an avid golfer and a car buff. Matthew Niedere and Clayton Keister were both charged with first-degree murder, second-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder. A third teen, Jamie Patton, 18, was charged with two counts of conspiracy to commit first-degree murder for allegedly helping to plan the murders. Niedere and Keister later both pleaded guilty to two counts of first-degree murder each and were both sentenced to life in prison. They will not be eligible for parole for 30 years. Patton pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit first-degree murder and was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Marilyn Shutter, 55**Bemidji****November 24, 2005**

Police received a call on the evening of Thanksgiving from Theodore Shutter, reporting that his wife, Marilyn, had been shot with a deer rifle. She was taken to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead. The 15-year-old grandson of the couple, whose name has not been released because he is a juvenile, was taken into custody and charged with second-degree intentional murder. Theodore Shutter reported that after the shooting, he took the gun away from his grandson and held him until police arrived. The Shutters had adopted their grandson when he was a baby and were raising him as their son. The grandson told authorities that he thought about shooting both grandparents. In February 2006, the grandson was ruled incompetent to stand trial and was committed to a psychiatric hospital. The goal is to restore his mental health so that he may stand trial. "She was just totally my best friend and a tremendous gal," said Ted Shutter. "She was just my life. [We were married] thirty-seven years November 21st." Marilyn worked as an assistant manager at Bemidji Medical Equipment. She was very much involved with the Beltrami County Fair Board and 4-H. "She loved her community and she loved what she did," said Carla Mandrell, a fellow Fair Board member. "Everything she touched exuded her enthusiasm for what she did, and that was contagious."

Marie Wielenberg, 77**Melrose Township****December 10, 2005**

Preliminary autopsy results confirmed that three deaths at a Melrose Township farm were a double murder-suicide, said Stearns County Sheriff John Sanner. It was determined that Patrick Wielenberg, 43, shot his parents to death. One of the Wielenberg's other sons found his parents, Marie, 77 and Joseph, 82, dead in their bed and his brother, dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, in another room. "Everyone is shocked, truly shocked," Sanner said. "Patrick is the only person who truly knows why this happened, leaving surviving family members and law enforcement to try to piece together all the factors that could possibly contribute to a tragedy like this." Marie enjoyed gardening, scrapbooking, quilting, baking, and spending time with her 24 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Lea Klande, 69**St. Paul****December 12, 2005**

Police arrested Laverne Klande, 45, in connection with the shooting death of his mother, Lea Klande, 69. Lea was found in her apartment by the manager of the building. One of Laverne's sons had called the manager and said his father "was off the wagon and may have done something stupid." Police apprehended Laverne a day after the shooting. He was carrying a gun when arrested. A bullet in the gun matched a shell casing found at the apartment. An autopsy revealed Lea had been shot in the chest and the back of the head. Lea had been sharing her apartment with her son for several months following his seventh drunken-driving charge. Relatives reported that Laverne was upset that his mother had retrieved his truck, impounded after the DWI arrest, and was storing it at his son's house. Laverne Klande was charged with second-degree murder. In July of 2006, he was convicted and sentenced to 25½ years in prison.

Maris Miles, 68**Burnsville****December 30, 2005**

Hours after being turned away from mental health treatment at an Edina Hospital, Stephen Miles, 23, allegedly struck his stepmother, Maris, on the head with a hatchet and then decapitated her. After Stephen told his father, Roland Miles, what he had done, Roland went inside, found his wife's body, and called 911. When police arrived, they found blood in the house and Stephen and Roland Miles in the backyard. Stephen Miles lived with his grandmother and mother in Eagan. He had a history of mental illness and recently told his parents he heard voices coming from the family rug. He fashioned a mixing bowl into a helmet to block out harassing radio messages from the government. The day before Maris' murder, when Roland Miles tried to stop his son from using a fork and hammer to remove the transmitter supposedly embedded in his teeth, Stephen grabbed his father by the neck and attempted to strangle him. The next day, his parents took him to Fairview-Southdale Hospital, where an emergency room physician said there were no beds available and referred the family to another hospital. After his father was unable to convince Stephen to go to another hospital, he was taken to his father's home to play chess. Stephen Miles was charged with second-degree murder and was held without bail pending a psychiatric exam to determine his mental fitness to stand trial. Maris had been a teacher in Faribault. She had retired but returned to education three years ago when hired by an area junior high as an educational assistant to developmentally disabled students. "She was a sweet, kind woman...she loved being around kids and working with kids and helping kids out," stated a co-worker. Maris was also a volunteer for Burnsville's senior citizen organization and the Minnesota Zoo. In 2006, the court determined that Stephen Miles was found incompetent to stand trial due to mental illness. He was ordered to remain in a state mental hospital with a review of his case every six months.

