



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

---

June 2015

Over the years as a prosecutor, and as your District Attorney, I have been dedicated to bringing justice to victims of crime. In addition to seeking justice and restitution for victims, it is also imperative to analyze and test different tactics and strategies aimed at stopping repeat offenders and preventing crime before it occurs. It has been repeatedly stated that law enforcement cannot “arrest and incarcerate” our way to a solution. To that end the Collaborative Court model has been used to combine judicial supervision with rehabilitative services to reduce recidivism. In Tulare County we have a several collaborative courts: Veteran’s Court, Drug Court, Mental Health Court, and starting this month two new collaborative courts, Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Court and Domestic Violence Court.

The California Courts describe Collaborative Courts as “problem solving courts which promote accountability by combining judicial supervision with rehabilitation services that are rigorously monitored and focused on recovery”.

These two new courts, DUI and Domestic Violence, are following in the footsteps of our successful collaborative courts we have in place. Under the guidance of Presiding Judge Gary Paden and the attentive eye of Chief Probation Officer Christie Myer, these courts will have an intensive supervision model specifically designed for these offenders. Evidence-based treatment, accountability, and time in custody all factor together to ensure the best possible results. We look forward to reversing the trend of recidivism that seems to plague DUI and domestic violence crimes.

In the DUI Collaborative Court requires three years of formal probation, transdermal alcohol monitoring a minimum of 30 days following release, installation of the Interlock device, and completion of a certified DUI program.

I have made my feeling regarding domestic violence well known. We have a team of prosecutors and investigators dedicated to investigating and prosecuting family violence. But this type of crime may be the most susceptible to reoccurring if there is not intervention, accountability, and counseling. In the Domestic Violence Collaborative Court, a victim cannot rescind a restraining order until he or she attends two individual counselling sessions and one conjoint session with the offender through Family Services of Tulare County or Central California Family Crisis Center.

I am enthusiastically looking forward to seeing what we can accomplish with this model, how many lives we can turn around, and how many crimes we can prevent.

Tim Ward  
District Attorney