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Inventory of Spousal Violence Risk Assessment Tools Used in Canada

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The views expressed in this report are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice Canada.



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1. Introduction

In 2004, collaborative efforts between the Department of Justice Canada, the British Columbia Institute Against Family Violence (BCIFV) and P. Randall Kropp, Ph.D., Stephen D. Hart, Ph.D. and Henrik Belfrage, Ph.D. led to the development of the Brief Spousal Assault Form for the Evaluation of Risk (B-SAFER). The motivation behind the development of B-SAFER was to provide criminal justice professionals with a concise and user-friendly tool that would facilitate risk assessment, support victims in their safety planning and reinforce the ultimate goal of reducing risk to victims of spousal violence.

After the development of the B-SAFER tool, Department of Justice Canada officials working in the area of family violence agreed that it would be useful to identify other spousal violence risk assessment tools currently being used by criminal justice personnel in Canada.

2. Objective

The original objective of this project was to identify which (if any) spousal violence risk assessment tools are currently being used by criminal justice personnel (e.g. police, corrections, probation officers) with the goal of preventing future risk and harm to victims of spousal violence in Canada.

3. Methodology

The Family Violence Initiative Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) List of Representatives was used as the initial point of contact following discussions at the FPT Family Violence meeting, held in August 2007. In some cases, additional or alternate contacts were made in order to provide a more thorough response. Each contact was asked which (if any) spousal violence risk assessment tools were being used by criminal justice personnel in their jurisdiction.

It was found that criminal justice personnel use a variety of tools and in some jurisdictions, work collaboratively with victim/social services. As such, the scope of this report was broadened to include risk assessment and case management tools, investigative checklists and protocols.

It is important to note that the tools, checklists and protocols outlined in this report are based on the current knowledge of the individuals contacted between January 2008 and September 2008 and is not exhaustive. It does, however, provide important and useful information that has not been gathered in this format and for this purpose. In fall 2008, a draft copy of the report was distributed via email to the jurisdictional officials who provided information for this inventory in addition to the authors of the tools in order to

provide an opportunity for comments and to verify the information contained in this report.

3.1 Update

In 2012, the Ad Hoc Federal/Provincial/Territorial Working Group on Family Violence was used as a point of contact to request updates to this Inventory. Representatives were asked to provide information on any changes to the risk assessment tools and protocols used in their jurisdiction. As a result, information from the following jurisdictions has been updated: Prince Edward Island, Québec, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, and the Northwest Territories.

4. Findings

Based on discussions with jurisdictional contacts, it was found that while validated risk assessment tools are being used, piloted or reviewed in some provinces/territories, criminal justice personnel are also working with other mechanisms such as investigative checklists, case management tools and interagency protocols, created by their organizations in order to serve their particular needs.

It is noteworthy that while spousal violence risk assessment tools are often designed to assess either risk of recidivism or lethality, investigative checklists or case management tools do not have predictive value. However, in speaking with jurisdictional officials, these instruments serve an important purpose in facilitating efforts to:

1. develop an appropriate safety plan and response to threats for victims;
2. raise awareness among front-line police officers regarding the issues and risk factors surrounding spousal violence;
3. provide evidence for pre-trial and post-sentence decisions; and
4. assist in developing risk/need plans for spousal violence offenders.

The chart that follows provides a summary of spousal violence risk assessment tools, investigative checklists, case management tools and protocols.¹ It is organized by the province or territory where they are in use. Descriptions of these tools are then presented in alphabetical order by the title of the tool.

¹ The terminology used throughout this report (e.g. risk assessment, threat assessment, danger assessment) reflects the terms provided by the jurisdictions.

4.1 Summary by Jurisdiction

Province or Territory	Spousal Violence Risk Assessment Tools/Investigative Checklists/Case Management Tools/Protocols
Newfoundland and Labrador	- Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA) (Correctional Services) - Level of Service Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) (Adult Probation Services) - Violence in Relationship Investigative Checklist (RCMP) - Spousal/Partner Abuse, Assault Court Package Supplement (RCMP)
Prince Edward Island	- Domestic Violence Police Investigation Checklist (municipal police departments and RCMP) - Level of Service Inventory–Revised (LSI-R) (Community and Correctional Services) - Woman/Spousal Abuse Protocols in the following sectors: Police, Probation Services, Victim Services, Adult Custody, Family Law Centre, Clinical Services, Turning Point Program, Financial Assistance and Hospital Emergency Rooms - Court Information Package (police, RCMP) - Decision-Making Assessment Protocol for Domestic Violence (D-MAP DV) (Probation Services)
Nova Scotia	- High Risk Case Coordination Protocol Framework (police, Victim Services, Community Corrections staff, transition houses, men's intervention programs and child welfare) - Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) (RCMP, municipal police departments, military police and Correctional Services)² - Level of Service Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) (Correctional Services)³ - Domestic Violence Inventory⁴ (DVI) (Correctional Services) - Danger Assessment (transition houses, Child Welfare Services and Victim Services)
New Brunswick	- Brief Spousal Assault Form for the Evaluation of Risk (B-SAFER) (municipal police departments, RCMP, Moncton DV Court)⁵ - Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA) (Correctional and Probation Services) - Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) (Probation Services) - Aid to Safety Assessment Planning (ASAP) (Domestic Violence interveners and Victim Services) - Risk Management System (Child Protection Services) - Provincial Court-Domestic Violence, Moncton (Prosecution Services, Probation Services, Victim Services, Courts, Legal Aid Services and police departments rely upon their respective Risk Assessment tools and an RCMP district uses B-Safer and is piloting the use of a police Checklist Form ED6092 and ED6093) - Level of Service Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) (Probation Services, provincial institution staff) - Danger Assessment (Victim Services and Domestic Violence Intervenors) - Woman Victims of Abuse Protocols- Government response to woman abuse
Québec	- Guide d'Intervention Info-Social pour prévenir les homicides intrafamiliaux (Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux) - Cross-sectoral memoranda on domestic violence intervention (Agences de la Santé et des Services Sociaux du Québec, police services, judicial services, correctional services, shelters for female victims of domestic violence, victims of crime assistance centres, organizations that help violent men, and other regional partners)

² In Nova Scotia, Correctional Services will use the ODARA for case management purposes when one has not been completed by police and/or for prioritizing candidates' selection for the in-house domestic violence education program –Respectful Relationships.

³ LS/CMI is an optional risk assessment tool as of January 2009.

⁴ The DVI is an optional risk assessment tool as of January 2009.

⁵ Municipal Police across New Brunswick are transitioning to a single risk assessment tool, ODARA.