Children murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was the father, mother, guardian, babysitter, childcare provider or household/family member of the child, or the perpetrator was the parent's spouse or intimate partner.

MaKiah Greeninger, 3

St. Paul

January 8, 2005

Paramedics were called to a St. Paul apartment on January 5th, where they found 3-year-old MaKiah unconscious. MaKiah was taken to the hospital, where she died three days later of head injuries. The boyfriend of MaKiah's mother, Mario Mitchell, 24, told police that he dropped the girl when she urinated on him while he babysat her. Doctors who treated the girl said Mitchell's report was inconsistent with "extensive and severe" injuries. "The simplest way to describe the medical evidence at this point was the child was beaten to death. No child should have to die that way," said Susan Gaertner, Ramsey County Attorney. Mitchell was charged with second-degree murder and first-degree manslaughter. In 2006 he pled guilty to manslaughter and sentenced to nearly 7 years in prison.

Dakota Forss, 17 months

St. Paul

April 12, 2005

Joseph Bell, 34, was charged with second-degree murder after admitting to police that he repeatedly abused his girlfriend's son, Dakota Forss, 17 months. Bell told police he knew he would eventually kill the boy, but "just couldn't stop." The little boy had suffered more than 50 injuries in his lifetime, including blows and punches to the head that caused a skull fracture, cigarette burns, blackened eyes, internal bleeding, and injuries to his groin. Large patches of hair had been pulled out and Dakota had suffered a blow to his back so violent it bruised his lungs, the medical examiner determined. "You almost have to believe a day didn't go by where this child wasn't being struck or hurt," said Ramsey County Attorney Susan Gaertner. The toddler's mother, Kalani Forss, told police that she and Bell had lived together since November 2004, and that she had first witnessed Bell abuse her son in January. Bell pleaded guilty to second-degree intentional murder and was sentenced to 25½ years. Kalani Forss later pleaded guilty to felony neglect.

Caleila Lee, 5 months

Roseville

April 15, 2005

Roseville police were called to an apartment at 11 p.m. to respond to a report of a child not breathing. Caleila Lee, 5 months, was rushed to a hospital, where she died an hour later of abdominal bleeding and head injuries. Police arrested Caleila's father, Corey Lee, 25, after he gave inconsistent statements. He and Caleila's mother told police they found the baby unresponsive in her crib, attempted to resuscitate her and then called police. Eventually he told investigators he caused the baby's injuries because he was upset that she was crying. Lee was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Ryane Pearson, 10 months

Bemidji

July 31, 2005

Police officers were called to downtown Bemidji on a report that a baby wasn't breathing. CPR was being performed when officers arrived, but Ryane Pearson, 10 months, was pronounced dead at North Country Hospital. An autopsy found he died of blunt force injuries. Ryane's death was ruled a homicide, but no charges have been filed at this date.

**Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women
2005 Femicide Report**

Friends or family members murdered in domestic violence-related situations.

