



WEST VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Operational Policy

OG0700: Domestic Violence

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1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this policy is to:

- a) provide a set of protocols and responsibilities for Members and Supervisors when responding to, and investigating “Domestic Violence” or “Spousal Violence” cases;
- b) comply with the provincial Violence Against Women in Relationship policy (VAWIR) regarding violence in relationships and align Department policy with the model Domestic Violence policy published by the Ministry of Justice;
- c) ensure the victim(s) of a Domestic Violence receive a full and sensitive explanation of the justice system process; and
- d) provide for appropriate referrals to community support groups and the Greater Vancouver Victim Services group.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

2.1 For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions will apply:

“CFCSA” means the Child, Family and Community Service Act, [RSBC 1996], Chapter 46, as amended from time to time.

“CPIC” means the Canadian Police Information Center.

“CVAA” means the Crime Victim Assistance Act, [SBC 2001], Chapter 38, as amended from time to time.

“Department” means the West Vancouver Police Department.

“Domestic Violence” means physical, emotional, sexual or verbal abuse and includes other coercive and violent behaviours to establish control of an individual including psychological intimidation, verbal abuse, isolation and financial control. It includes all intimate relationships and is often committed by a spouse, ex-spouse or another family member to control and intimidate someone. Victims could be family members, friends or neighbours.

“FLA” means the Family Law Act, [SBC 2011], Chapter 25, as amended from time to time.

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“FMEA” means the Family Maintenance Enforcement Act, [RSBC 1996], Chapter 127, as amended from time to time.

“FOIPPA” means the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, [RSBC 1996], Chapter 165, as amended from time to time.

“Member” means a sworn peace officer employed at the Department.

“POR” means the Protection Order Registry of BC, a confidential database containing all civil and criminal protection orders issued in British Columbia.

“RTCC” means a Report to Crown Counsel.

“Supervisor” means a Member promoted to, or acting in, the rank of Corporal or above.

“VAWIR” means the BC Violence Against Women in Relationships policy collaborated on by the ministries of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Attorney General and Children and Family Development to recognize the need for integrated cross-agency policies as a key component of an effective response strategy to Domestic Violence.

“Victim Services” means a service that is designed to assist victims and is provided or funded by the government.

“VOCA” means the BC Victims of Crime Act, [RSBC 1996], Chapter 478, as amended from time to time.

“YCJA” means the Youth Criminal Justice Act, [S.C. 2002] c. 1, effective April 2003, as amended from time to time.

3.0 POLICY

- 3.1 The Department will treat all complaints of violence or abuse within personal relationships as a priority. Arrest and criminal prosecution of offenders will be the goal of all investigations where a Member reasonably believes an offence has been committed. The safety and security of the victim(s) is a top priority while Members conduct an investigation.
- 3.2 The Department recognizes and endorses the VAWIR policy developed by the ministries of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Attorney General, and Children and Family Development.
- 3.3 Members will consider VAWIR and this policy in responding to Domestic Violence calls. VAWIR can be located on the Department Intranet.

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- 3.4 Members have an obligation under VOCA to advise victims of their rights, including the right to information about the status of the police investigation and about Victim Services

4.0 PROCEDURES

Background

- 4.1 Domestic Violence is a very serious and complex criminal problem and has distinctive dynamics not found in other violent crimes. Interaction between the victim and the justice system can be more complex than with other crimes and it may be difficult for a victim to leave the relationship due to a power imbalance, isolation, fear for the safety of children, or cultural, religious or economic factors. The likelihood of repeat violence is common and it may escalate over time. Prosecution of the offender is important and in many cases, the best means of achieving victim protection is through judicial orders.
- 4.2 VAWIR is a policy document of the BC government setting out expectations, roles and responsibilities of the justice and child welfare service providers involved in Domestic Violence response.
- 4.3 VAWIR outlines a vigorous approach to police investigation and emphasizes an integrated, multi-agency coordinated response. Minimizing risk of violence, enhancing victim safety and ensuring offender accountability are priorities in these complex cases. [VAWIR Policy December 2010.pdf](#)
- 4.4 Positive working relationships among service providers are key to ensuring victims of Domestic Violence are well supported. This may include partnering with local service providers on innovative approaches to coordination through the development of projects or processes that are supported by protocols or memorandums of understanding.
- 4.5 A North Shore Integrated Case Assessment Team has been established to assist in the management of High Risk Domestic Violence cases.
- 4.6 All Domestic Violence cases determined to be High-Risk will be coordinated and managed by the Department Intimate Partner Violence Coordinator through the North Shore Integrated Case Assessment Team.
- 4.7 Domestic Violence cases are designated as “K” files by Crown Counsel. “K” files include cases where the intimate partner is the target of the criminal action of the accused although not the direct victim; for example, where the accused has committed an offence against someone or something important to the intimate partner such as an assault on the intimate partner’s child or new partner.

