

**LETHALITY RISK ASSESSMENT:  
IS YOUR LIFE IN DANGER?**

All the indicators listed below can increase the risk of serious assault and homicide. The greater the number of indicators that are present, the greater the likelihood.

**If any of the indicators are present in your situation, make plans for your safety and the safety of your children by calling 911 and the Center for Domestic Peace. You may be at risk for serious assault and even death.**

Center for Domestic Peace Bilingual (English & Spanish) Hotline 415.924.6616  
Center for Domestic Peace Youth Textline 415.526.2557  
734 A Street, San Rafael, CA 94901  
[www.centerfordomesticpeace.org](http://www.centerfordomesticpeace.org)

- 1. Has \_\_\_\_\_ threatened to kill you, the children, your relatives or themselves? **Prior threats to kill is one of the strongest risk factors consistently linked to homicide.** Describe the specific threats:

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- 2. Has \_\_\_\_\_ expressed ideas, dreams or fantasies about killing you, the children, your relatives or themselves? **The risk is greater if the abuser is very specific about his plans or intended methods.** Have they made more than one threat? Daily? Monthly? Around how many:

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**Describe the kinds of ideas, dreams or fantasies about killing you, the children, your relatives, or others:**

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3. Is there availability of or past use of weapons (guns, knives, etc.) **Access to a gun or knives is strong indicator of homicide risk.** What type of weapons?

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4. Has \_\_\_\_\_ ever used their hands or an object to choke, strangle or suffocate you? **These are high risk factors for homicide.** Describe:

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5. Is there a history of arson or threats of arson? **A history of arson increases risk of homicide.** Describe:

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6. Does \_\_\_\_\_ express ownership of you (“You can never leave me”; “If I can’t have you no one else can”; “Death before divorce”)? **Describe specific language used:**

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7. Does \_\_\_\_\_ depend heavily on you to organize and sustain their life; idolize you; isolate themselves and you from all other aspects of community life? **Describe:**

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8. Has there been violence or threats since or after separation? Often violence and threats increase after separation. **Describe:**

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9. Has there been stalking, hostage-taking or abduction? **Describe:**

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10. Is \_\_\_\_\_ very depressed, seeing little hope for life? **Describe:**

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11. Has the violence gotten worse or more frequent? **This often increases prior to attempting homicide. Describe:**

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12. Is there frequent use of alcohol or drugs? **Excessive, frequent use increases likelihood of serious assault. Describe:**

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Modified by Center for Domestic Peace, 2012  
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