

Link between Misdemeanor & Felony Protocols

Intended results

- Paying more attention to repeat offenders.
- Reduced number of repeat offenders and DV cases.
- Improved training and education.
- Improved communication between MCAO/Municipal prosecutor's offices.
- Simplified & aligned system so officers and victims will have better understanding.
- Determine the best avenue for charging based on likelihood of conviction to avoid "turn down" cases.

How do we measure success?

- Less recidivism.
- Increased awareness for officers of offenders who are being arrested when on probation, officers need a more efficient system.
- Increased public reporting.
- More detailed reports.
- Better prosecution rates.
- Improved officer response.
- Longer jail sentences.
- More communication between the city and county.

Challenges/barriers

- Entering misdemeanor probationers into the system so officers are in the know.
- Holding/revoking probationers could overload detention.
- Some cities (such as Wickenburg) do not have intensive probation.
- Time commitments to perform other duties.
- Repeat offenders can violate orders often and get releases.
- Adhering to the statutory law and county charging practices.
- Case load amongst detective/attorneys.
- Manpower of all entities.
- Judges having continues/on-going training.

What have we learned?

- Needs to be a multi-disciplinary approach.
- More training and understanding between disciplines.
- Following the misdemeanor protocol doesn't always transition to a felony.
- Training for I.A. Judges was beneficial.
- Designated DV judges who have had the proper training and display a particular interest/passion for these types of cases.

How will it be different this time?

- Quarterly/monthly meeting with multi-disciplinary group to discuss cases of repeat offenders with aims to improve how they are handled.
- A pilot project between the cities and the county (courts) to ensure the protocols are working by examining the data received.
- Make charges stricter where attorney either offers plea or defendant chooses trial.
- Addressing victim cooperation.

Additional resources/Key People

- Probation, Law enforcement, victim advocates, CPS, SANE nurses.
- City prosecutors, chiefs of police.