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Similarly, Crown Counsel identifies as “K” files charges arising from breaches of court orders and applications for Section 810 recognizance relating to Domestic Violence cases.

General

- 4.8 This operational policy applies to all complaints or reports concerning Domestic Violence. The terms “Domestic Violence”, “violence against women in relationships”, “violence in relationships”, “spousal violence”, “spousal abuse”, “spousal assault”, and “relationship violence” are alternative terms used.
- 4.9 Members investigating Domestic Violence cases must be familiar with:
- a) VAWIR policy, updated December 2010;
 - b) Criminal Code provisions ; and
 - c) Department policy on Domestic Violence.
- 4.10 The Department must coordinate prevention, intervention and enforcement efforts with government agencies and with community organizations for effective response to Domestic Violence and to reduce the incidence of Domestic Violence.
- 4.11 Sharing of specific case information is necessary and subject to several pieces of provincial and federal legislation including the Criminal Code; Police Act; Correction Act; Victims of Crime Act; Child, Family and Community Services Act; Family Law Act; as well as provincial and federal privacy legislation. This includes the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the provincial Personal Information Protection Act and the federal Privacy Act.
- 4.12 Members should be sensitive and accommodating when dealing with victims/witnesses and suspects who have special needs by virtue of isolation, mobility restrictions and language or communication abilities, and coordinate their investigations with interpreters where language is an issue. Interpreters should be provided in all circumstances to victims and suspects so that proper statements can be obtained. The accused, young children, and/or family members of the accused or victim should never be used as interpreters.
- 4.13 Members should clearly indicate on the RTCC Witness pages that the victim has special needs. If no victim or support service is available to meet the victim’s needs, this should also be communicated to Crown Counsel.
- 4.14 Prosecution of the offender is important and in many cases, the best means of achieving victim protection is through judicial orders.

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- 4.15 Safety of victims is of primary importance. Public safety must also remain paramount. A Member's interventions and actions must always take into account victim safety and public safety.

Primary Aggressor

- 4.16 The primary aggressor is the party who is the most dominant, rather than the first aggressor. In conducting a primary aggressor analysis, consider all circumstances, including the following questions:
- a) who has superior physical strength, ability and means for assault and/or intimidation?
 - b) what is the history and pattern of abuse in the relationship and in previous relationships?
 - c) who suffered the most extensive physical injuries and/or emotional damage and who required treatment for injury or damage?; and
 - d) are there defensive wounds?
- 4.17 Identify, arrest and charge the primary aggressor where reasonable grounds exist, in accordance with the Criminal Code.
- 4.18 An allegation of mutual aggression may be raised by the primary aggressor as a defense with respect to an assault against their partner. The practice of arresting both parties is strongly discouraged. Supervisors should be involved in the approval process for any circumstances where arrest and recommendation to charge both parties is considered.

Victim's Rights and Services

- 4.19 Members have an obligation under VOCA to advise victims of their rights, including the right to information about the status of the police investigation and about Victim Services.
- 4.20 Under VOCA, general information about the following must be offered by Members:
- a) the structure and operation of the justice system;
 - b) Victim Services;
 - c) FOIPPA;

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- d) the CVAA; and
- e) VOCA.

4.21 Under VOCA, subject to the YCJA, and insofar as this does not prejudice an investigation or prosecution of an offence, Members must arrange, on request, for a victim to obtain information on the following matters relating to the offence:

- a) the status of the police investigation;
- b) the specific counts with which the accused is charged or for which the offender is convicted;
- c) the reasons why a decision was made respecting charges;
- d) the name of the accused;
- e) the date, location and reasons for each court appearance that is likely to affect the final disposition, sentence or bail status of the accused;
- f) the length of any sentence that the offender is serving and the date the sentence began;
- g) the means for the victim to report breaches of the terms of supervision by the offender released under supervision;
- h) the means to contact agencies that may grant or amend conditions of parole or authorize release from custody of the offender; and
- i) the eligibility and review dates applicable to the offender and how to make representations in any proceedings that may lead to a change in the custodial status or release conditions of the offender.

