



Domestic Violence Homicides in Massachusetts

January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

Homicide Victim Deaths

January 16, 2016: Jeannine O'Connor, 51, of Waltham was found dead next to her husband, Kevin O'Connor, who allegedly shot her multiple times before taking his own life in their home. Police responded to a family member's request for a well-being check. According to media reports, police removed at least two rifles from the home. O'Connor was a loving mother, grandmother, and admired by her colleagues for her "gentle spirit of kindness and warmth." O'Connor was a retired police detective who was honored in 2001 for his bravery in preventing a robbery. The couple leaves behind their beloved children, several nieces and nephews, and grandchildren.

January 26, 2016: Elisete Benevides, 51, of Peabody died from knife wounds after allegedly being attacked by Gelcino Souza Oliveira, an ex-boyfriend, who subsequently committed suicide. Officials report that Benevides was on the phone with a relative in Brazil when suddenly she screamed and the line went dead. Unable to reach her again, the relatives called Peabody Police to do a wellness check where they found Benevides' body on the side porch of her home next to Oliveira. Both had suffered from knife wounds. Benevides and Oliveira had been in a relationship, which Benevides had ended three months prior to the killings. Police report that there was no prior restraining orders or documented evidence of violence in the relationship. In Brazil, Benevides owned her own grocery store, and after moving to America she owned Lisa's Cleaning Service. Benevides leaves behind three daughters and four grandchildren.

January 27, 2016: Julie Meede, 34, of Norton passed away after being brutally attacked by her estranged husband, Martin McDonald, 35, in her home. McDonald allegedly stabbed Meede in the face, torso, and abdomen while four young children watched. The oldest child, 10, had tried to contact 911 and to intervene but was physically stopped by McDonald. After McDonald left, the daughter called 911 to report her mother was not breathing and was instructed to put pressure on the stab wounds. Within minutes of this 911 call, McDonald was involved in a head-on collision after trying to flee the scene. The other driver suffered serious injuries. According to police reports, he confessed to the police when arrested after the crash but later entered a not guilty plea in court. McDonald was charged with murder, assault and battery on a child and witness intimidation and ordered to be held without bail; he was transported to Bridgewater State Hospital for a criminal responsibility competency mental health evaluation given his history of suicidality and other hospitalizations for psychiatric issues. McDonald is survived by a son and two daughters; she was known as a loving parent and was very close to her mother, Brenda.

February 9, 2016: John Williams, 70, of Wareham was found dead inside of his residence, his body "bullet ridden" and showing stab wounds as well. John Wittey, Williams's friend, is being charged with the murder. Wittey, after learning Williams was involved in a romantic relationship with his deceased girlfriend, Atta-Harris, flew into a rage and shot Williams ten times. Harris had previously taken out a

restraining order on Wittey. Wittey was also previously convicted of assaulting a disabled person over the age of 60. Wittey was arraigned in Wareham District Court on February 12; he pled not guilty and was held without bail. The daughter of the victim, Mary Ellen Travassos of Dighton, stated Williams was a great man and father.

February 15, 2016: Colleen Russell, 36, of Malden was found dead inside her apartment due to sharp force injuries amid signs of a struggle. Kenneth Manning, Russell's former boyfriend, has been charged with murder as well as larceny of a motor vehicle. Before the event, Manning was scheduled to be tried in Malden District Court in March for assault and battery on a household member, assault with a dangerous weapon, malicious destruction of property over \$250 and larceny under \$250. He had been arrested after pulling a knife on Russell in July 2016 and was also charged in 2002 with assault and battery at a different address. Manning was found dead in Somerville's Mystic River and recovered by police on Tuesday, March 15. Colleen Russell was the beloved daughter of Lucille and the late Douglas Russell, and the loving sister of Douglas Russell of Natick.

