



## **Erie County Domestic Violence High Risk Team**



Erie County established a High Risk Team in our community, with the Coordinator based out of Haven House and the High Risk Team Advocate based out of the International Institute of Buffalo.

The Domestic Violence High Risk Team (HRT) model is founded on research that indicates that domestic violence homicides are predictable, and the concept that if these homicides can be predicted they can be prevented. The team uses many different tools to improve victim safety and hold offenders accountable. The Erie County High Risk Team includes members from domestic violence agencies, The Erie County District Attorney's Office, law enforcement, probation, parole, Child Protective Services, and Erie County Department of Social Services legal unit.

The High Risk Team assists with identifying high-risk domestic violence cases through assessments conducted by advocates and law enforcement. The HRT meets once a month to develop individualized plans for victims at the highest level of danger and those that are experiencing gaps in the system. Cases are monitored on an ongoing basis and once the consent is signed the case can stay on the team up to a year.

Signing a consent form does not guarantee you will be on the team. If your case is accepted on to the team, your advocate will let you know and the advocate will present the case to the team members. Your advocate will follow up with any interventions or ideas the team has to help your case. Interventions look different for every case and your advocate can give you examples. The Erie County High Risk Team keeps victims safer, and holds offenders accountable.