



INDIVIDUALLY WE POWER CHANGE.
TOGETHER WE POWER A MOVEMENT.

As the sole coalition of domestic violence providers in Texas, the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) is dedicated to creating safer communities and freedom from family violence across our state. Research has demonstrated time and again the devastating threat to safety when domestic violence and firearms intersect – it creates a proven lethal mix for victims, law enforcement and communities at large.

As we digest the [recent opinion](#) from the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals, we recall the hundreds of Texans shot and killed by their intimate partner in the last few years. We think of these victims' families. We fear for the many survivors currently at a terrifyingly high risk of being killed by a violent partner with a firearm. How can we not? When we know:

- The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by as much as 500%.
- In 2021 alone, more than 70% of domestic violence victims were killed with a firearm.
- One hundred percent of law enforcement, family, friends and bystanders killed in 2021 domestic violence homicides incidents were killed by a perpetrator with a firearm.
- Over the past 10 years, the number of women murdered by an intimate partner with a firearm in Texas has nearly doubled.

This opinion does not change the research. It does not remove the life-threatening risk of a perpetrator with a gun; it will only embolden them. It does not reduce the tremendous grief of a slain victim's family; it will only heighten it.

As TCFV further reviews the opinion and consults with our partners, we will not lose sight of the survivors whose lives are at stake. Our path is set – we re-double our conviction and efforts to create a safer Texas through direct services, prevention programs and policy. Please visit tcfv.org to join us in creating safety for survivors and freedom from family violence.