

## Assessing Lethality & Dangerousness of Batterers

There is no tool that can accurately predict when or if a batterer will attempt or succeed in committing murder. Research suggests that the following characteristics were often present prior to domestic homicide and should be considered as antecedents to such. This assessment should be used as a tool to provide victims and victim services with a rational depiction of the batterer's dangerousness. The absence of one or most of the characteristics, however, does not indicate a lack of dangerousness. Taking into consideration the information collected by the assessment, a victim safety plan should be created to maximize their safety. Note that all batterers should be considered dangerous and potential perpetrators of homicide regardless of the number of characteristics they exhibit.

### Check the box that applies.

- The batterer has threatened or attempted homicide or suicide.
- The batterer has fantasized about homicide or suicide (who, how, when, where).
- The batterer has access to weapons.
- The batterer has used weapons during prior assaults.
- The batterer is obsessive about their partner, expressing ownership and the need to control them.
- The batterer is isolated from friends and family and depends heavily on their partner.
- The batterer experiences bouts of rage and depression.
- The batterer consumes drugs and/or alcohol.
- The batterer has access to the victim.
- The batterer has a prior history of domestic violence.
- The victim has made prior contact with law enforcement.
- The batterer has a criminal record.
- The victim has a restraining order placed against the batterer.
- The nature of battering has escalated.
- The batterer has entrapped victim, taken hostages, or used barricades to gain control.
- The victim is in the process of leaving or has recently left.
- The batterer has harmed pets or animals.
- The batterer has engaged in stalking behavior.