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	- Tool to assess the level to which the safety of victims of domestic violence and of their loved ones is compromised (Carrefour Sécurité en violence conjugale) - Preventing Domestic Homicide of Women: An Intervention Guide (Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Family Violence and Violence against Women (CRI-VIFF) in collaboration with the Fédération des ressources d'hébergement pour femmes violentées et en difficulté) - Intervenir auprès des hommes en vue de prévenir l'homicide conjugal (CRI-VIFF in collaboration with the Association à cœur d'homme – Réseau d'aide aux hommes pour une société sans violence) - Prévenir l'homicide de la conjointe – Aide-mémoire (Drouin, Christine, Myriam Dubé and Jocelyn Lindsay in collaboration with Gilles Rondeau, the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal and the Service de police de la Ville de Québec)
Ontario	- OPP Criminal Behavioural Analysis Unit – Threat Assessment (OPP unit responsible for providing investigative assistance, support and training in the management of all occurrences that have a potential for targeted violence. - Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) (OPP Threat Assessment Unit, other police services) - Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA) (OPP Threat Assessment Unit) - Domestic Violence Supplementary Report Form (DVSRF) (police, currently under review by the Ministry of Community Safety and Corrections Services) - Bail Safety Program Interview Checklist (police)
Manitoba	- Family Violence Risk Factor Checklist (Victim Services) - Professional assessment by social workers - Level of Service/Case Management Inventory – LS/CMI (Adult Correctional Centres and Adult Probation Services)
Saskatchewan	- Saskatchewan Primary Risk Assessment (SPRA)(Probation Services) - Offender Risk Assessment Management System –Primary Risk Assessment (ORAMS-PRA) (Correctional Services) - Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) (provincial correctional centres, Probation Services, domestic violence caseworkers associated with domestic violence courts and police-based victim services programs)
Alberta	- Threat assessment is performed by the Integrated Threat and Risk Assessment Centre (I-TRAC) to offer assistance to all law enforcement and criminal justice agencies; including prosecutors and corrections, in the management of high risk non-domestic, domestic violence, criminal harassment and stalking occurrences. I-TRAC offers access to certified threat assessors and a forensic psychologist and a representative from Alberta Human Services. - Family Violence Investigation Report (FVIR) (RCMP, municipal police and First Nations police services) - Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA) (I-TRAC) - Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) (I-TRAC) - Stalking Assessment and Management (SAM) (police, RCMP, I-TRAC) - HCR-20 (police, RCMP, I-TRAC) - Risk of Sexual Violence Protocol (RSVP) (I-TRAC) - Psychopathy Checklist (I-TRAC) - Static 99 (I-TRAC)
British Columbia	Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA) (Correctional Services, Domestic Violence and Criminal Harassment Unit, Vancouver Police Department)

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	- o B-SAFER (revised version) (RCMP, municipal police) - o Aid to Safety Assessment Planning (ASAP)⁶ (Victim Services) - o Stalking and Assessment Management (SAM) (Domestic Violence and Criminal Harassment Unit, Vancouver Police Department and the Behavioural Sciences Unit of the RCMP, Surrey, British Columbia) - o HCR-20 (Domestic Violence and Criminal Harassment Unit, Vancouver Police Department and the Behavioural Sciences RCMP, Surrey, British Columbia) - o Threat Assessment Questions for Field Personnel (Domestic Violence and Criminal Harassment Unit, Vancouver Police Department) - o Summary of Domestic Violence Risk Factors (Police Online Training Investigative Job Aid) (Police) - o Violence in Relationships – Investigative Procedures Guide (RCMP) - o Factors to Consider When Domestic Violence Safety Planning (the tool is available for use by all government-funded victim support workers) - o Protocol for Highest Risk Cases (police, Crown, child protection, corrections, victim services)
Northwest Territories	- o Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) (RCMP, shelter workers, victim services) - o Currently reviewing tools used by Alberta (RCMP) - o Yellowknife Interagency Family Violence Protocol (involves YWCA Alison McAteer House (local family violence shelter), Centre for Northern Families, Public Prosecution Service of Canada, NWT Regional Office, Yellowknife RCMP Detachment, Stanton Territorial Health Authority, Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority, Canada/NWT Service Centre, Income Security Programs and Yellowknife Victim Services)
Yukon	- o Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA) (Correctional and Probation Services, RCMP) - o Level of Service Inventory –Revised (LSI-R) (Probation Services)
Nunavut	- o Offender Risk Assessment Management System –Primary Risk Assessment (ORAMS-PRA) (Correctional Services) - o Currently reviewing LS/CMI for future use (Correctional Services)

⁶ Collaborative efforts between victim services and criminal justice personnel have been established locally in some areas of the province.

5. Description of Tools, Investigative Checklists and Protocols

5.1 Aid to Safety Assessment Planning (ASAP)

The Aid to Safety Assessment Planning is a manual that was created as a result of a partnership between the Victim Services and Crime Prevention Division, BC Ministry of Public Safety and the BC Institute Against Family Violence. The objective of this manual is to reduce the risk of violence by providing a comprehensive and coordinated safety management strategy that victim service workers can use in cooperation with other relevant justice agencies to support women in making safety assessment decisions.

It was designed to examine the risk factors from the victim's perspective and emphasizes the need for relevant agencies and the victim to work together and, where appropriate, share information on known risk factors. The manual and sample worksheet incorporates items from established tools such as the Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA) and the Brief Spousal Assault Form for Evaluation of Risk (B-SAFER) to create appropriate safety plans.

The ASAP⁷ manual outlines eleven (11) Abuser Factors that identify the abuser's actions that increase a woman's risk of being abused or decrease her level of safety.

11 Abuser Factors

1. Abuser's Violence
2. Violent Threats, Ideation and Intent
3. Escalation of Physical/Sexual Violence or Threats
4. Violations of Civil and Criminal Court Orders
5. Negative Attitudes about Violence against Women in Relationships
6. Other Criminality
7. Response to Shifts in Power and Control Dynamics
8. Employment or Financial Problems
9. Substance Use Problems
10. Mental Health Problems
11. Other Abuser Factors e.g. Access to Firearms, Significant Life Change

It also includes twelve (12) Safety Support Factors that outline what a victim needs to ensure the best possible safety plan while identifying barriers to her safety.

Safety Support Factors

1. Level of Personal Support
2. Living Situation
3. Level of Fear

⁷ Reprinted with permission.

4. Barriers Created by Social Attitudes or Beliefs
5. Impacts of Abuse
6. Employment and Financial Concern
7. Child-related Concerns
8. Substance Abuse
9. Access to Services
10. Responsivity to Services
11. Provision of Information
12. Coordination of Services

Overall, there are five (5) key steps in using the ASAP manual:

1. Gather the information;
2. Identify the presence and relevance of abuser and safety support factors;
3. Develop risk scenarios;
4. Work with the woman on her safety plan and;
5. Note priority actions.

The ASAP manual is currently being used by domestic violence intervenors and Victim Services in New Brunswick. In British Columbia, collaborative efforts between Victim Services and criminal justice personnel have been established locally in some areas of the province.

