

Conducting the Lethality Assessment Program

When to initiate the Lethality Screen

- When an intimate relationship is involved;

AND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- You believe an **assault** has occurred,
- You sense the potential for danger is high,
- Names of parties or location are **repeat** names or locations
- You simply **believe** one should be conducted

How to initiate a lethality assessment

Use Lethality Screen for Law Enforcement

After asking questions, handle information as follows:

- Yes to Q. 1, 2, or 3 = Call the hotline
- No to Q. 1 – 3, but Yes to four of Q. 4 – 11 = Call the hotline

“No” responses still warrant a hotline call if the officer believes it appropriate.

Ask unnumbered question to help determine whether a hotline call should be made.

When the victim is assessed as non-High Danger, or the victim did/could not participate in assessment

1. Advise of dangerous situation.
2. Advise to watch for signs of danger.
3. Refer to provider.
4. Provide your contact information.
5. Prepare report.

Lethality Assessment Program Protocol, continued

Victim is assessed as High-Danger – Referral Process

1. Explain assessment to victim.
2. Advise that you need to call hotline and you would like for victim to speak with an advocate. (Remember: you are seeking the victim's permission.)
3. If victim does not want to speak with an advocate, tell victim you need to speak with an advocate to seek guidance and gently ask the victim to reconsider.
4. Call the hotline and give them the basic facts.
5. If the victim still does not want to speak with an advocate, use same procedures as front of the card.
6. If victim want to leave, arrange for or provide transportation.
7. Assist advocate with safety planning if asked.
8. Notify domestic violence unity or supervisor.
9. Prepare report.

Principles of the Lethality Assessment Program

- Be Compassionate and Encouraging.
- “Go the Extra Mile.”
- Coordinate Efforts.
- Use the Phone!
- Be Aware of the Dangers in All Domestic Violence Situations.
- Trust Your Instincts.
- Recognize that the Victim is the Charge!

Simply because of your presence as a law enforcement officer, the victim may feel compelled to speak with the hotline advocate when you ask. Tell the victim whether or not she/he chooses to speak with the advocate, **you are there to help her/him.**