Peter Niedere, 52

Hastings

October 8, 2005

Disbelief and sadness over the weekend murders of a Hastings couple deepened as news spread that the couple's son and a high school classmate had been arrested in a connection with the crimes. Patricia and Peter Niedere, both 52, were shot to death in their family's auto glass shop. Within hours, police had arrested the couple's adopted son Matthew Niedere, and Clayton Keister, both 17 and seniors at Concordia Academy in Roseville. The Niederees were shot around 1:50 p.m. and witnesses saw two people run from the store after the shooting and drive away in a Pontiac Grand Am. Tracking tips from the boys' friends, police arrested the teens in Blaine, where Keister lives. The couple's other son, Dan Niedere, spoke about his parents, "My parents were real loving parents. They always wanted the best for you. If you were in a pinch, they would drop everything to be with you." Matthew Niedere has been described as a shy and religious athlete. Peter was a leisure pilot and former telephone company worker who loved to work in his yard. In addition to the auto glass shop, Patricia owned a shoe store. She was an avid golfer and a car buff. Matthew Niedere and Clayton Keister both were charged with first-degree murder, second-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder. A third teen, Jamie Patton, 18, was charged with two counts of conspiracy to commit first-degree murder for allegedly helping to plan the murders.

Joseph Wielenberg, 82

Melrose Township

December 10, 2005

Preliminary autopsy results confirmed that three deaths at a Melrose Township farm were a double murder-suicide, said Stearns County Sheriff John Sanner. It was determined that Patrick Wielenberg, 43, shot his parents to death. One of the Wielenberg's other sons found his parents, Marie, 77 and Joseph, 82, dead in their bed and his brother, dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, in another room. "Everyone is shocked, truly shocked," Sanner said. "Patrick is the only person who truly knows why this happened, leaving surviving family members and law enforcement to try to piece together all the factors that could possibly contribute to a tragedy like this." Joseph was a beekeeper and enjoyed reading books, the outdoors, and spending time with his 24 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Women and children murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was an acquaintance of the deceased woman or child, or was a stranger or an unknown assailant.

Pa Houa Yang, 13

Minneapolis

January 14, 2005

Pa Houa's body was found inside a disabled van on a cold January day. She had been shot once in the head. The case remains unsolved and there are no suspects. "The pain still hurts so much," said Pa Houa's mother, Xai Hang. Investigators are frustrated. "[He] shoots her and leaves her in the van like a piece of garbage, and she freezes," said Lt. Lee Edwards of Minneapolis Police. "The last day of her life must have been terrifying for her, and we need to keep that in mind. She was just 13 years old." Pa Houa was an excellent student at Franklin Middle School, but she had begun skipping classes and hanging out with the wrong crowd.

Memory Pachowicz, 33

St. Paul

March 6, 2005

Memory Pachowicz crossed paths with her suspected killer only by chance. The man who authorities believe lured the 33-year old mother of two to a vacant apartment and murdered her, Nathaniel Glass, 26, was also charged with drawing another woman to the same apartment the month before and raping her. Glass was charged with two counts of second-degree murder in Memory's death. Memory was last seen at 1 a.m. the night of her murder, when a man told police he saw her in her car and saw a maroon car behind her. Memory told the man that "the vehicle behind her was with her and she was OK," said the criminal complaint. Pachowicz told the man she was going to follow the car to a place where she could buy marijuana. An autopsy determined that Memory died of multiple blunt force impacts to the head. She was the mother of two girls, ages 1 and 13, and was pregnant at the time of her death. Memory was studying to be a veterinary technician and was originally from South Dakota. Glass pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 35 years in prison.

Julie Ann Nayquonabe-Nickaboine, 35

Onamia

April 2, 2005

Danielle Boyd, 23, was charged with 14 counts, including 2 counts of second-degree murder, after she allegedly attacked two women with a knife, scissors and hit them with a car on the Mille Lacs Reservation. One of the women, Julie Ann Nayquonabe-Nickaboine, 35, was found dead in the middle of the street. An autopsy showed she had been stabbed in her left lung and had been run over by a car. The other woman was run over and sustained a head injury and was expected to survive. The criminal complaint stated that at 2:30 a.m. the three women got into an argument at a home. A witness said that Boyd got a knife and scissors and attacked the other two women and that she allegedly got into a car and struck the women from behind. In December 2005, Boyd pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to more than 20 years in prison.

Evelyn Geng, 62**Minneapolis****August 13, 2005**

Evelyn Geng was run down by a car at a gas station after she tried to stop a man who stole \$50 and a bottle of Pepsi from her. Simone Stillday, 23, was arrested and charged with second-degree murder. From the passenger seat, Stillday ordered the woman driving the car to run down Evelyn Geng, 62, who was standing in front of the car demanding the return of her money. When the driver refused, Stillday got behind the wheel and ran over Geng in the parking lot. Stillday told police that she was drunk at the time and that she thought she'd "hit a curb," according to murder charges filed in Hennepin County District Court. With her son looking on, and despite frantic attempts by police officers and witnesses at the station, Geng died about 40 minutes later. Evelyn's family said she was energetic and young at heart. She was a widowed mother of three and enjoyed making candles, going to garage sales, and traveling all over the country to visit her friends. Simone Stillday was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 25 years in prison.

Sidney Mahkuk, 11**Minneapolis****Body found October 23, 2005**

The body of an 11-year-old girl was found on a Minneapolis sidewalk behind a funeral home. An autopsy determined that Sidney Mahkuk died of a cocaine overdose. "We are investigating this as if it were a homicide," said Minneapolis Police Chief William McManus. "An 11-year-old girl doesn't wind up dead of her own volition on a sidewalk..." Sidney had been missing from home for a few days before she was found dead. Sidney was the second youngest of seven children and she loved spelling and animals. She was described as a good-hearted girl whose knowledge of street life in her neighborhood made her seem older than her years. "My family is begging, begging on their knees for someone to come forward for my little sister," said Sugar Askenette, Sidney's older sister. "We deserve to know what happened to her. The hurt, the pain are too much not to know."

Tiara Martell-Dingmann, 23**St. Cloud****November 26, 2005**

Tiara was killed after a bullet went through the window of an apartment where she was attending a party. The host of the party told police that earlier in the evening, David Delk, 19, had gotten into an altercation with another party guest. He left the party and went to the home of a family member, where he gathered people to return to the party. Back at the party, another fight broke out between the guests and this group of people and continued outside. David Delk's brother, Antonio Delk, 24, pointed a handgun at the apartment and fired off at least 3 rounds. One shot went through the window and struck Tiara in the head. Antonio and David Delk were both charged with two counts of second-degree murder.

Lul Ibrahim, 35**Eden Prairie****December 12, 2005**

Keith Allen Bruce, 18, was charged with second-degree murder in connection with a car theft that turned into a fatal hit-and-run. According to the criminal complaint, Bruce had gotten into Lul's sister's car, which was parked but unoccupied, and started driving out of a mall parking lot. Lul and her sister, Hawa Hassan, ran after the car. Bruce backed up the car, striking Ibrahim, and then sped off. Lul Ibrahim died in the hospital four days later of massive head trauma. "This is a crime that shocks the entire community," said Hennepin County Attorney Amy Klobuchar. "Lul Ibrahim was a wife, a mother of two and a business owner. She had also worked at our Domestic Abuse Service Center serving as an advocate for victims of domestic violence. It's a terrible tragedy that her own life has now been taken by an act of random violence. We will aggressively prosecute this case." Bruce pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 7½ years in prison.

We also remember and honor the women, men and children murdered in the Red Lake shootings on March 21, 2005.

Derrick Brun, 28

Dewayne Lewis, 15

Chase Lussier, 15

Daryl Lussier, 58

Neva Rogers, 61

Chanelle Rosebear, 15

Michelle Sigana, 32

Alicia Spike, 14

Thurlene Stillday, 15

About the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women

The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women was founded in 1978 to serve as a unifying voice for battered women and to link battered women's programs in the state with the common purpose of ending domestic violence. MCBW is a statewide membership organization of local, regional, and statewide programs advocating on behalf of battered women and their children.

