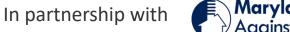


## IN-SERVICE CURRICULUM FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM— MARYLAND MODEL (LAP)









#### Introductions

Officer Laurie Valley, Janesville Police Department

Sara Krall, Homicide Prevention Program Director, End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin



# What is the Lethality Assessment Program – Maryland Model (LAP)?

Identifying victims at the greatest risk of being killed

#### AND

Encouraging them to go into domestic violence services

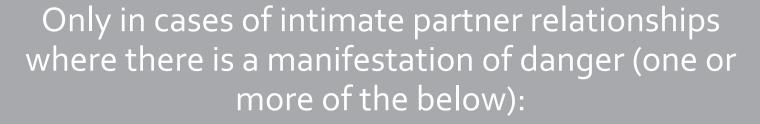


## LAP VIDEO



#### When to Initiate the LAP Protocol

#### At the end of the call for service



There's been an assault or act of domestic violence,

Officer believes that the victim faces danger when they leave,

When the home or parties are repeats, or

When the officer's gut tells them that the situation is dangerous.



## **Initiating the Lethality Screen**



Approach the Lethality Screen **simply**, **positively**, **and privately** with the victim.



Advise the victim you would like to **ask** her/him some questions to get a better idea of her/his situation.



The officer's attitude about the Screen determines how effective the LAP will be at identifying high-danger victims and getting them receive services.



## **Lethality Screen**

#### INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE LETHALITY SCREEN FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT





City/Town/Villag	e:					
Officer:		Date:	Case #:	se #:		
Victim:		Offender:				
☐ Check her	e if victim declined to be	escreened				
☐ Check her	e if the officer could not	administer the screen				
A "Yes" respon	ise to any of Questions	#1-3 is an automatic High-Dan				
<ol> <li>Has he/she/they ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon?</li> </ol>			vith a Yes	□ No	□Not Ans/Unk	
Has he/she/they threatened to kill you or your children?			☐ Yes	☐ No	□Not Ans/Unk	
Do you think he/she/they might try to kill you?			☐ Yes	☐ No	□Not Ans/Unk	
"Yes" response	es to at least four of Que	estions #4-11 is an automatic l	High-Danger Assessm	ent		
4. Does he/she	Does he/she/they have a gun or can they easily get one?			☐ No	□Not Ans/Unk	
<ol><li>Has he/she/they ever tried to strangle or choke you?</li></ol>			☐ Yes	☐ No	□Not Ans/Unk	
6. Is he/she/they violently or constantly jealous or does he/she/they control most of			rol most of	☐ No	■Not Ans/Unk	
your daily ac		1553				
7. Have you left him/her/them or separated after living together or being married?				□ No		
Is he/she/they unemployed?			☐ Yes		□ Not Ans/Unk	
Has he/she/they ever tried to kill himself/herself/themself?			☐ Yes	□ No		
10. Do you have a child that he/she/they knows is not his/hers/theirs?			☐ Yes		■Not Ans/Unk	
11. Does he/she/they follow or spy on you or leave threatening messages?			? ☐ Yes	□ No	■Not Ans/Unk	
Is there anythi	ng else that worries you	about your safety? (If "yes")	What worries you?			
	r make a High-Danger A	ssessment if the officer believ	es the victim is in a po	tentially	lethal	
situation.	-					
Check one:	☐ Victim is High-Danger based on score					
☐ Victim is High-Danger based on officer belief						
	☐ Victim is not asses					
If victim is High-Danger, did officer make a call to the hotline?				□ No		
Did the victim	speak with the hotline a	dunanta?	☐ Yes	☐ No		

Note: The questions above and the criteria for determining the level of risk a person faces is based on the best available research on factors associated with lethal violence by a current or former intimate partner. However, each situation may present unique factors that influence risk for lethal violence that are not captured by this screen. Although most victims who are assessed as "High-Danger" would not be expected to be killed, these victims face much higher risk than that of other victims of intimate partner violence. All domestic violence is serious. This Screen should not be used to determine whether someone is a victim or is at risk of re-assault.

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## **High Danger = Call the Hotline**



"Yes" to at least one of questions #1, 2, or 3



"No" to questions #1-3 but "yes" to at least four of questions #4-11



No to all, or yes to no more than three of questions #4-11, but officer believes it is appropriate



Victim "does not answer" (DNA) the LAP screen questions because she/he needs immediate medical attention



## **High Danger LAP Protocol**



Advise victims they are in danger, that people in their situation have been killed.



Call hotline.



Provide basic information.



### **High Danger LAP Protocol**



Victim speaks with hotline advocate (officer stands by).



Officer speaks with hotline advocate again before concluding the call.



Advise the victim that you need to contact the domestic violence program for advice on how to better assist them.

Ask the victim to reconsider speaking with the hotline advocate while you call.

Call the hotline

Ask the victim if they've reconsidered.

# High Danger: Victim Initially Declines to Speak to the Advocate



# High Danger: Victim Continues to Decline to Speak to the Advocate

Ask **twice** if the victim would like to speak with the advocate. If the victim declines twice:

Reiterate that victim is in a dangerous situation

Engage in basic safety planning with the victim with the help of the advocate over the phone

Inform the victim to watch for lethality predictors

Ask for contact information for followup Encourage the victim to utilize the domestic violence program's services

Provide the victim with the officer's contact information



### Non-High Danger

Victims assessed as "Non-High Danger" are not at the same level of danger as high-danger victims and therefore do not warrant the same urgent level of communication. The officer should do the following:

Advise victim that domestic violence situations are dangerous and potentially deadly

Advise victim to look for signs of danger.

Vigorously refer victim to domestic violence program.

Give victim officer/police contact information.



#### **After This Session**

How are you feeling about using the LAP in general?

Use these questions to debrief with another officer or supervisor at your law enforcement agency:

What remains unclear to you? Where are you really confident?

What seems similar to the "normal" response to intimate partner violence that you're used to? What seemed different?

How will the LAP change the way you work with domestic violence advocates and offer services to victims?



#### **Administrative Decisions**

	Which phone do officers use for LAP calls?
Ask your	
agency's dedicated	(If applicable): How are body-worn cameras and/or recording devices used during the LAP process?
LAP point person about the following	What should officers write about the LAP in their report narrative?
protocols decided upon	How are LAP screens transmitted to the DV program (e.g., scanned/e-mailed/faxed)?
at your department related to the	Who is responsible for transmitting the screens and how quickly will screens be transmitted?
LAP:	What LAP protocol materials are available to officers on their shift?



#### Resources

Contact the designated LAP point person at your agency or someone from End Abuse to request any of the following:

- LAP Training Video
- LAP Pocket Protocol Cards
- LAP Communication Guidelines
- Mobile LAP Screen + Instructions



"You took the time when no one else did. If you hadn't I am sure me and my children would be dead."



### Questions? Contact the End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin Homicide Prevention Team:

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