4.22 Under VOCA, subject to the YCJA, Members must arrange, on request, for a victim to obtain copies of orders and permits setting conditions for the accused or offender that are relevant to the safety of the victim.

4.23 Members should provide a referral to Victim Services as soon as possible and advise the victims that a victim service worker will contact them. Members should also inform victims of other community support services that are available for victims and their children.

4.24 Referrals are made in accordance with the Ministry of Justice Referral Policy for Victims of Power-Based Crimes. Members are to inform victims of, and refer

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cases to, community-based Victim Service programs where they exist. Where no community-based Victim Services are available, cases should be referred to police-based Victim Services for support and assistance. Where no services are available locally, Members should provide victims with assistance directly and refer the victim to Victim-Link BC at 1-800-563-0808 for crisis support.

- 4.25 Members will proactively assist victims and their children by arranging safe transportation to a transition house, safe home or other safe shelter.
- 4.26 Victim Services programs may assist in the preparation of a Victim Impact Statement.

Children

- 4.27 Members will determine if:
 - a) there are children in the relationship;
 - b) they were present during the Domestic Violence; and
 - c) they have been victims of violence.
- 4.28 If a child is in immediate danger, or a criminal offence against a child is suspected, immediately contact a child welfare worker or after hours helpline to request their attendance. Reporting is mandatory under the CFCSA.
- 4.29 Where there is an immediate serious danger and a child welfare worker is not readily available, take charge of the children under Section 27 of the CFCSA. Parental consent is not required.
- 4.30 If children are out of the home, take steps to locate them and ensure their safety, working with the child welfare worker.
- 4.31 If the situation is not high risk, report the incident to a child welfare worker on the same day.
- 4.32 Reporting the incident to a child welfare worker is required even if the parent fears that the children may be taken away.
- 4.33 Where an order under the CFCSA or the FLA is breached, immediately notify the child welfare worker. The CFCSA order is paramount where the terms of an order under the CFCSA conflict with those of Family Court order. If the terms of an order under the CFCSA or the FLA conflict with those of a criminal court order, the more restrictive terms of the criminal court order are paramount.

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Police Response and Investigation

- 4.34 Ensure the safety of the victim, children and others involved.
- 4.35 Where Member has reasonable certainty that the ongoing safety of individuals within a premises is in jeopardy, there is limited authority to forcibly enter a premise to ensure the safety of all parties (R. v. Godoy, SCC 1998).
- 4.36 Thoroughly investigate cancelled or interrupted calls. Locate the caller, determine reasons for making the call and provide such assistance as may be required.
- 4.37 Conduct a complete and thorough evidence-based, risk-focused investigation in every case.
- 4.38 When the victim does not agree to cooperate, advise the victim that the decision to proceed with investigation does not rest with them.
- 4.39 Interviews of victims, child witnesses or family members should not occur in the presence of a suspect.
- 4.40 Members should advise the suspect/victim(s) that all Domestic Violence cases are treated as very serious criminal matters, and that it is the responsibility of police and Crown Counsel to lay and pursue criminal charges.
- 4.41 Document the circumstances and results of the investigation following the Domestic Violence Investigation Guide (Appendix I).
- 4.42 Ensure that risk factors are considered and documented.
- 4.43 In cases that may be highest risk, follow the VAWIR Protocol for Highest Risk Cases.
- 4.44 Upon the request of either party, stand by to keep the peace where that person wishes to return to the home to collect personal effects.
- 4.45 Where that person is denied access to the home or where there is a dispute over ownership of the property, do not take further action. Advise the person requesting police assistance to seek independent legal advice and/or obtain a court order.
- 4.46 In every case the initial attending Member will initiate follow-up contact with the victim on their next available duty rotation to ensure the ongoing well-being of the victim and to offer any further assistance that may be required.

