



Rob Veale Ltd Family Violence Workshop Series

RISK ASSESSMENT ONLY

An Introduction to Safety Planning – towards Wellbeing
Designed for community agencies and professionals

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Lethality & Risk Assessment

Risk assessment is defined as ...

“The formal application of instruments to assess the likelihood that intimate partner violence will be repeated and escalated. The term is synonymous with dangerousness assessment and encompasses lethality assessment, the use of instruments specifically developed to identify potentially lethal situations.”

Roehl & Guertin, 2000, p.171

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Risk Markers

Table 1: Characteristics that increase the likelihood of re-assault.

History of assault	Stability of relationships
Motivation for treatment	Childhood abuse
Stability of employment	Attitudes to women

(Gondolf 2002)


Table 2: Indicative of life-threatening attack on a spouse include

Homicide/suicide threats	Homicide/suicide fantasies
Access to weapons	Displaying 'ownership'
Displaying dependence	Being separated
Access to potential victims	Being depressed
Escalation of recklessness	Hostage taking
Victim having contacted law enforcement	

(Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence in Hilton, 1990)

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Discussion



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