MCBW promotes social change—individual, institutional, and cultural. We work to end oppression based on gender, race, age, sexual orientation, class, and disability. The specific work of MCBW involves changing systems and institutions so that they can respond more effectively to the needs of battered women. MCBW works to empower organizations that serve victims of domestic abuse. MCBW provides widespread networking opportunities for organizations that serve battered women and is the statewide voice on behalf on battered women and provides leadership on a regional, statewide, and national level.

MCBW's activities include resources and referrals for individuals, legislative and public policy advocacy on a statewide and federal level, sponsoring training events for programs that serve battered women, coordinating statewide task force meetings, serving as an information clearinghouse, publishing a quarterly newsletter and web site, and producing community education materials.

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women is to provide a voice for battered women and member programs; challenge systems and institutions so they respond more effectively to the needs of battered women and their children; promote social change; and support, educate, and connect member programs.

Vision Statement:

The vision of the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women is to end violence against women and their children and to achieve social justice for all.

- January 8: *MaKiah Greeninger, 3, St. Paul, beaten to death by her father*
- January 23: *Tina Gerving, 39, Erskine, shot to death by her husband in a murder-suicide*
- February 15: *Cassandra Koochek, 42, St. Paul, beaten to death by her boyfriend*
- February 18: *Moonku "Marissa" Persaud, 40, Eagan, strangled to death by her ex-boyfriend*
- February 26: *Bonita Thoms, 58, Ross Lake Township, drowned by her step-nephew*
- March 15: *Jessica Rose, 18, Duluth, strangled to death by her fiancé*
- March 18: *Diane Hedalen, 50, Burnsville, stabbed to death by her nephew*
- March 26: *Mai Yia Lee, Minneapolis, stabbed to death by her fiancé*
- April 12: *Dakota Forss, 17 months, St. Paul, beaten to death by his mother's boyfriend*
- April 15: *Caleila Lee, 5 months, Roseville, beaten to death by her father*
- May 14: *Patricia McGhee, 31, Burnsville, shot to death by her boyfriend*
- May 27: *Tammy Hughes, 30, Albert Lea, shot to death by her husband*
- June 5: *Hazel Boswell, 70, Bemidji, beaten to death by her son*
- June 11: *Tiffany Bowes, 22, St. Paul, shot to death by her ex-boyfriend in a murder-suicide*
- June 23: *Sherry Thompson, 15, Bloomington, given fatal drug overdose by her boyfriend*
- June 24: *Angelina Garley, 27, Brooklyn Park, shot to death by her boyfriend*
- June 26: *Brenda Kirksey, 50, St. Paul, beaten to death by her son and his girlfriend*
- July 22: *Susan Keezer, 47, Bagley, stabbed to death by her girlfriend*
- July 31: *Ryane Pearson, 10 months, Bemidji, beaten to death by an undisclosed perpetrator—believed to be a domestic homicide*
- August 2: *Laurie Bird, 49, Champlin, shot to death by her husband*
- August 3: *Beverly Benson, 72, Bloomington, shot to death by her husband*
- August 25: *Roman Kidane, 25, St. Louis Park, stabbed to death by her boyfriend*
- October 8: *Patricia and Peter Niedere, both 52, Hastings, shot to death by their son*
- October 14: *Sheila Hollie, 43, Minneapolis, shot to death by her boyfriend*
- October 18: *Crystal Halloran Drummer, 23, Plymouth, stabbed, beaten and strangled to death by her husband*
- November 24: *Marilyn Shutter, 55, Bemidji, shot to death by her grandson*
- December 10: *Marie Wielenberg, 77, and Joseph Wielenberg, 82, Melrose Township, shot to death by their son in a double murder-suicide*
- December 12: *Lea Klande, 69, St. Paul, shot to death by her son*
- December 18: *Linda Klyve, Rolling Forks Township, shot to death by her ex-boyfriend in a murder-suicide*
- December 30: *Maris Miles, 68, Burnsville, decapitated by her stepson with an ax*

In 2005, 32 Minnesotans lost their lives as a result of domestic violence or child abuse. Remember their names...