

Adjustments to the online training module based on workgroup feedback

Slide 2: Introduction

Section 741.29, F.S. requires all law enforcement officers to complete this one-time training on adopted statewide policies and procedures for administering a lethality assessment during domestic violence investigations that involve intimate partner violence (IPV). This training is required as part of your initial certification or ongoing employment.

Slide 3: What is a Lethality Assessment

Generally speaking, a lethality assessment is a tool that first responders use to predict the likelihood that a homicide will occur between intimate partners during a domestic violence call.

By law, you must make a good faith attempt to perform a lethality assessment of the victim if the domestic violence call involves an intimate partnership.

The Office of Violence Against Women defines an **intimate partnership** as individuals who are married, living together, dating, or sharing a child. And the Department of Children and Families (DCF) defines **Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)** as a pattern of behaviors batterers use against current or former intimate partners to establish control.

Please continue to follow your agency policies and procedures when handling the call. The only difference is the inclusion of a lethality assessment.

Slide 5: Responding to the Call

2.) Whether They're Intimate Partners

~~According to the Department of Children and Families (DCF), intimate partner violence (IPV) is defined as a pattern of behaviors batterers use against current or former intimate partners to establish control.~~

~~IPV can occur between current and former intimate partners who may or may not be living together in the same household.~~

Recalling what you now know about IPV and what an intimate partnership entails, the simple solution is to ask the victim if the aggressor is a former or current intimate partner and ~~take what they say as the truth~~ make your best determination based on their answer, your training, and the totality of circumstances.

Slide 6: Administering the Lethality Assessment

While the form ~~uses the word "aggressor"~~ refers to the aggressor as "they," "them," and "their," ~~in each of the questions, you may replace that those words~~ with the aggressor's name or ~~he or she~~ pronoun. For example, you can say: "Did John ever use a weapon against you or threaten you with a weapon?" or "Did she ever threaten to kill you or your children?"

Slide 7: Lethality Assessment Form

Included a section at the top of the form for the officer to write down the offender's name. Also, replaced "aggressor" with "they," "their," and "them" where necessary in each of the questions.