To order a copy of the ASAP manual, please visit the Centre for Counselling and Community Safety, Justice Institute of British Columbia web site:

<http://www.jibc.ca/programs-courses/schools-departments/school-community-social-justice/centre-counselling-community-safety/student-resources/publications-videos/manuals> (date accessed: June 6, 2013)

5.2 Alberta Integrated Threat and Risk Assessment Centre (I-TRAC)

Threat assessment is performed by I-TRAC to offer assistance to all law enforcement and criminal justice agencies; including prosecutors and corrections, in the management of high risk non-domestic, domestic violence, criminal harassment and stalking occurrences. The head office is located at ALERT West Campus Edmonton, Alberta.

I-TRAC services include: assessing the level of risk an individual poses, providing case management strategies, training, safety planning, expert testimony and facilitating access to certified threat assessors, forensic psychology and external agencies including other mental health, and specialized law-enforcement and criminal justice units. Additionally, I-TRAC facilitates requests to create new identities for victims of abuse under the Confidential Services for Victims of Abuse (CSVA) Program.

Some of the benefits of I-TRAC involvement include:

- stakeholders are better informed on the potential for violence and/or other risks posed by a subject;
- in an effort to manage violence risk, investigators are provided with case management suggestions that may include; victim safety planning, offender management and other case specific details including information from other available resources;
- criminal and family courts have access to all known pertinent and current subject history, as contained in the completed threat assessment.

5.3 Bail Safety Program Interview Checklist

The Bail Safety Interview Checklist is used by police in Ontario to facilitate an in-depth exploration of numerous factors related to victim safety and risk of future domestic violence. The checklist includes a review of domestic violence risk factors used by police in Ontario as well as domestic violence lethality and recidivism research. The interview focuses on a number of areas:

- History of the relationship;
- Details of the family composition including questions pertaining to children, where applicable;
- Issues of power and control revealed by the behavior of the accused in the relationship;
- The victim's perception of risk;
- The risk factor checklist completed by the police.

5.4 Brief Spousal Assault Form for the Evaluation of Risk (B-SAFER)

The Brief Spousal Assault Form for the Evaluation of Risk (B-SAFER) was developed collaboratively by the British Columbia Institute Against Family Violence, P. Randall Kropp, Ph.D., Stephen D. Hart, Ph.D., Henrik Belfrage, Ph.D. and the Department of Justice Canada.

The development of the B-SAFER tool was based on a number of objectives: to facilitate the work of criminal justice professionals in assessing risk in spousal violence cases, guide the professionals to obtain relevant information necessary to assess level of risk, assist victims in safety planning and ultimately work to prevent future harm and more critical incidents.

This tool includes a checklist of ten (10) risk factors⁸ and an interview guide. The first five (5) risk factors relate to a person's history of intimate partner violence:

1. Violent Acts
2. Violent Threat or Thoughts
3. Escalation

⁸ Reprinted with permission.

4. Violations of Court Orders
5. Violent Attitudes

The second section relates to a person's history of psychological (personal) and social (interpersonal) adjustment problems:

6. General Criminality
7. Intimate Relationship Problems
8. Employment Problems
9. Substance Use Problems
10. Mental Health Problems

The B-SAFER also includes a Recommended Risk Management Strategies section regarding monitoring/surveillance, control/supervision, assessment/treatment and victim safety planning in addition to a conclusory opinions section regarding case prioritization, life-threatening violence, imminent violence and likely victims.

In New Brunswick, B-SAFER is being used by the Moncton Domestic Violence Court and RCMP and municipal police departments.⁹ British Columbia has adopted a revised B-SAFER, under exclusive licence, that includes a section containing specific questions concerning victim vulnerability factors.

For more information on this tool, please refer to the following websites.

http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/fl-lf/famil/rr05_fv1-rr05_vf1/index.html (date accessed: June 6, 2013)

<http://www.proactive-resolutions.com/> (date accessed: June 6, 2013.)

5.5 Court Information Package

In Prince Edward Island, all municipal police departments and the RCMP currently use a Court Information Package designed specifically to capture information in domestic violence cases.

5.6 Cross-sectoral memoranda on domestic violence

In accordance with the 2012–2017 Québec government action plan on domestic violence, the Québec Ministry of Health and Social Services, through the Agences de Santé et de Services sociaux, is in charge of coordinating the roundtables entitled <<Tables de concertation intersectorielle en matière de violence conjugale>>. These cross-sectoral tables on domestic violence exist in 16 regions of Québec and bring together all partners working in domestic violence intervention (health and social services, police services, judicial services, correctional services, education stakeholders and community partners). In

⁹ Municipal police across New Brunswick are transitioning to a single risk assessment tool, ODARA.

most regions of Québec, the partners have signed memoranda of understanding to work together to protect victims of domestic violence and their loved ones.

5.7 Danger Assessment

The Danger Assessment is used by Victim Services and domestic violence intervenors in New Brunswick. In Nova Scotia, staff of transition houses, Victim Services and Child Welfare Services (under Department of Community Services) are trained to use the Danger Assessment tool, developed by Jacquelyn Campbell, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N. from the United States. The use of this tool is part of the collaborative process through the High Risk Case Coordination Protocol Framework. Information sharing is initiated with relevant agencies if any of the primary service providers designate a file as high risk.

The Danger Assessment tool is comprised of two parts: the first portion of the tool evaluates severity and frequency of abuse by providing the woman with a calendar of the previous year. The woman is asked to mark dates of past abuse on a calendar. Incidents are ranked from least to most severe. Indicators include: slapping, pushing, punching, kicking, bruises, “beating up” (i.e. burns, broken bones and miscarriage), threat to use a weapon and finally, use of a weapon with wounds.

The second portion of the tool is a 20-item instrument which includes a weighted scoring system to count yes/no responses of risk factors linked with intimate partner homicide.

For more information, please refer to the following website:

<http://www.dangerassessment.org/DATools.aspx> (date accessed: June 7, 2013)

5.8 Decision-Making Assessment Protocol for Domestic Violence (D-MAP DV)

The D-MAP-DV (a tool to assist in decision making regarding changes to provisions of no contact orders) was developed by Guy Bourgon, Public Safety Canada and Probation Services, Community & Correctional Services PEI for the use of PEI probation officers. The guide aids probation officers and/or other individuals who are faced with these types of decisions in decision making in cases where there are conditions related to “no contact except at the discretion of the Probation Officer.”

5.9 Provincial Court- Domestic Violence, Moncton

In Moncton, New Brunswick, a Domestic Violence Coordinating Team was developed as part of the Domestic Violence Court Project. The team includes a Crown prosecutor, a probation officer, a victim services coordinator, a court coordinator, legal aid services and police agencies. Weekly communication occurs on cases appearing in court for

sentencing, court monitoring of an offender's sentence or when there is a request to change a contact condition order between the victim and the accused.

