

3 QUESTION LETHALITY/RISK ASSESSMENT

(Created by St. Paul, MN Police Department)

This assessment avoids the typical yes/no questions. It creates the opportunity for the victim to be more involved, for the officers and advocates to gain more useful information in order to increase safety planning for the victim. The information gathered can also potentially be used to increase officer safety. These questions can be used by advocates, law enforcement, prosecutors, etc. Again, there is no “sure way” to identify whether or not a victim will be killed or not, yet any manner in which we can increase safety for victims should be acted upon. The following three questions encompass all risk areas, as well encompassing past history, present history, and possible future violence.

1. Do you think your partner will seriously injure/kill you or your children? What makes you think so? What makes you think not?
2. How frequently and seriously does your partner intimidate, threaten or assault you? Have you noticed changes? Is it getting better or worse? How?
3. Describe the time you were most frightened or hurt by your partner?