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Supervisor Responsibilities

- 4.47 Domestic Violence situations require a high degree of supervision and guidance. Supervisors must be familiar with this policy and the requirements placed upon police under their supervision. Supervisors are accountable for compliance with this policy.
- 4.48 Ensure all incidents of dual arrest and/or charge are reviewed and document why this course of action was taken.
- 4.49 When a charge is not recommended, the rationale and evidence should be documented on file and affirmed by the Supervisor.
- 4.50 Ensure a complete and appropriately detailed investigation was conducted and that, where required, a proper safety plan was developed for victim safety.
- 4.51 Ensure that the initial attending Member conducts the follow-up contact with the victim as directed in Sec. 4.46.
- 4.52 Ensure police have required training in Domestic Violence and that persons with specialized training in highest risk situations are available.
- 4.53 Complete the Supervisor's Quality Assurance form (Appendix III).

Department Responsibilities

- 4.54 The Department is responsible to ensure that a close level of supervision is maintained on all Domestic Violence investigations. The Department will also conduct an annual audit of all Domestic Violence investigations to monitor and report on compliance with this policy.
- 4.55 The Department has established an Intimate Partner Family Violence Coordinator to review all Domestic Violence investigations. The coordinator should have a strong working knowledge of Domestic Violence, Domestic Violence investigations, and related policies. The coordinator's responsibilities include being a liaison to community stakeholders and conducting quality assurance audits on highest risk Domestic Violence files.

Protection/Restraining Orders

Criminal Code – Sureties to Keep the Peace - Recognizance

- 4.56 A victim who fears personal injury or property damage may make application before a justice for a recognizance under Section 810 of the Criminal Code. The justice must consider whether to issue a firearms order and a “no go” or “no

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- contact” order. The recognizance may include other conditions.
- 4.57 Members should inform the victim about the process and its abilities and limitations. The applicant should swear the information, or the information may be sworn on behalf of the complainant.
- 4.58 Where there is a reasonable likelihood that an offence may occur, Members should be prepared to expedite this process to prevent victimization of a spouse or family members.
- 4.59 Members will prepare a RTCC with the necessary documents and forward them to Crown Counsel. If a recognizance is granted, Members will ensure the details are entered into CPIC.
- 4.60 Complaints of breaches of the recognizance can be critical safety issues and may be an indicator of the potential for escalating violence. Members should attend any complaint of a breach due to the risk of increased violence.

Orders Requiring Supervision by Community Corrections

- 4.61 An Officer in Charge, Justice of the Peace, or court may direct a suspect or offender to comply with conditions of release or sentence, which are supervised by community corrections. When required by condition, community corrections provides supervision of police issued OIC undertakings, bail orders, probation orders, conditional sentence orders and Section 810 Criminal Code recognizance orders.
- 4.62 Community corrections reports alleged breaches of protective conditions (i.e., “no go” and “no contact” conditions) to police for investigation and preparation of the RTCC. Members should coordinate efforts with community corrections and Crown Counsel to support prosecution in accordance with the Attorney General guidelines.

Family/Civil Orders

- 4.63 Civil orders include:
- a) a restraining order under the FLA, FMEA, and CFCSA;
 - b) a protective intervention order under the CFCSA; and
 - c) an order containing a condition that a child is not to be removed from a specified location.
- 4.64 Family/Civil orders with protective conditions are filed in the POR by the courts.

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Breaches of Protection/Restraining Orders

- 4.65 All alleged breaches of the conditions of criminal and civil orders (no matter how minor), require assessment including those reported to police for investigation by community corrections.
- 4.66 Breaches of criminal and civil orders are treated as crimes, should be fully investigated and may require immediate response. Breaches of protective conditions may result in either direct or indirect contact (i.e. phone calls, text messages, emails, etc.) depending on the wording of the condition.
- 4.67 Charges should always be considered where a breach leads to a concern about victim safety.
- 4.68 A suspect should be arrested if it is believed they are about to contravene a summons, appearance notice, promise to appear, undertaking or recognizance (authority under the Criminal Code s. 524).
- 4.69 A Supreme Court restraining order states that any peace officer who on reasonable grounds believes that a person is in breach of the terms of the order may immediately arrest that person and bring them before the Supreme Court promptly after the arrest. Victims should be informed of the arrest and instructed to advise their legal counsel of the arrest and the circumstances that led to the arrest.
- 4.70 A Provincial Court restraining order states that police may arrest. The extent of the arrest powers are outlined in the restraining order.

