

Lethality Checklist

- The victim believes the abuser's threats may be lethal.
- The abuser threatens to kill the victim or other persons.
- The abuser threatens or attempts suicide.
- The abuser fantasizes about homicide or suicide.
- Weapons are present and/or the abuser has a history of using weapons.
- The abuse involves strangling or biting the victim.
- The abuser has easy access to the victim or the victim's family.
- The couple has a history of prior calls to the police for help.
- The abuser exhibits stalking behavior.
- The abuser is preoccupied or obsessed with the victim.
- The abuser is isolated from others and the victim is central to the abuser's life.
- The abuser is assaultive during sex.
- The abuser makes threats to the victim's children.
- The abuser threatens to take the victim hostage or has a history of this.
- The severity or frequency of violence has escalated.
- The abuser is depressed or paranoid.
- The abuser or victim has a psychiatric impairment.
- The abuser has experienced recent deaths or losses.
- The abuser was beaten as a child or witnessed intimate partner violence as a child.
- The abuser has killed or mutilated a pet or threatened to do so.
- The abuser has started taking more risks or is "breaking the rules" for using violence in the relationship, for example, abusing the victim in public.
- The abuser has a history of defying court orders and the judicial system.
- The victim has begun a new relationship.
- The abuser has problems with drug or alcohol use or assaults the victim while intoxicated or high.