A Domestic Violence Court Docket is circulated weekly to the social workers and all involved in the Domestic Violence Court, in order to facilitate a coordinated response for domestic violence files. Social workers provide a court coordinator with the status of their case (i.e., court orders and their intervention plan) before the Court of Queen's Bench which is intended to prevent conflicting court orders coming from the Court of Queen's Bench and the Provincial Court. It also allows a judge to make a more informed decision and avoids duplication or lack of intervention. The court coordinator is responsible for sharing this information with the Domestic Violence Coordinating Team.

5.10 Domestic Violence Inventory (DVI)

The Domestic Violence Inventory, developed by Behaviour Data Systems Ltd., is used as an optional tool by Community Corrections personnel in the province of Nova Scotia, to assess risk and need levels of offenders charged with a domestic violence offence. When a case is categorized as high risk for lethality, spousal/intimate partner violence is flagged and case management strategies specific to domestic violence are implemented. All offenders charged with domestic violence must attend a domestic violence educational program.

This self administered tool includes six scales: Truthfulness Scale, Violence Scale, Control Scale, Alcohol Scale, Drugs Scale and Stress Coping Abilities Scale. The results of the DVI support the general/overall risk assessment provided by the Level of Service Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) and are also included in pre-sentence and post-sentence reports.

For more information on the Domestic Violence Inventory, please visit the following website.

http://www.bdsltd.com/TestsA_DVI.asp (date accessed: June 7, 2013)

5.11 Domestic Violence Police Investigation Checklist

Municipal police departments and the RCMP in Prince Edward Island currently use the Domestic Violence Police Investigation Checklist.

The checklist was developed by a committee comprised of representatives from all police agencies in the province, Victim Services, Court Services, Crown attorneys and a

provincial family violence coordinator. The committee oversees the *Victims of Family Violence Act*¹⁰ and coordinates police training related to family violence.

This checklist is a form completed by the investigating officer and is reviewed by the police supervisor. Both mechanisms are in place to ensure comprehensive police investigations of domestic violence incidents. Information regarding the accused, available evidence and notification of victim services is included in the form. The development of the investigative checklist involved the review of similar checklists and was tailored to meet the particular needs of this area.

5.12 Domestic Violence Supplementary Report Form (DVS RF)

The Domestic Violence Supplementary Report Form (DVS RF) was created by the Ministry of the Solicitor General and the Ontario Provincial Police (O.P.P.) Behavioural Science Section, in response to the May-Iles Inquest.¹¹

Police services throughout Ontario have been provided with this investigative checklist which includes a list of 19 risk factors, to be administered by front-line investigating officers in domestic violence cases. Supervisors are required to sign off on all forms and are consulted on high risk cases regarding next steps and established protocols.

Some of the identified risk factors include past history of violence, access to firearms, sexual abuse and bizarre and unexplained behaviour. Once an interview is completed, the Crown examines the results which assist in informing decisions on bail issuance for individuals accused of domestic violence.

5.13 Factors to Consider When Domestic Violence Safety Planning

This tool is available for use by all government-funded victim support workers in British Columbia including victim service workers, transition house workers, stopping the violence counsellors, children who witness abuse counsellors and outreach/multicultural outreach workers.

The tool provides a summary of the risk and safety factors that have been associated with an increased likelihood of future violence in relationships or are of particular concern for support workers in domestic violence cases. The resource was developed to assist support

¹⁰ The *Victims of Family Violence Act* is a provincial law that came into effect on December 16, 1996.

¹¹ Arlene May was murdered in March 1996 by her former boyfriend who then killed himself. Arlene's murder followed months of abuse, threats and harassment, which she had reported to the police numerous times. At the time of the murder/suicide, he had been charged with several offences against Arlene and was free on bail that prohibited him from having any contact with her. The Chief Coroner of Ontario decided to hold an inquest into her death and into the issue of domestic violence generally. Inquest into the deaths of Arlene May and Randy Iles, February 16 - July 2, 1998, Coroners Courts, Toronto, Ontario. <http://www.oaith.ca/assets/files/Publications/May-Iles-inquest-recommendations.pdf> (date accessed: June 7, 2013)

workers in safety planning and is consistent with tools used by police in domestic violence cases, including the *Summary of Domestic Violence Risk Factors* job aid and the B-SAFER risk assessment tool. A primary goal of the tool was to ensure that support workers had a common and shared understanding of key risk factors in domestic violence cases with other justice and child protection system partners.

The tool is part of an online domestic violence safety planning course that has been offered since spring 2012. The resource is divided into five major sections: relationship factors (including status of relationship and child-related concerns); abuser factors (including violence in the current relationship, abuser history and weapons/firearms); victim safety factors; system factors and other considerations (if applicable).

<http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/victimservices/training/docs/factors-to-consider.pdf> (date accessed: October 22, 2013)

5.14 Family Violence Investigation Report (FVIR)

The Family Violence Investigation Report was developed by the Family Violence Police Advisory Committee¹² in the province of Alberta. As part of the developmental phase of this form, many different risk assessment tools were reviewed. It was piloted in 14 sites across Alberta between January 2007 and May 2007. The pilot sites were comprised of three municipal police services, one First Nations police service and ten RCMP detachments in the province.

The form was designed as an investigative/case management tool. The 19-item report form was created to assist police departments in the province of Alberta in a number of areas: gathering critical information within 12 hours of the incident, assisting in the writing of a police report, planning victim safety and raising awareness of front-line officers on risks associated with suspect history, complainant's perception of personal safety and future violence and information on relationship background.

This checklist is intended to address questions and information required for bail hearings, provide information for sentencing considerations and provide Crown prosecutors with a quick overview of cases. Furthermore, it is intended to help direct victim safety planning strategies and offender management plans. The FVIR has been a mandatory report for all police services within Alberta since November, 2008. It is currently undergoing revisions to ensure that it remains accurate and relevant.

¹² The Public Security Division of Alberta Justice and Solicitor General chairs the committee which is comprised of officials from the municipal police services, the RCMP, First Nations Police Service, the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters, Human Services, Family Law Office and the Alberta Crown Prosecution Service. The committee meets on a regular basis with a focus on protection issues and the criminal justice system.

Safety considerations are an important follow-up to the FVIR, which may identify specific areas of risk for the victim. “*Strategies for Safety: Considerations for Individuals Experiencing Family Violence*” was designed to provide safety planning information to professional and front line responders who are working with individuals impacted by family violence. It provides information and questions that assist in beginning the conversations around the issues of victim safety and engaging other community partners as required and appropriate.

This resource along with quick reference sheets for victims is available online:

http://justice.alberta.ca/programs_services/criminal_pros/Publications%20Library%20%20Criminal%20Prosecutions/StrategiesforSafetyConsiderationsforIndividualsExperiencingFamilyViolence.aspx/DispForm.aspx?ID=14 (accessed November 8, 2013).

