

“This ruling acknowledges that the life of a domestic violence survivor takes precedence over the ability of a violent offenders to retain possession of their weapons after being prohibited under the law. At TCFV, we are encouraged by this 8-1 decision while recognizing that enforcement of currently existing laws in Texas is still not sufficient in saving lives. Alongside survivors, those who have lost a loved one to intimate partner homicide and our member agencies, we will continue our work to ensure that laws designed to create safety for survivors of family violence are implemented in our state. As always, lives are at stake.” -Molly Voyles, Director of Public Policy, TCFV.

Austin, TX – (June 21, 2024) Right now, hundreds of thousands of people in our country are breathing a sigh of relief because of the Supreme Court’s ruling on *Rahimi vs. U.S.*

As the unified voice of domestic violence providers and survivors in Texas, the [Texas Council on Family Violence \(TCFV\)](#) thanks our Supreme Court for prioritizing a victim’s right to safety, and their life, in this recent 8-1 ruling. This landmark decision prioritizes the life of a vulnerable survivor of violence over a violent domestic violence offender’s right to possess a gun, when that offender has already proven to be irresponsible and dangerous in their gun ownership. The opinion states, “When an individual has been found by a court to pose a credible threat to the physical safety of another, that individual may be temporarily disarmed consistent with the Second Amendment.”

This is a significant stabilizing ruling in creating safety for survivors at risk of homicide by their abusive partner. It is an encouragement to service providers all over the country, who work to support survivor safety planning every single day. It is proof that when our movement is united in educating professionals and lawmakers on domestic violence, we can move closer toward our goal of creating a safer Texas together. This case has raised awareness a great deal. Now, more people know what we know:

- The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by as much as 500%.
- Of the 216 Texans lost to domestic violence in 2022, 70% were killed by a perpetrator with a firearm, and more than 35% of those involved a perpetrator who was legally temporarily barred from possessing a firearm at the time.
- Over the past 10 years, the number of women murdered by an intimate partner with a firearm in Texas has nearly doubled.
- The majority of mass shootings in the U.S. – 68% in fact – involve a shooter who had a history of intimate partner violence or family violence.

While this ruling is monumental, it only upholds a safeguard that already existed in law – it does not ensure these laws are fully implemented. Although Texas’s own firearm transfer laws are over 20 years old, we know that less than 10 of our 254 counties have any kind of protocol in place to actually enforce them for qualifying domestic violence offenders. So, TCFV vows to continue to work with policy makers, law enforcement offices, local judges and more to build safer Texas communities.

Survivors and advocates should continue telling us their stories and sharing them with their local law makers. We must not lose sight of the fact that this ruling is one step in a long journey. We do this work because we know domestic violence, and particularly domestic violence homicide, is preventable. One more death is too many.

If you or someone you know is facing danger from domestic or family violence situation, call or text the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE or visit the Texas directory of domestic violence providers [here](#) to find help locally. These are safe places to seek shelter and ask for help.

-Texas Council on Family Violence