



Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

## LETHALITY ASSESSMENT 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

After telling the victim that you are concerned about their safety and would like to better understand their situation...

- Introduce the LAP screen.
- After asking questions, handle information as follows:  
Yes to Q.1, 2, or 3 = High-Danger Referral  
No to Q.1-3, but Yes to four of Q.4-11 = High-Danger Referral.
- "No" responses may still trigger High-Danger Referral if you believe it appropriate. Ask "what worries you" question to help determine whether a High-Danger Referral should be triggered in Non-High Danger screens.

LAP Hotline #: \_\_\_\_\_

**All completed screens are sent to local DV organization.**

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## High-Danger Referral Process

- Advise victim of the High-Danger assessment results.
- Tell the victim that you need to call the LAP hotline and you would like for them to speak with the advocate.  
*(Remember: You are seeking the victim's permission to provide their name.)*
- If victim does not want to speak with the advocate, tell the victim that you still need to speak with the advocate and gently ask the victim to reconsider.
- If victim still does not want to speak with advocate, offer the option of just listening to the advocate's safety plan.
- Assist the advocate with safety planning if asked.
- If victim wants to leave, help arrange transportation.
- Notify your domestic violence unit or supervisor.
- Prepare report, indicate "LAP protocol followed".
- Do not include the details of their safety plan or results of the screen in the reports.
- Assess YES responses to determine if additional investigation is applicable.

## Not Screened In or Did/Could Not Participate

- Ensure short term safety plan is completed.
- Advise to watch for signs of danger.
- Ensure CT Office of Victim Services card is provided.
- Advise of potential dangerous situation.
- Refer to local domestic violence organization.
- Provide first responder contact information card.
- Follow up with LAP screen if incapacitated at the time.
- Prepare report.