

Berte van Heemst

Coordinating prosecutor domestic violence, district of Rotterdam (Netherlands)

OPENBAAR MINISTERIE

**Information sharing in the multidisciplinary
approach in Rotterdam (NL)**

Chain partners working in DV

- Police
- Safe home
- Prosecution office
- Parole officers
- Court
- Filomena (FJC Rotterdam)
- Women's shelters
- Victim support
- Care and Safety House
- Lawyers
- Youth care
- Municipalities

1. Can we all share information?

YES!

- Care and Safety House **Covenant**
- **Law** – “Wet gegevensverwerking door samenwerkingsverbanden” (Data processing within partnerships)
Changed in March 2025: Safe Home can share information with not only police, but also with the Parole Board, Public Prosecution and more partners with which they cooperate.
- **Immediate unsafety**: sharing information is no problem

2. Do we need to share information?

YES!

- It is the core of our approach to end domestic violence!
- Result of years of building trust, learning and finetuning our approach

3. Are we willing to share information?

Mostly: YES!

When not?

- When it could harm the criminal investigation
- When it concerns sensitive information (e.g. medical info) → approval of the investigating judge needed

How and when do we share information?

1. When a suspect of DV is arrested
2. After the arrest
3. Without an arrest

1. When a suspect of DV is arrested

- Safety notification from the police to Safe Home
- After the arrest we always discuss the DV case and the suspect with our chain partners: mainly the police, probation officers, Dutch Victim Support, Safe Home and Prosecution
- Appropriate decision regarding prosecution
Summons / safety measures for the victim

2. After the arrest

- Court session: parole report contains info from police and Safe Home
- High risk cases go to the weekly DV case meeting at the Care and Safety House
- Multidisciplinary consultation ad hoc
- Continuously sharing information about:
 - Custody status of suspect
 - Protection orders
 - Verdicts in court
 - New incidents / violations

High risk stalking and harassment in Rotterdam

- Specialised team of three prosecutors
- One prosecutor handles the case from day 1 until forever...
- Always close contact with our chain partners
- One contact person for the victim (police and prosecution)
- Priority case at “Safe Home”

Struggles

- Notifying all chain partners and the victims on time about
 - Custody status of suspect
 - Protection orders
 - Verdicts in court
- Acting fast in case of violations / new incidents

3. Without an arrest or criminal investigation

- Notification to the Care and Safety House from the field
- Notification to Safe Home from professionals (doctors, teachers) or civilians (neighbors, family)
- Filomena: walk-ins
- We can always start an ad hoc multidisciplinary consultation

Any questions?

