

SUMMARY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RISK FACTORS














This icon indicates the risk factors that Police Officers must be aware of when conducting evidence-based, risk -focused Domestic Violence investigations.










This icon indicates a risk factor associated with the greatest potential for LETHAL violence.














This icon indicates a risk factor that if present must be included (at a minimum) in the documentation for a Bail Hearing.

Suspect History		
 	Suspect's Criminal Violence History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the Suspect have a history of threats, violence, sex assaults, and criminal harassment? <p>Note: One of the most common research findings is that Offenders with a history of violence are much more likely to engage in future violence than those with no such history.</p>
 	Previous Domestic Violence History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there a history of violence or abusive behaviour in a previous Intimate Partner Relationship? Is there any history of threats or actual violence or abusive behaviour against other members of the household including children, other family members or family pets?
	Court Orders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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?
	Alcohol/Drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the Suspect have a history of drug or alcohol abuse?
	Employment Instability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the Suspect unemployed or experiencing financial problems?
 	Mental Illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the Suspect have a history of mental illness (e.g. Depression or paranoia)?
 	Suicidal Ideation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the Suspect threatened or attempted suicide? (If YES, when and how?)

Access to Weapons/Firearms		
	Weapons/Firearms (Used or Threatened?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the Suspect used or threatened to use a firearm or weapon against the complainant, family member, children or an animal?
	Access to Weapons/Firearms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the Suspect have access to weapons/firearms?

Complainants Perceptions of Risk		
 	Complainant's Perception of Personal Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the complainant believe the Suspect will disobey terms of release particularly a no contact order?
  	Complainant's Perception of Future Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the complainant fear further violence if the Suspect should be released from custody? What access is there to the Victim and what is the basis of the Victim's fear?

Relationship History		
  	Current Status of the Relationship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there past, recent or pending separation in the relationship? <p>Note: Social science experts say that where there are controlling coercive behaviours, the intensity and lethality of violence often escalates after the victim leaves the relationship.</p>
	Escalation in Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there escalation in the frequency/intensity of violence or abuse towards the complainant, family members, a pet or another person?
	Children Exposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there children, under 19 years of age, in the family who are living in the home? Who are the parents and is there a custody dispute? (Note: Contact the Ministry of Children and Families.)
	Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the Suspect ever threatened to kill or harm the complainant, a family member, another person, children or a pet?
	Forced Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the Suspect ever forced sex on the complainant?
 	Strangling, Choking or Biting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the Suspect ever strangled, choked or bit the complainant?
	Stalking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the Suspect displayed jealous behaviours, stalked or harassed the complainant or a previous intimate partner?
	Information on Relative Social Powerlessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are marginalization factors present (i.e. drugs, alcohol, pregnancy, etc.)? Are cultural factors present (i.e. family pressures, religious beliefs, gender inequality, etc.)?