April 5, 2016: Renee Herbert, 45, of West Springfield was stabbed to death by her husband, Peter Doherty, who was shot to death by police after a confrontation. Police officers responded to a call from a neighbor who reported hearing Herbert yell out for help. They found Herbert suffering from serious injuries, and Doherty charged at them with a knife. Herbert was the mother of three and had a positive relationship with her former husband. A nurse, Herbert was known for her loving, patient and caring personality as well as her adventurous spirit. Herbert and Doherty were married for just over five months. Family noted that they found Doherty to be controlling but were unaware of how serious the situation was. They have established domestic violence awareness group called WORTH, Warriors of Renee Thibeault Herbert, urging people to love themselves and others.

April 13, 2016: Kelly Sugarman, 36, of Grafton was allegedly shot and killed by her husband, Michel Sugarman, 42, before attempting to kill himself. The couple was discovered after their five-year old daughter was seen wandering the streets in her pajamas and picked up by police. When police arrived, Kelly was pronounced dead at the scene and Michael who found clutching a knife protruding from his neck. The child was taken into custody by the Department of Children and Families. Sugarman was charged with murder and ordered held without bail by Westborough District Court on April 21. He was then sent to Bridgewater State Hospital for mental health evaluation.

June 14, 2016: Rosa Goncalves, 53, of Brockton was found in the bedroom of her home and allegedly strangled by her longtime boyfriend, Antonio Cardoso, 61, who subsequently hung himself in the kitchen of their apartment. The couple's landlord responded to a wellbeing check at the request of Cardoso's brother and called 911 upon finding the bodies. Cardoso and Goncalves had been a couple for 20 years; both had children, though none with each other. Based on an initial investigation, officers stated there was no history of calls to the Mason Street home and neither Goncalves nor Cardoso had a prior history with police.

July 3, 2016: Sabrina DaSilva, 19, of New Bedford, was allegedly shot and killed by her father Walter DaSilva, 45, as she came home from grocery shopping. Walter had expressed anger at his daughter's refusing to visit him on Father's Day and to end a relationship she was having with an older man. According to reports, he had planned to kill his daughter and her boyfriend and his former wife. Walter was found in Bridgeport, Connecticut, a month later and arrested on a probation violation. He was later charged with murder and firearms violations and held without bail. He was granted a request for a mental

health assessment. Sabrina had recently reconnected with her father. He had been deported to Brazil after serving an eight- to ten-year prison term for attempted to kill Sabrina's mother and his former wife, Lillian Silva. In news reports Silva described the escalating abuse perpetrated by Walter. Sabrina leaves a two-year old daughter.

August 1, 2016: Carmela Saunders, 48, of Salem was allegedly strangled to death by her estranged husband, Douglas Steeves, 50. The couple had been married for 27 years and had 5 children. Saunders had an active restraining order against Steeves that was issued because of his threats, stalking and violent behavior. A friend reported that he had previously tried to kill her. Saunders filed for divorce twice – once in 2014 and again in February 2016. Around six months prior to the homicide, Saunders had moved out of their apartment and Steeves was evicted for nonpayment of rent. While friends and neighbors said that the threats and harassment continued, there's no indication of any further police involvement. According to reports, Steeves turned himself into the police in the middle of the morning and told them he had killed his wife. He has been charged with murder.

August 26, 2016: Rebecca Griffin, 51, of Ashby was stabbed to death by her former husband John Griffin, 55, who committed suicide in his home. The couple divorced in 1990 but maintained a relationship. It was not unusual for Rebecca to be at his house. No known history was reported.

September 2, 2016: Zhen Li, 52, of Wollaston was allegedly murdered by her ex-husband who intentionally ran her over in the driveway of their home. Initially considered an accident as Chow backed out of the driveway, the event was determined to be intentional based on additional investigation by both the Quincy and State Police. Chow was indicted by a grand jury on March 22, 2017 and arrested the following day. He pled guilty and was held without bail.

September 12, 2016: Wanda Rosa, 29, of Methuen was allegedly killed by her estranged boyfriend Emilio Da La Rosa, 32. Their four-year-old son was in the house at the time of the murder. Da La Rosa took him to a relative's house and then fled; the relative contacted police. Da La Rosa was released from state prison on January 15, 2016, after spending four years and one day in prison for attacking Wanda Rosa. While there was an active no abuse restraining order, Rosa requested in June that it be modified to allow Da La Rosa to have contact with his son. A warrant has been issued for Da La Rosa's arrest.