5.15 Family Violence Risk Factor Checklist

This checklist was developed by representatives from various community organizations in Winnipeg as well as Winnipeg Police Services, Manitoba Justice Prosecutions, Probation and Victim Services as well as the RESOLVE program at the University of Manitoba. Consultation occurred with a forensic psychologist, Dr. Gail Robertson from the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Medicine.

The checklist is not used as a formal tool but rather provides a comprehensive list of risk factors related to the offending individual and the victim which can assist workers to make safety assessments. Manitoba Justice Victim Services staff are required to forward a report which includes an analysis of safety factors to Prosecutions in the event a complainant requests changes to protective conditions (i.e. no contact/no attendance conditions) contained on a court order.

5.16 Guide d’Intervention Info-Social pour prévenir les homicides intrafamiliaux

Mandated by the Québec Ministry of Health and Social Services the Centre for Applied Research in Psychosocial Intervention has developed guides and assessment grids, including a grid to assess danger in cases where there is a potential for domestic homicide. These tools support crisis interventions made by Info-Social and are used throughout the province of Québec by Info-Social services following training. For the time being, the guide entitled <<*Guide d’Intervention Info-Social pour prévenir les homicides intrafamiliaux*>> is used exclusively by Info-Social stakeholders.

5.17 HCR-20

The HCR-20 was developed by Christopher D. Webster, Ph.D., Kevin S. Douglas, LLB, Ph.D., Derek Eaves, M.D. and Stephen D. Hart, Ph.D. It is a broad-based violence risk

assessment tool which may be applied to a variety of cases, including domestic violence. It examines historical, clinical and risk management and is comprised of twenty (20) items.¹³

Historical Scale	
H1	Previous Violence
H2	Young Age at First Violent Incident
H3	Relationship Instability
H4	Employment Problems
H5	Substance Abuse Problems
H6	Major Mental Illness
H7	Psychopathy
H8	Early Maladjustment
H9	Personality Disorder
H10	Prior Supervision Failure
Clinical Scale	
C1	Lack of Insight
C2	Negative Attitudes
C3	Active Symptoms of Major Mental Illness
C4	Impulsivity
C5	Unresponsiveness to Treatment
Risk Management Scale	
R1	Plans Lack Feasibility
R2	Exposure to Destabilizers
R3	Lack of Personal Support
R4	Noncompliance with Remediation Attempts
R5	Stress

The HCR-20 is currently being used by I-TRAC in the province of Alberta and the Domestic Violence and Criminal Harassment Unit of the Vancouver Police Department and the Behavioural Sciences Unit of the RCMP in Surrey, British Columbia.

For more information on the HCR-20, please refer to the following website.
<http://www.proactive-resolutions.com/> (date accessed: June 7, 2013.)

5.18 High Risk Case Coordination Protocol Framework

The High Risk Case Coordination Protocol Framework is a joint provincial protocol of the Nova Scotia Departments of Justice, Community Services and Public Prosecution Service. Local committees in all counties are involved with how the protocol can be best implemented in each area.

When a case is deemed to be a "high risk" situation, the High Risk Case Coordination Protocol Framework requires information sharing among primary service providers including: police, victim services workers, community corrections staff, transition houses,

¹³ Reprinted with permission.

men's intervention programs and child welfare. The Framework was developed to help identify and reduce risk of death and increase safety for victims by providing support/safety planning for the victim and avoid duplication of services.

Crown attorneys are also informed of the risk assessment results and can take this information into account with respect to victim safety, when considering conditions of release. At the time of this report, however, this information is not being formally introduced in court proceedings.

5.19 Intervening with men to prevent domestic homicide

This intervention guide is the result of a joint project between the CRI-VIFF and the Association à cœur d'homme - Réseau d'aide aux hommes pour une société sans violence. The guide includes two important tools. The first tool makes it possible to assess the risk of spousal homicide. As soon as there is a risk, the guide recommends a more comprehensive assessment. Other factors known to be associated with homicide (such as homicidal fantasies, precipitating events and protective factors) are systematically explored. The second tool is a risk-management tool and consists of a set of strategies to manage risk depending on the level of danger present. The tool also has a monitoring mechanism.

Drouin, C., J. Lindsay, M. Dubé, M. Trépanier & D. Blanchette (2012). *Intervenir auprès des hommes pour prévenir l'homicide conjugal*. [Working with men to prevent spousal homicide. Available in French only.]

http://www.criviff.qc.ca/cms/liste_publications2.php?lang=en&menu=7&id=21

5.20 Level of Service Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI)

The Level of Service Case Management Inventory, developed by Don Andrews, Ph.D., James Bonta, Ph.D. and J. Stephen Wormith, Ph.D., is considered to be a general risk and needs assessment and case management tool for all offenders and is not specific to spousal violence offenders.

The tool is administered by community corrections staff and probation officers primarily to outline and monitor case plans. It also assists in the identification of appropriate levels of supervision on the basis of an offender's rehabilitation and programming needs.

Key areas measured are: criminal history, education/employment, family/marital, leisure/recreation, companions, alcohol/drug problem, attitudes/orientation, criminogenic/non-criminogenic needs, responsivity and case management.¹⁴

The LS/CMI is currently used by Adult Probation Services in Newfoundland and Labrador, and Manitoba and as an optional tool for Correctional Services in Nova Scotia. It is used in

¹⁴ Case management is not considered an area of assessment. It is where the officer outlines and monitors the case plan.

New Brunswick by Probation Services and provincial institution staff, and Correctional Services in Nunavut is currently reviewing this tool for future use.

For more information on this tool, please refer to the following web site.

<http://www.mhs.com/product.aspx?gr=saf&prod=ls-cmi&id=overview> (date accessed: June 7, 2013.)

5.21 Level of Service Inventory-R (LSI-R)

The LSI-R, developed by Don Andrews, Ph.D. and James Bonta, Ph.D., is an assessment and screening tool for all offenders and is not specific to spousal violence offenders. This tool measures risk factors in areas of criminal history, employment, family/marital, companions, alcohol/drug problems, emotional/personal and attitude/orientation. This tool helps inform decision criteria regarding offenders' service and supervision needs.

The LSI-R is currently being used by Community and Correctional Services in Prince Edward Island and Probation Services in the Yukon.

For more information on the LSI-R, please refer to the following web site:

<https://www.mhs.com/> (date accessed: June 7, 2013.)

5.22 Offender Risk Assessment Management System –Primary Risk Assessment (ORAMS-PRA)

This tool was developed by Correctional Services in Manitoba and is used in all custodial facilities and corrections centres in the province. Correctional Services in Saskatchewan and Nunavut have also implemented the ORAMS-PRA.

