

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INVESTIGATION GUIDE:
GATHERING INFORMATION FOR RISK ASSESSMENT
AND FOR YOUR REPORT TO CROWN COUNSEL

Obtain information within first 12 hours of Investigation from: CPIC (including CFRO Query), PRIME, Protective Order Registry (1-800-990-9888), 911 recordings, EHS personnel, and from the complainant, and other Witnesses etc. Make detailed notes

***** INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR BAIL HEARING**

RELATIONSHIP

1. **Current status of relationship:** Is there past, recent or pending separation in the relationship?***
2. **Escalation in Abuse:** Is there escalation in the frequency/intensity of violence or abuse towards the complainant, family members, a pet or another person?
3. **Children Exposed:** Are there children under 19 in the family who are living in the home? Who are the parents and is there a custody dispute? (Contact the Ministry of Children and Families)
4. **Threats:** Has the suspect ever threatened to kill or harm the complainant, a family member, another person, children or a pet?
5. **Forced Sex:** Has the suspect ever forced sex on the complainant?
- 6.. **Strangling, Choking or Biting:** Has the suspect ever strangled, choked or bit the complainant?
7. **Stalking:** Has the suspect displayed jealous behaviours, stalked or harassed the complainant or a previous intimate partner:
8. **Other Information:** Any other relevant information (eg. Is the complainant pregnant, socially/physically isolated; unwilling to leave the home; immigration or cultural barriers inhibit complainant, disabilities, property damage, children not living in home etc.)?

SUSPECT HISTORY

9. **Suspect's Criminal Violence History:** Does the suspect have a history of investigations, charges or convictions for threats, violence, and/or sex assaults? ***
10. **Previous Domestic Violence History:** Is there a history of violence or abusive behaviour in the relationship or with a previous intimate partner? Is there any history of threats of violence, actual violence or abusive behaviour against other members of the household including children, other family members or family pets?***
11. **Court Orders:** Has the suspect ever violated a court order? Is the suspect presently bound by any Court Orders? Is the suspect in a reverse onus situation for bail? ***
12. **Alcohol/Drugs:** Does the suspect have a history of drug or alcohol abuse? ***
13. **Employment Instability:** Is the suspect unemployed or experiencing financial problems?
14. **Mental Illness:** Does the suspect have a history of mental illness (eg. Depression or paranoia)? ***
15. **Suicidal Ideation:** Has the suspect threatened or attempted suicide? (If yes, when and how?) ***

WEAPONS/FIREARMS

- 16.. **Weapons/Firearms:** Has the suspect used or threatened to use a firearm or weapon against the complainant, family member, children or an animal?
17. **Access to Weapons/Firearms:** Does the suspect have access to weapons/firearms?

VICTIM/COMPLAINANT

18. **Complainant's Perception of Personal Safety:** Does the complainant believe the suspect will disobey terms of release particularly a no contact order? ***
19. **Complainant's Perception of Future Violence:** Does the complainant fear further violence if the suspect should be released from custody? (What is the basis of victim's fear and what access is there to the victim)? ***

Note Taking by Members

All excited utterances need to be recorded in verbatim in notebook from the Victim, Witnesses and Suspect. Document observations such as broken furniture, injuries, and demeanor of parties.

SAFETY PLANNING

Victim Services

Notify victim services on every file. Consider a call out in every instance unless victim is hostile, uncooperative and/or severely intoxicated.

Victim safety planning

Are there strategies or processes that could be utilized to increase the safety of the victim, and strengthen the ability to monitor and evaluate situations of risk? Has the victim accepted victim services?

Risk Monitoring

More extensive risk assessment and risk assessment focussed investigation conducted (B-SAFER)? Re-evaluation will enable member to continually assess any changes in risk, ie. Interviews with suspect, interviews with victim, home visits, warning signs, major life events, etc. Active monitoring of compliance with bail conditions and immediate action on any breaches.

Limitations on suspect

Supervision or surveillance strategies necessary, such as reporting to a bail supervisor, as well as restrictions on activity, association, or communication, ie- no contact, no weapons, no alcohol/drugs, reside as directed, remand in custody with no contact order pursuant to s. 516(2) of the *Criminal Code*, etc.

Immediate Action

Does the person pose imminent risk, and/or preventive steps to be taken, ie. Warrant, arrest, after arrest seeking detention order (with a no contact order sought after the D.O. pursuant to s.515(12) of the *Criminal Code*), hospitalization, counselling, etc?