

Attachment Four (4)

Committee on Domestic Violence
Legislative Subcommittee
December 11, 2019

Contents: DA-LE Description &
DA-LE Tool

Danger Assessment for Law Enforcement

The Danger Assessment for Law Enforcement (DA-LE) is an evidence-based risk assessment screening instrument, administered on scene by law enforcement officers, that identifies victims who are at the highest risk of severe/near-lethal assault. It acts as a supplement to the police report.

How it Works

An officer responding to a domestic violence call uses the DA-LE to collect a history of violence. The DA-LE consists of 11 questions. A score that exceeds a pre-determined threshold indicates a victim at elevated risk of homicide and severe/near-lethal assault.

The DA-LE is designed to be used in court to inform criminal justice proceedings including bail. The DA-LE can be used as a stand-alone tool or as part of a broader multidisciplinary team such as a Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT) that works together to prevent homicide.

The DA-LE is based on the Danger Assessment, an instrument developed by Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell, PhD, RN, FAAN to help abused women accurately assess the level of danger they are in from their partner or ex-partner. For more information, go to www.dangerassessment.org.

"Police officers have a unique opportunity to administer risk assessment at the scene of intimate partner violence (IPV) incidents."

- Jill Theresa Messing and Jacquelyn Campbell

The Research Behind DA-LE

The DA-LE is a collaboration between the foremost researchers in the field of intimate partner homicide and Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center.

To develop the DA-LE instrument, Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center partnered with two leading researchers, Dr. Jacquelyn C. Campbell, PhD, RN, FAAN of Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing and Dr. Jill Theresa Messing, MSW, PhD of Arizona State University School of Social Work.

» **Read *Informing collaborative interventions: Intimate partner violence risk assessment for front line police officers (PDF 146kb)* by Jill Theresa Messing and Jacquelyn Campbell.**

DANGER ASSESSMENT

Jacquelyn C. Campbell, Ph.D., R.N. Copyright, 2003; update 2019; www.dangerassessment.com

Several risk factors have been associated with increased risk of homicides (murders) of women and men in violent relationships. We cannot predict what will happen in your case, but we would like you to be aware of the danger of homicide in situations of abuse and for you to see how many of the risk factors apply to your situation.

Using the calendar, please mark the approximate dates during the past year when you were abused by your partner or ex-partner. Write on that date how bad the incident was according to the following scale:

1. Slapping, pushing; no injuries and/or lasting pain
 2. Punching, kicking; bruises, cuts, and/or continuing pain
 3. "Beating up"; severe contusions, burns, broken bones
 4. Threat to use weapon; head injury, internal injury, permanent injury, miscarriage or choking* (use a © in the date to indicate choking/strangulation/cut off your breathing- example 4©)
 5. Use of weapon; wounds from weapon
- (If **any** of the descriptions for the higher number apply, use the higher number.)
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Mark **Yes** or **No** for each of the following. ("He" refers to your husband, partner, ex-husband, ex-partner, or whoever is currently physically hurting you.)

- _____ 1. Has the physical violence increased in severity or frequency over the past year?
- _____ 2. Does he own a gun?
- _____ 3. Have you left him after living together during the past year?
3a. (If you have *never* lived with him, check here: __)
- _____ 4. Is he unemployed?
- _____ 5. Has he ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a lethal weapon? (If yes, was the weapon a gun? check here: __)
- _____ 6. Does he threaten to kill you?
- _____ 7. Has he avoided being arrested for domestic violence?
- _____ 8. Do you have a child that is not his?
- _____ 9. Has he ever forced you to have sex when you did not wish to do so?
- _____ 10. Does he ever try to choke/strangle you or cut off your breathing?
10a. (If yes, has he done it more than once, or did it make you pass out or black out or make you dizzy? check here: __)
- _____ 11. Does he use illegal drugs? By drugs, I mean "uppers" or amphetamines, "meth", speed, angel dust, cocaine, "crack", street drugs or mixtures.
- _____ 12. Is he an alcoholic or problem drinker?
- _____ 13. Does he control most or all of your daily activities? For instance, does he tell you who you can be friends with, when you can see your family, how much money you can use, or when you can take the car? (If he tries, but you do not let him, check here: __)
- _____ 14. Is he violently and constantly jealous of you? (For instance, does he say: "If I can't have you, no one can.")
- _____ 15. Have you ever been beaten by him while you were pregnant? (If you have never been pregnant by him, check here: __)
- _____ 16. Has he ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?
- _____ 17. Does he threaten to harm your children?
- _____ 18. Do you believe he is capable of killing you?
- _____ 19. Does he follow or spy on you, leave threatening notes or messages, destroy your property, or call you when you don't want him to?
- _____ 20. Have you ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?

_____ Total "Yes" Answers

Thank you. Please talk to your nurse, advocate, or counselor about what the Danger Assessment means in your situation.