The Primary Risk Assessment (PRA) is a component of the ORAMS. It is used as a general risk and needs assessment tool to assist in predicting an offender's risk to re-offend. It also provides the foundation for how case plans are prepared. All offenders sentenced to probation, a conditional sentence or incarceration and for those whom a court report has been ordered undergo the Primary Risk Assessment.

5.23 Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA)

The Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) was the result of collaborative efforts between the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and the Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care based in Penetanguishene, Ontario. This empirically based, actuarial risk assessment tool was developed in response to both the May-Iles and Hadley Inquest¹⁵

¹⁵ Gillian Hadley was murdered in June 2000 by her husband (from whom she was separated) Ralph Hadley. Shortly after he murdered Gillian, he killed himself. He had assaulted her and her disabled child and had criminal charges pending against him. He had also been charged with criminal harassment after stalking her following their separation. He was under an order of the court to remain away from her. The Hadley Inquest

recommendations and recommendations made by The Joint Committee on Domestic Violence¹⁶ to the Attorney General of Ontario in 1999.

The ODARA was originally developed for front-line police officers but is available for use by victim services, health care workers, probation and correctional services personnel in addition to domestic violence caseworkers in some provinces. This tool assesses risk of future wife assault in addition to the frequency and severity of these assaults. Although it was not designed to predict risk of lethality, the authors have found a correlation between higher ODARA scores and more severe assaults in the future. The form is made up of the following 13 items.

Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment Items (ODARA)¹⁷

1. Previous Domestic Incident
2. Previous Non domestic Incident
3. Prior Correctional Sentence of at least 30 days
4. Failure on Previous Conditional Release
5. Threat to Harm or Kill Anyone at the Index Assault
6. Confinement of the Partner During/at the Index Assault
7. Victim Concerned/Fearful of Future Assaults
8. Two or More Children
9. Victim has a Biological Child from a Previous Partner
10. Perpetrator's Violence Against Others
11. Perpetrator's Substance Abuse
12. Assault on Victim when Pregnant
13. Any Barrier to Victim Support

The ODARA is currently being used by police departments in Ontario. In Nova Scotia, a number of agencies use the ODARA including the RCMP, municipal police departments, military police and Correctional Services. Probation Services in New Brunswick uses this tool. In Saskatchewan, provincial correctional centres, Probation Services and domestic violence caseworkers associated with domestic violence courts and police-based victim services programs use the ODARA.

For more information on the ODARA, please refer to the following article:

Hilton, N.Z., Harris, G.T., Rice, M.E., Lang, C., Cormier, C.A., & Lines, K.J. (2004). A brief actuarial assessment for the prediction of wife assault recidivism: The Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment. *Psychological Assessment*, 16, 267-275.

resulted in 58 jury recommendations. http://www.springtideresources.org/sites/all/files/Hadley-inquest-recommendations_1.pdf (date accessed: June 7, 2013)

¹⁶ In November 1998, a Joint Committee on Domestic Violence, composed of senior government officials and experts on domestic violence, was created to advise the government of Ontario on how best to implement the 213 recommendations arising from the Coroner's Inquest into the murder of Arlene May, a victim of domestic violence and the suicide of Randy Iles, the perpetrator of that violence.

¹⁷ Reprinted with permission.

For additional information please refer to the following website:
<http://odara.waypointcentre.ca/> (date accessed: June 7, 2013.)

5.24 Ontario Provincial Police Criminal Behavioural Analysis Unit – Threat Assessment (CBAU-TA)

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Criminal Behavioural Analysis Unit – Threat Assessment (CBAU-TA) is a 6-person unit established in 1995 and is responsible for providing investigative assistance, support and training in the management of all occurrences that have a potential for targeted violence (e.g., sexual violence, domestic violence, criminal harassment, threatening correspondence, threats to judiciary and public officials, school violence and workplace violence). The unit has provided this type of training provincially, nationally and internationally to criminal justice agencies including: law enforcement, Ministry of the Attorney General, defence counsel, probation and parole, educators, and the private sector. CBAU-TA is part of the OPP's Behavioural Sciences and Analysis Section and the Unit works closely with other CBAU Units including Criminal Profiling, Research and Forensic Psychiatry. On a number of occasions, the members of the CBAU-TA have been qualified as experts in threat assessment and risk management at the Ontario and Superior Courts of Justice including at bail hearings, bail reviews, sentencing hearings, peace bond applications, and long-term and dangerous offender hearings.

In 2003, the CBAU-TA developed a Threat Assessment Understudy Program to establish a defined and transparent process which would identify promising practices (e.g., standard, guidelines and training) necessary to conduct threat assessments. The Understudy Program was the first of its kind known in North America. Since its inception, a number of OPP members have successfully completed the program, as well as members from Durham, Peel and York Regional Police Services, and members of I-TRAC. The OPP Understudy Program is limited to law enforcement agencies having a dedicated Threat Assessment Unit which consists of one or more sworn law-enforcement members, preferably having a rank above Constable. Members from the OPP cannot provide threat assessment training, written threat assessment reports, or case management opinions/recommendations unless they have successfully completed the Understudy Program.

5.25 Preventing Domestic Homicide of Women - Checklist

This checklist, which makes it possible to describe more accurately the risks of homicide in cases of domestic violence, is the result of a joint project between the CRI-VIFF, the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal and the Service de police de la Ville de Québec. Work to incorporate this checklist into the guide entitled <<*Guide de pratiques policières*>> (a guide to police practices), available to all police organizations across the province, is under way.

Drouin, Dubé and Lindsay in collaboration with Rondeau, the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal and the Service de police de la Ville de Québec (2009). *Prévenir l'homicide de la conjointe - Aide-mémoire* [Checklist: Preventing domestic homicide of women. Available in French only.]

http://www.criviff.qc.ca/upload/publications/pub_29022012_141122.pdf

5.26 Preventing Domestic Homicide of Women: An Intervention Guide

This intervention guide is the result of a joint project between the Interdisciplinary Research Center on Family Violence and Violence against Women (CRI-VIFF) and the Fédération des ressources d'hébergement pour femmes violentées et en difficulté du Québec. The guide is divided into two main sections. The first section is a review of the literature on spousal homicide, including risk factors and information to help understand what leads men to kill their partners. The second section of the guide deals with intervention and describes assessment and intervention tools to help shelter workers in situations that are likely to become lethal.

Drouin, C., J. Drolet, G. Rondeau, M. Dubé, J. Lindsay, & S. Therrien (2004). *Preventing Domestic Homicide of Women: An Intervention Guide*.

http://www.criviff.qc.ca/cms/liste_publications2.php?lang=en&menu=7&id=21

5.27 Professional Assessment

There are established protocols in the province of Manitoba with the aim to reduce risk to victims of spousal violence. Social workers categorize spousal violence cases into two groups for assessment: 1) Charged, and 2) Not Charged. The social workers use their professional judgement to assess the level of risk. This assessment information is used to help Crown attorneys make decisions regarding the case. In instances where a case is deemed high risk, community support surveillance officers are assigned to closely monitor the individual.

