



Danger Assessment Procedure

1. Explain to the client that the Danger Assessment is a research based instrument for women in relationships with men which uses a weighted scoring system to count yes/no responses of risk factors associated with intimate partner homicide. Some of the risk factors women and men are asked about are whether or not their partner owns a gun, their partner's employment status, whether or not the partner has ever threatened to kill, etc.
2. Inform the client that a low score does not indicate safety. There are many instances in which the violence escalates without predictability and is not determinable.
3. Interview the client marking responses on the form, add up the points and report the results according to the scale. If the client has children, inquire about the impact of witnessing domestic violence on and safety risks to them.
4. Inform the client about options for increasing safety, including:
 - Temporary restraining order
 - Safety plan
 - Safehouse
 - Crisis line
 - 911
 - Law enforcement reporting
 - Documentation
 - Hospital and doctor visits
5. After sharing this information with the client, check in to see how the client is feeling regarding the information they have received. Help to create an action plan that empowers the client to increase safety and stability.

DANGER ASSESSMENT

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.

Mark "Yes" or "no" for each of the following. ("Partner" can refer to a spouse, ex-spouse, partner, ex-partner, boyfriend/girlfriend, or whoever is currently hurting you).

Yes	No	
		1. Has the physical violence increased in severity or frequency over the past year?
		2. Does your partner own a gun?
		3. Have you left your partner after living together during the past year? 3a. If you have <i>never</i> lived with your partner, check here <input type="checkbox"/> .
		4. Is your partner unemployed?
		5. Has your partner ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a lethal weapon? (If yes, was this weapon a gun? Check the box if yes <input type="checkbox"/> .
		6. Does your partner threaten to kill you?
		7. Has your partner avoided being arrested for domestic violence?
		8. Do you have a child that is not biologically your partner's?
		9. Has your partner ever forced you to have sex when you did not wish to do so?
		10. Does your partner ever try to strangle or choke you?
		11. Does your partner use illegal drugs? For example, "uppers" or amphetamines, speed, angel dust, cocaine, "crack," street drugs or mixtures, vicodin, etc.
		12. Is your partner an alcoholic or problem drinker?
		13. Does your partner control most or all of your daily activities? For instance: does your partner 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 your partner tries, but you do not allow it, check here: <input type="checkbox"/> .
		14. Is your partner violently and constantly jealous of you? For instance, does your partner say, "If I can't have you, no one can."?
		15. Have you ever been beaten by your partner while you were pregnant? (If you have never been pregnant by your partner, check here: <input type="checkbox"/> .

		16. Have you ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?
		17. Has your partner ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?
		18. Does your partner threaten to harm your children?
		19. Do you believe your partner is capable of killing you?
		20. Does your partner follow or spy on you, leave threatening notes or messages on the answering machine, destroy your property, or call you against your wishes?
TOTALS		

Scoring Revised Danger Assessment

Add total number of "yes" responses (1-20): _____

Add 4 points for each "yes" to questions 2 and 3: _____

Add 3 points for a "yes" to question 4: _____

Add 2 points for each "yes" to questions 5, 6, and 7 _____

Add 1 point to each "yes" to questions 8 and 9 _____

Subtract 3 points if 3a is checked _____

Total _____

KEY

- Less than 8 = variable danger** → Be sure to tell clients the level can change quickly; watch for other signs of danger; believe in their gut instinct
- 8-13 = elevated danger** → Advise clients of risk, assertive safety planning; consult with judges; high level of supervision recommendations
- 14-17 = high danger** → Advise clients of risk, assertive safety planning; consult with judges; high level of supervision recommendations
- 18 or more = extreme danger** → Advise of serious danger; take assertive actions; call for criminal justice or other professional help; recommend highest bail, highest sentencing, highest probation supervision