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Appendix I: Domestic Violence Investigation Guide

Police must conduct an evidence-based, risk-focused investigation in all reports of Domestic Violence.

1. Initial Observations

- a) Determine the primary aggressor. (See Operational Policy S. 4.17 Primary Aggressor).

2. Crime Scene Management

- a) Obtain a statement from the victim. Always provide the victim with a translator if there is a language barrier. Note: The accused, young children, and/or family members of the accused or victim should never be used as interpreters;
- b) In all cases attempt to obtain a warned statement from the suspect and document the result of the attempt and any conversations with the suspect;
- c) Obtain witness statements from family (including children) and friends. Note: Statements for children under 12 should be obtained by a Member with specialized child interview training;
- d) Conduct neighbourhood inquiries;
- e) Note the condition of the scene – i.e. damage to property;
- f) Seize evidence (e.g. clothing, weapons etc.);
- g) Photograph scene and victim injuries. Have victim re-attend a few days later to obtain further photographs (injury may not initially appear);
- h) Seize and review 911 tapes in all circumstances. Document what was said by both victim and suspect;
- i) Have the victim sign a medical record release document;
- j) If children are involved (present or not) contact MCFD and record time, date and who you spoke to; and
- k) Where within your legal authority and grounds exist, seize any weapons.

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3. Investigations

- a) Conduct an evidence based and risk focused investigation referring to:
 - i. the attached “Summary of Domestic Violence Risk Factors” (see Appendix II); and
 - ii. the training course “Evidence-based, Risk-Focused Domestic Violence Investigations”.
- b) Assess and document risk factors using information obtained from the initial call, databases, investigation, interviews and any other sources; and
- c) In highest risk cases, follow the VAWIR Protocol for Highest Risk Cases.

4. Safety Planning

- a) Determine if the suspect poses an imminent risk to anyone. Ensure that a proper safety plan is in place for the victim, children and anyone else potentially at risk. Document steps taken:
 - i. ensure there are strategies or processes in place to increase the safety of the victim, children and others at risk;
 - ii. refer to Victim Services. If no Victim Services are available, provide appropriate assistance to victims, to the best of your abilities;
 - iii. in circumstances where the victim must leave the home, ensure the victim is provided transportation to a safe location;
 - iv. if the suspect is released from custody, contact the victim in advance of the release; and
 - v. consider if the file should be passed to a Domestic Violence Unit or another specialized officer or unit for follow up.

5. Arrest, Court and Release (Refer to Police Release Guidelines)

- a) If the suspect is gone on arrival:
 - i. ensure victim safety;
 - ii. take immediate steps to locate the suspect.; and

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- iii. list the subject as Special Interest to Police (SIP) on CPIC and indicate in the remarks there are grounds to arrest.
- b) If in custody, do not release the suspect in the following circumstances:
- i. if there is significant risk of further violence, unless the risk can be managed with conditions and victim safety planning (Note: Police release on a UTA or PTA is strongly discouraged in highest risk cases);
 - ii. if the residence of the suspect cannot be confirmed; or
 - iii. if conditions must be put on the suspect that a court must impose.
- c) In general, impose the following conditions on the suspect (refer to Police Release Guidelines for additional information):
- i. no contact with the victim and children. Also consider no contact with other family and/or household members;
 - ii. do not attend to any residence and workplace of victim and of the victim's family members;
 - iii. no firearms/weapons, no drugs/alcohol; and
 - iv. to reside as directed.
- d) If the suspect is released, have the first appearance date set within ten days and treat the file similar to an in custody (expedite the completion of RTCC);
- e) If the victim has a reasonable fear for her/his safety and charges are not proceeding, consider a Section 810 recognizance application;
- f) Contact the victim in advance of the release of the suspect and inform the victim of any conditions attached to the release;
- g) Provide your name, telephone number, and any case reference to the victim and ensure that the victim is kept informed about the status of the case, including any change in release conditions; and
- h) Provide the victim with a copy of the UTA, vetting any third party information contained in the conditions. Note: a copy of the UTA can be released to a community-based victim service provider.