5.28 Protocol for Highest Risk Cases

The protocol for highest risk cases is included in British Columbia's Violence Against Women in Relationships (VAWIR) policy, which sets out the roles and responsibilities of service providers across the justice and child welfare systems that respond to domestic violence. The Protocol itself applies to five major provincial partners: police, Crown counsel, child protection workers, corrections staff (bail supervisors and probation officers) and victim service workers. The Protocol is intended to enhance the justice and child welfare system response to highest risk domestic violence cases through heightened information sharing, comprehensive and collaborative safety planning and risk mitigation strategies.

The Protocol describes the type of information expected to be shared in highest risk cases including, but not limited to, information concerning the domestic violence incident, identified risk factors, status of the investigation and outcome of any child welfare involvement. The Protocol has been part of the provincial VAWIR policy framework since December 2010.

See pg. 59 of the VAWIR Policy –
<http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/victimservices/publications/docs/vawir.pdf> (date accessed: October 22, 2013)

5.29 Risk Management System

The Department of Social Development, Child Protection Services of New Brunswick administers a tool entitled the Risk Management System which includes a domestic violence component. This tool is based on the New York State Department of Social Services safety assessment and risk management tools. The tool was reviewed following a recommendation submitted in July 1998 by the Child Death Review Committee.

The New Brunswick Risk Management System contains nine key components including: nine (9) risk decision points, criteria to guide each decision, documentation of each decision, an immediate safety assessment and safety plan, a comprehensive risk assessment tool in addition to a service plan connected to the risk assessment.

Child Protection Services share the results of their risk assessments with the police and victim services, providing the victim is a client of victim services. Information sharing also occurs where there is a need to coordinate an intervention plan.

5.30 Risk of Sexual Violence Protocol (RSVP)

The Risk of Sexual Violence Protocol (Stephen D. Hart, P. Randall Kropp and D. Richard Laws with Jessica Klaver, Caroline Logan and Kelly A. Watt) is a 22-item risk assessment tool associated with the risk of sexual violence, examining static, dynamic and manageability factors. The assessment is based on a foundation of effective assessment, case management and the required interventions to manage and reduce risk. It is used in cases of domestic violence, if deemed appropriate.

This tool is currently used by I-TRAC in the province of Alberta.

For more information, please refer to the following website.
<http://www.proactive-resolutions.com/> (date accessed June 7, 2013)

5.31 Saskatchewan Primary Risk Assessment (SPRA)

Probation officers in the province of Saskatchewan are certified in the use of the Saskatchewan Primary Risk Assessment tool (SPRA). It is a 15-item scoring sheet which includes risk levels and cut-off ratings along with an accompanying scoring and information record for more detailed information. The SPRA is a slightly modified version of the Offender Risk Assessment Management System – Primary Risk Assessment and is used in case plan development, risk management and risk reduction strategies.

5.32 Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Guide (SARA)

The Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Guide (SARA) was developed by P. Randall Kropp, Ph.D., Stephen D. Hart, Ph.D., Christopher D. Webster, Ph.D. and Derek Eaves, M.D. This tool consists of a 20-item checklist covering criminal history, psychological functioning, and current social adjustment. It may be used by a variety of professionals including: law enforcement professionals, correctional officers and government agencies. It is designed to assess the risk of future abuse in adult male offenders in addition to incorporating the evaluators' professional judgment as part of the assessment. SARA includes the following twenty (20) indicators categorized under four (4) sections:¹⁸

Criminal History

1. Past Assault of Family Members
2. Past Assault of Strangers or Acquaintances
3. Past Violation of Conditional Release or Community Supervision

Psychosocial Adjustment

4. Recent Relationship Problems
5. Recent Employment Problems
6. Victim of and/or Witness to Family Violence as a Child or Adolescent
7. Recent Substance Abuse/Dependence
8. Recent Suicidal or Homicidal Ideation/Intent
9. Recent Psychotic and/or Manic Symptoms
10. Personality Disorder with Anger, Impulsivity, or Behavioural Instability

Spousal Assault History

11. Past Physical Assault
12. Past Sexual Assault/Sexual Jealousy
13. Past Use of Weapons and/or Credible Threats of Death
14. Recent Escalation in Frequency or Severity of Assault
15. Past Violation of "No Contact" Orders
16. Extreme Minimization or Denial of Spousal Assault History
17. Attitudes that Support or Condone Spousal Assault

Alleged (Current) Offence

¹⁸ Reprinted with permission.

- | |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">18. Severe and/or Sexual Assault19. Use of Weapons and/or Credible Threats of Death20. Violation of "No Contact" Order |
|--|

The SARA is used by criminal justice personnel in a number of areas across the country, including: Newfoundland and Labrador (Correctional Services), New Brunswick (Correctional and Probation Services), Ontario (police), Alberta (police, RCMP, I-TRAC), British Columbia (Correctional Services, Domestic Violence and Criminal Harassment, Vancouver Police Department) and the Yukon (Correctional and Probation Services, RCMP).

For more information, please refer to the following website.
<http://www.proactive-resolutions.com/> (date accessed: June 7, 2013.)

5.33 Spousal/Partner Abuse, Assault Court Package Supplement

The RCMP in Newfoundland and Labrador complete this form for Prosecution Services in the province. It includes relevant factors relating to previous incidents of violence and history of court orders. It is attached to case files and used in bail hearings.

5.34 Stalking Assessment and Management (SAM)

The Stalking Assessment and Management Guidelines manual was created by P. Randall Kropp, Ph.D., Stephen D. Hart, Ph.D., and David R. Lyon, Ph.D. It is based on structured professional guidelines for assessing stalking. This tool includes a number of assessment items which are categorized under three main areas: the nature of stalking, the perpetrator's risk factors and the victim's vulnerability factors.

The administration of the SAM includes a number of steps including: identifying information, factors present, scenarios of stalking, case management plan and case prioritization.

In the province of Alberta, the SAM is used by police, the RCMP and the Integrated Risk and Threat Assessment Centre (I-TRAC). In British Columbia, the SAM is used by the Domestic Violence and Criminal Harassment Unit of the Vancouver Police Department and by the Behavioural Sciences Unit of the RCMP in Surrey, British Columbia.

For more information on this tool, please refer to the following website:
<http://www.proactive-resolutions.com/> (date accessed June 7, 2013)

5.35 Summary of Domestic Violence Risk Factors (Police Online Training Investigative Job Aid)

This resource is intended to be used as an investigative job aid for frontline police officers in British Columbia when conducting evidence-based, risk-focused domestic violence investigations. A job aid was selected rather than a prescriptive tool or checklist as this was considered the best fit for front-line police application. The investigative job aid is an adaptation of materials developed for a pilot project in the province and was reviewed and approved by an inter-ministerial working group established to create the online course in 2009. The job aid is intended to be used to guide investigations as well as organize and document information for bail hearings and Reports to Crown Counsel.

