

**Exhibit Number:** 3

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Bill No. 3  
Date 3-3-05  
HB 90

**REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE**

**MONTANA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW COMMISSION**

**JANUARY 2005**

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STATE OF MONTANA  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES & RESTORATIVE JUSTICE  
CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION

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Fellow Montanans:

The Montana Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission brings forth its first summary report with a sense of sadness and a commitment to work for improvements in our state's response to domestic violence. Created by HB 116 and authorized by the 2003 legislature, the Commission is charged with reviewing homicides across the state resulting from intimate partner violence. The Commission is required to report its findings and recommendations every two years, coinciding with new legislative sessions.

The Commission undertakes two reviews per year. This report describes how the Commission does its work, summarizes trends identified through the first four reviews and contains forms and documents to be used in implementing the Commission's recommendations. It provides a broad overview of who the Commission is, its purpose and its work thus far.

Unfortunately, the need for the Commission has not lessened in the past two years. Twelve individuals died in the homicides reviewed in this report. Since 2000, at least 10 additional domestic violence deaths have occurred. The ultimate goal of the Commission's work, to reduce that number, remains urgent.

The Commission is extremely grateful to the Montana legislature for the opportunity to undertake this important work. We are also indebted to Attorney General Mike McGrath for his ongoing support and direction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Dale".

Matthew Dale, Coordinator  
Montana Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission