



Conducting a Lethality Screen
for First Responders
Initiating the Protocol

When to Initiate a Lethality Assessment

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

How to Conduct a Lethality Assessment

- Use *Lethality Screen for First Responders*.
- After asking questions, handle information as follows:
 - Yes to Q.1, 2, or 3 = Protocol Referral
 - No to Q.1-3, but Yes to four of Q.4-11 = Protocol Referral
- “No” responses may still trigger Protocol Referral if first responder believes it appropriate. Ask unnumbered question to help determine whether protocol referral should be triggered.

**Not Screened in or
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 first responder contact information.
5. Prepare report.

Conducting a Lethality Screen
for First Responders
Initiating the Protocol
(continued)

Screened in—

Implementation of the Protocol Referral Process

1. Advise of assessment.
2. Advise that you need to call hotline and you would like for victim to speak with counselor. (*Remember: You are seeking the victim's permission.*)
3. If victim does not want to speak with counselor, tell victim you need to speak with counselor to seek guidance and gently ask victim to reconsider.
4. If victim still does not want to speak with counselor, use same procedures as in first response.
5. If victim wants to leave, arrange for or provide transportation.
6. Assist counselor with safety planning if asked.
7. Notify domestic violence unit or supervisor.
8. Prepare report.

Lethality Assessment Program Principles

- Be Compassionate.
- "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 in Charge!

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