The job aid is a summary of some of the risk factors that have been associated with an increased likelihood of future violence in relationships. Risk factors are divided into four categories: 1. Relationship History 2. Complainant's Perceptions of Risk, 3. Suspect History, and 4. Access to Weapons/Firearms.

5.36 Tool to assess the safety of victims of domestic violence and of their loved ones

This tool was developed and validated as part of the cross-sectoral Carrefour Sécurité en violence conjugale project under way in the Mauricie–Centre-du-Québec region. The tool makes it possible to assess the risk of the safety of victims and of their loved ones being compromised, to contextualize and explain actuarial and clinical indicators, to perform fact-based assessments and analyses based on a combination of indicators, to take protective factors into account, to adapt interventions accordingly and to carry out continuous safety assessments.

To access the document, contact the Carrefour Sécurité en violence conjugale:
<http://cyber.collegeshawinigan.qc.ca/1012479/CSV/mission/mission.html>

5.37 Threat Assessment Questions for Field Personnel

The Threat Assessment Questions for Field Personnel was created by the Domestic Violence and Criminal Harassment Unit of the Vancouver Police Department. Thirteen (13) risk factors¹⁹ are included in this investigative guide.

Threat Assessment Questions for Field Personnel

Current Status of Relationship:

- Are there past, recent/pending separations?

¹⁹ Reprinted with permission.

- During separations has the accused stalked/harassed victim?
- Has the accused displayed jealous behaviors?

History of Violence/Abuse in Relationship:

- Has there been physical/ sexual/ verbal/emotional/financial abuse and has abuse escalated in the last 12 months?
- Has the victim ever required medical attention?

Assaults/Threats:

- Has the accused ever hurt, injured/threatened to hurt victim, a family member, another person/animal?
- Does the accused use extreme minimization or denial of assaultive behavior?

Weapons:

- Has the accused ever used weapons against victim or threatened to use weapons?
- Does the accused own a firearm or have plans to acquire a firearm?

Children:

- Have children witnessed the abuse by accused?
- Have children been abused?
- Has the Ministry of Children and Family Development been involved with the family?

Abduction:

- Has the accused ever abducted/threatened to abduct children?

Strangulation:

- Has the accused ever strangled or bitten the victim?

Employment:

- Has the accused employment history changed during the last 12 months?
- Does the accused have problems maintaining employment?

Criminal Status:

- Is the accused currently before the courts?
- Has the accused ever violated a court order including Peace Bond or no contact?

Substance Abuse:

- Is the accused currently using alcohol/drugs?
- Is substance abuse escalating?
- Does violence increase when the accused has been consuming?

Mental Health/Suicide:

- Does the accused have a mental illness?
- Has the accused ever expressed homicidal/suicidal ideas?
- Has the accused ever attempted suicide?

Thoughts and Plans of Violence:

- Has the accused ever made serious threats, committed acts of stalking/made plans to harm others?

Victim Vulnerability:

- Is the victim socially/physically isolated, unwilling to leave home?
- What is the victim's perception of personal safety?
- What are the cultural barriers to getting help?

5.38 Violence in Relationship Investigative Checklist

This checklist is used by RCMP investigators in Newfoundland and Labrador to assist in determining heightened risk to victims. It is attached to all spousal/relationship files and is used to help inform the case history of any previous incidents of violence. It is also used to develop integrated and cooperative community partner strategies with victim services in order to manage the risk to victims.

5.39 Violence in Relationships – Investigative Procedures Guide

This tool is used in British Columbia by RCMP “E” Division as an investigational and risk assessment guide. The guide assists members in clearly documenting investigative procedures in violence in relationship cases. Importantly, part 2 of the procedures has the investigating members canvassing the victim on 19 risk factors as part of the interview of every domestic violence victims. This structures the police response to a victim-centred, safety-focused approach.

The guide includes the following sections, with relevant questions:

1. Evidence and Information Gathering
2. Statement and Risk Assessment Components
3. Safety Planning
4. Arrest, Court and Release
5. Monitoring

The tool has been embedded within RCMP “E” Division policy since February 2011 and it is required to be applied in every domestic violence investigation. While the tool itself has not been validated, most of the risk factors on which it is based have been tested and validated. The purpose of the tool is to alert the investigating police to risk factors to guide their decision-making. The tool is available on police mobile work stations and comprises part of the investigational file. It is also available in a laminated police notebook size, so members can have this guide at scene to utilize during the investigation.

5.40 Woman Abuse Protocols

In Prince Edward Island, Woman/Spousal Abuse Protocols have been developed in the following sectors: Police, Probation Services, Victim Services, Adult Custody, Family Law Centre, Clinical Services, Turning Point Program, Financial Assistance and Hospital Emergency Rooms.

For more information on the Woman Abuse Protocols in Prince Edward Island, please refer to the following website: http://www.cliapei.ca/content/page/resources_wap/ (date accessed: October 22, 2013.)

5.41 Yellowknife Interagency Family Violence Protocol

This interagency protocol outlines how individuals or organizations can work together when they investigate a family violence incident in the Northwest Territories. The eight agencies involved in the protocol include the: YWCA Alison McAteer House (local family violence shelter), Centre for Northern Families, Public Prosecution Service of Canada, NWT Regional Office, Yellowknife RCMP Detachment, Stanton Territorial Health Authority, Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority, Canada/NWT Service Centre, Income Security Programs and Yellowknife Victim Services.

The protocol increases information-sharing and interagency collaboration with the goal of increasing victim safety. The implementation of this protocol is in its early stages. However, it is working towards contributing to the development of models and strategies to improve the criminal justice system response to family violence.

6. Conclusion

During the course of this project, respondents from all provinces and territories have expressed different challenges, needs and levels of resources in their jurisdictions regarding spousal violence risk assessments and other types of tools. Based on these comments and concerns, it was evident that there are wide variations in terms of how jurisdictions across Canada are able or are structured to respond to the complexity of spousal violence cases.

Despite these differences, a consistent message became quite clear. According to our respondents, the level of effectiveness in reducing risk in spousal violence and improving subsequent safety plans for victims is inextricably linked to the following issues:

1. Developing or improving the coordination of services and information-sharing through protocols;
2. Making interdisciplinary training available to all stakeholders; and
3. Coordinating risk assessments, practices and operations among all criminal justice personnel and social/victim services.

There is a notable overlap in terms of the use of specific tools across the country. At the same time, many jurisdictions have expressed interest in developing and eventually implementing standard practices across the country with regards to spousal violence risk assessment tools. This report will contribute to further discussions at the federal, provincial and territorial levels on the issue of risk assessment tools and maximizing safety for victims of spousal violence.