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6. Documentation

- a) Ensure the file is appropriately denoted as Domestic Violence in all relevant documents, including the RTCC, and justice databases, including PRIME; and
- b) Ensure all documents pertaining to the events and circumstances justifying an arrest are complete and accurate and on file.

7. Monitoring

- a) Monitor the suspect to ensure compliance with imposed conditions;
- b) Initiate follow-up contact with the victim to ensure well-being and offer any further assistance that may be required. Check with the victim (or with victim services) on the status of any safety planning; and
- c) Review risk factors in the event of a breach of release conditions. A revised safety plan may be required.

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Appendix II: Summary of Domestic Violence Risk Factors







This is a summary of some of the risk factors that have been associated with an increased likelihood of future violence in relationships. This document is intended to assist police with conducting Evidence-based, Risk-focused Domestic Violence Investigations.


Recommended Uses for the Summary of Domestic Violence Risk Factors:

- Focus an investigation on identifying the risk factors,
- Plan and guide interviews (during an interview you should examine the factors present under each of the four main headings),
- Organize notes, police reports and RCC's (use the four headings in your RCC),
- Assist police in justifying release or detention of the Accused,
- Organize and document information for Bail Hearings.





Legend	
	Indicates a risk factor associated with increased severity (escalation) of future violence.
	Indicates a risk factor that must always be included in a Bail Hearing or Show Cause Summary Page.

1. Relationship History		
 	Current Status of the Relationship	- Is there past, recent or pending separation in the relationship? 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.
	Escalation in Abuse	- Is there escalation in the frequency/intensity of violence or abuse towards the complainant, family members, a pet or another person?
	Children Exposed	- 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 Family Development.)
	Threats	- Has the Suspect ever threatened to kill or harm the complainant, a family member, another person, children or a pet?
	Forced Sex	- Has the Suspect ever forced sex on the complainant?
	Strangling, Choking or Biting	- Has the Suspect ever strangled, choked or bit the complainant?
	Stalking	- Has the Suspect displayed jealous behaviours, stalked or harassed the complainant or a previous intimate partner?
	Information on Relative Social Powerlessness	- Are marginalization factors present (i.e. disability, immigrant or Aboriginal background, addiction, poverty, pregnancy, lack of transportation, literacy issues, mental illness, elderly etc.)? - Are cultural factors present (i.e. family pressures/shame, religious beliefs, unwillingness to report, language barriers, isolation etc.)?
2. Complainant's Perceptions of Risk		
	Complainant's Perception of Personal Safety	- Does the complainant believe the Suspect will disobey terms of release particularly a no contact order?

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	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?
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3. 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.</p>
	Previous Domestic Violence History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is there a history of stalking, violence or abusive behaviour in a previous Intimate Partner Relationship? - Is there any history of threats or actual violence or abusive behaviour against children, other family members, friends, co-workers or family pets? - Is there any history of stalking, threats or violence from the suspect, against other intimate partners of the complainant?
	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?)
4. 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?

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Appendix III: Domestic Violence Supervisor Quality Assurance

1. Were all steps taken and documented as outlined in the Domestic Violence investigation guide?
 - If certain steps were not taken document the reasons why.
2. Was a proper safety plan established given the risk factors?
3. If responding officer had concerns a case may be highest risk, did they contact their Supervisor or specialized investigator?
 - If no, document the reasons why.

Was a B-SAFER risk assessment completed? Was RTCC provided to Crown Counsel prior to the bail hearing?

 - If no, document the reasons why.

If case was designated as highest risk, were partner agencies notified by police per VAWIR Protocol for Highest Risk Cases?

 - If not, document the reasons why.
4. Checks done and documented:
 - CPIC
 - PRIME
 - POR
 - CFRO
 - If children involved, were MCFD contacted in person?
5. Was a referral made to Victim Services in accordance with policy?
 - If no, document the reasons why.
6. Was a referral made to MCFD in accordance with policy?
 - If no, document the reasons why.
7. Was the primary aggressor analysis conducted appropriately?
8. Did a dual arrest/charge occur?
 - If yes, was a Supervisor consulted?
 - If yes, document the reasons why.
9. Was the required follow-up contact with the victim conducted by the initial attending Member?

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10. Document that you have reviewed the file and are confident that the investigation is complete.
 - If not complete, document any deficiencies, that necessary follow up has been assigned, or that the file has been passed on to a specialized unit.