



IN-SERVICE CURRICULUM FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM— MARYLAND MODEL (LAP)



In partnership with



Introductions

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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



Only in cases of intimate partner relationships where there is a manifestation of danger (one or more of the below):

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/Village:		Date:	Case #:
Officer:		Offender:	
Victim:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if victim declined to be screened <input type="checkbox"/> Check here if the officer could not administer the screen			
A "Yes" response to any of Questions #1-3 is an automatic High-Danger assessment			
1. Has he/she/they ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans/Unk
2. Has he/she/they threatened to kill you or your children?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans/Unk
3. Do you think he/she/they might try to kill you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans/Unk
"Yes" responses to at least four of Questions #4-11 is an automatic High-Danger Assessment			
4. Does he/she/they have a gun or can they easily get one?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans/Unk
5. Has he/she/they ever tried to strangle or choke you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans/Unk
6. Is he/she/they violently or constantly jealous or does he/she/they control most of your daily activities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans/Unk
7. Have you left him/her/them or separated after living together or being married?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans/Unk
8. Is he/she/they unemployed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans/Unk
9. Has he/she/they ever tried to kill himself/herself/themselves?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans/Unk
10. Do you have a child that he/she/they knows is not his/hers/theirs?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans/Unk
11. Does he/she/they follow or spy on you or leave threatening messages?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans/Unk
Is there anything else that worries you about your safety? (if "yes") What worries you?			
An officer may make a High-Danger Assessment if the officer believes the victim is in a potentially lethal situation.			
Check one:	<input type="checkbox"/> Victim is High-Danger based on score <input type="checkbox"/> Victim is High-Danger based on officer belief <input type="checkbox"/> Victim is not assessed as High-Danger		
If victim is High-Danger, did officer make a call to the hotline?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Did the victim speak with the hotline advocate?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> 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.

This project was supported by Grant No. 2011-TA-AX-K111 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women. F

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 follow-up

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

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

How are you feeling about using the LAP in general?

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

Ask your agency's dedicated LAP point person about the following protocols decided upon at your department related to the LAP:

Which phone do officers use for LAP calls?

(If applicable): How are body-worn cameras and/or recording devices used during the LAP process?

What should officers write about the LAP in their report narrative?

How are LAP screens transmitted to the DV program (e.g., scanned/e-mailed/faxed)?

Who is responsible for transmitting the screens and how quickly will screens be transmitted?

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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