IN WAKE OF CARTER MURDER CONVICTION, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGENCY CALLS FOR CONSISTENT STATEWIDE POLICIES

Hartford, CT- In response to the guilty verdict handed down yesterday to James Carter, Jr. for the 2009 murder of Tiana Notice, the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) is calling for a sustained push by statewide agencies to establish consistent policy as it relates to protective orders against domestic violence abusers.

On Valentine's Day 2009, Mr. Carter, against whom Ms. Notice (his ex-girlfriend) already had a restraining order, took a knife and drove to her home in Plainville where he called two locksmith companies from his cell phone in an attempt to get in her house. When that didn't work, he lay in wait and then fatally stabbed her when she came home. According to the Chief Medical Examiner, Ms. Notice received 18 separate knife injuries that led to her eventual death. Yesterday, with Ms. Notice's family standing nearby in the courtroom, Carter was found guilty of murder and criminal violation of a restraining order. The murder charge could send him to prison for up to 60 years.

“Domestic violence homicides are not isolated and private tragedies,” said Karen Jarmoc, Interim Executive Director at the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV). “Because a pattern of control, intimidation and escalating violence often leads up to the ultimate fatality, domestic violence homicides are among the most predictable types of murder. We must continue to help victims, law enforcement officials and state agencies to better identify these warning signs so that tragedies such as the loss of Tiana Notice can be prevented.”

Last year, 30,000 protective orders and 7,500 restraining orders were issued in Connecticut criminal and civil courts. CCADV is seeking stronger protections for victims with such orders. Statewide victim advocates maintain that such orders of protection may be violated numerous times without consequence. Connecticut's statewide coalition is pushing for the institution of stricter penalties for the violation of a protective or restraining order. In total, over 54,000 victims sought services last year from 18 community-based agencies which also offer 24/7 crisis intervention, safety planning, counseling, and safe accommodations. These programs comprise CCADV, the state's domestic violence leadership organization. Help may be accessed statewide by calling 888-774-2900.

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Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc. (CCADV), is a statewide 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that works to change social conditions through policy advocacy, public awareness, technical assistance and education. The current membership of the CCADV includes private, non-profit agencies providing services to victims of domestic violence.. To learn more about CCADV, please visit www.ctcadv.org.