October 6, 2016: A 36-year old woman in West Roxbury (Boston) has been charged with allegedly fatally stabbing her husband. Information will be added when available.

Perpetrator Deaths:

January 29, 2016: Randolph McClain, 33, of Lynn was shot and killed by police officers who were attempting to serve five outstanding arrest warrants for restraining order violations all from January 2016, including threats against his ex-girlfriend and her family with a gun. McClain allegedly jumped from a two story window and aimed a gun at the officers trying to execute the warrants. McClain then ran to a car and forced a woman out of the driver's seat at gunpoint. Three officers closed in on McClain and fired shots. He was transported to Salem Hospital and pronounced dead. Massachusetts State Police detectives assigned to the Essex District Attorney's office are investigating the shooting. McClain was being investigated by the police departments Domestic Violence Unit for allegedly threatening his ex-girlfriend and her family at gunpoint as well as multiple restraining order violations.

March 24, 2016: Robert Dussourd, of Braintree was fatally shot by police after refusing to drop his knife during a confrontation with officers near his home. Police were called to the home in response to a domestic disturbance and told a man in the home had been fighting with his girlfriend for a few hours, threatened to slash her car tires and then left after brandishing a knife. The girlfriend's father, Robert Kelley, was also present and urged Dussourd to leave. Dussourd was found hiding under a parked car at a neighboring residence and after multiple refusals to drop his knife, he was first fired at with non-lethal bean bags and then shot and killed by police. He was transported to South Shore Hospital and died. The police shooting is being investigated by MA State Police from the Norfolk District Attorney's Office. Dussourd's history of violence and dating abuse dated back to 1989, including a November 1997 case in which he was sentenced to a year in jail for assaulting a woman with a hammer, a 2012 arrest for threatening his then wife and 16-month old children and numerous other assaults.

April 29, 2016: Antonio Gonzalez, of Lawrence died of self-inflicted gun wounds after shooting and injuring his ex-girlfriend, Yenny Santos, followed by a standoff with police. The day prior to the incident Santos was in court to obtain a restraining order against Gonzalez and described being terrified of the father of her two children. The judge granted the order. However, due to a computer glitch, the restraining order was not served. The next day Gonzalez shot Yenny five times in front of their four-year old son before smashing a window and shooting out at police. Yenny was hospitalized and was stable and conscious in the days following the shooting. The child was not physically harmed. According to reports, Gonzalez had a long history of being physically violence, "explosively jealous and sometimes suicidal." Gonzalez had priors dating back over ten years previously been convicted of assaulting her with a knife and served a year in prison.

June 24, 2016: Jermaine Good, 43, of Mattapan was allegedly shot multiple times by Rogers Jordan, 51, after a confrontation over Good's former girlfriend. According to prosecutors, Good was upset that his former girlfriend was staying at Jordan's apartment even though they were not in a romantic relationship. After Good arrived at Jordan's apartment, they went outside and during the confrontation, Jordan allegedly shot Good.

August 8, 2016: Francesco Cenca, 44, of Wilmington died of self-inflicted stab wounds after seriously injuring the woman he was dating. Her name has not been released. No additional information is available.

Overview of Domestic Violence Homicides in Massachusetts Year to Date 2016			
		WHO ARE THESE DV HOMICIDE VICTIMS?	
		# of DV Homicide Incidents	19
# of DV Homicide Victims	15	Male DV Victims	1
		DV Perpetrators	1
# of DV Perpetrator Suicides or Deaths^	9	Female Associated with DV Victim	0
Total DV Deaths	24	Male Associated with DV Victim	1
Male DV Homicide Perpetrators	14	Children Associated with DV Victim	1
Female DV Homicide Perpetrators	1	Family (non-IPV)	0
		Bystanders (includes police)	0