

Lethality Risk Assessment

Is Your Life in Danger?

The greater the number of indicators below that are present, the greater the likelihood of a life threatening attack. Please complete the assessment and continue to "Domestic Violence: Safety Plan Guidelines".

- Has the abuser threatened to kill you, the children, your relatives or himself or herself?
Prior threats to kill is one of the strongest risk factors consistently linked to homicide.
- Has the abuser expressed ideas, dreams or fantasies about killing you, the children, your relatives or himself or herself?
The risk is greater if the abuser is very specific about plans or intended methods.
- Has the abuser made more than one threat? Daily? Monthly? What are the threats?
- Is there availability of or past use of weapons (guns, knives, etc.)?
Access to a gun or knives is a strong indicator of homicide risk.
- Has the abuser ever used hands or an object to choke, strangle or suffocate you?
These are high risk factors for homicide.
- Does the abuser have a history of arson or threats of arson?
Increases risk of homicide.
- Does the abuser express ownership of you ("You can never leave me"; "If I can't have you no one else can"; "Death before divorce")?
Risk of serious assault or homicide is greater.
- Does the abuser depend heavily on you; idolize you; isolate you from all other aspects of community life?
Risk of serious assault or homicide is greater.
- Has there been separation violence?
Increases risk of serious assault or homicide.
- Has there been stalking, hostage-taking or abduction?
Increases risk of serious assault or homicide.

SAMPLE LETHALITY RISK ASSESSMENT

This assessment checklist has been adapted from lethality assessment forms designed for domestic violence victims. This checklist can serve as a guide to those behaviors on the part of the offender, other family members or friends that indicate a higher possibility of violence, threats of violence or coercion against the complainant.

CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS INCLUDED UNDER THE COMMENTS SECTION.

YES NO

		THREATS OF SUICIDE—CURRENT OR IN THE PAST
		THREATS TO KILL PARTNER OR FAMILY MEMBERS
		THREATS WITH WEAPONS—TOWARDS ANYONE, NOT A DOMESTIC PARTNER
		USE OF WEAPONS IN PRIOR ABUSIVE INCIDENTS
		SERIOUS INJURY OF PARTNER IN PRIOR ABUSIVE INCIDENTS
		ACCESS OR OWNERSHIP OF GUNS, KNIVES OR OTHER WEAPONS
		VIOLATION OF RESTRAINING/ PROTECTIVE ORDER OR OTHER COURT ORDER
		DRUG OR ALCOHOL ABUSE
		FORCED SEX OF PARTNER
		OBSESSION WITH PARTNER/ EXTREME JEALOUSY/ EXTREME DOMINANCE
		ACCESS TO THE VICTIM OR KNOWLEDGE OF WHERE THE VICTIM RESIDES
		DEPRESSION
		EXTENSIVE PROPERTY DESTRUCTION—WHETHER AIMED AT THE VICTIM OR OTHERS
		THREATS TO KILL OR ACTUALLY KILLING OR HARMING THE FAMILY PET—HISTORY OF ANIMAL ABUSE

		ABUSE OF CHILDREN OR THREATS OF ABUSE TO CHILDREN
		MENTAL HEALTH HISTORY
		HISTORY OF OTHER VIOLENT CRIMES
		ACCEPTING ATTITUDE TOWARD USE OF VIOLENCE
		REPORTS OF VIOLENCE FROM PREVIOUS PARTNERS
		FAMILY MEMBERS OF OFFENDER SUPPORTIVE OF HIS VIOLENCE
		FAMILY MEMBERS ALSO HAVE HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
		ONE OR MORE VIOLATIONS OF PROTECTIVE ORDERS, WITH THIS VICTIM OR WITH OTHERS IN THE PAST
		FAMILY MEMBERS AFRAID OF THE OFFENDER
		FAMILY MEMBERS REPORT PAST VIOLENT ACTIONS

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: