

## Colorado Domestic Violence Fatality Review: Red Flags Checklist

### Red Flags Validated By Research

- Access to a firearm
- Prior threats with a firearm
- Whirlwind courtship/relationship
- Perpetrator unemployed or underemployed
- Stepchildren in the home
- Escalated threats of suicide
- Estrangement/Separation from victim  
Amount of time: \_\_\_\_\_
- Separation imminent
- Prior strangulation attempts
- Violation of protection orders
- Stalking/Monitoring
- Perpetrator's possessiveness of victim
- Threats to kill victim
- Threats to kill victim's children, family members, friends, etc.
- Significant Losses  
  - loss of housing     loss of employment
  - loss of contact/custody regarding children
  - perceived loss of control
  - loss of coping mechanisms
- History of drug/alcohol use/abuse
- Believes/knows victim is pregnant
- History of d.v. or non d.v. assaults  
(circle one or both)
- Pending legal actions \_\_\_\_\_
- Perpetrator believes or knows victim is in a new relationship (circle one)
- Perpetrator has a history of animal cruelty

### Red Flags Under Review by DMDVFR

- Indications of obsession with weapons
- Known to carry a weapon  
Type of weapon: \_\_\_\_\_
- Known to use a weapon  
Type of weapon: \_\_\_\_\_
- Perpetrator seems to be experiencing feelings of abandonment or betrayal (circle one or both)
- Death of a close friend/family member  
Amt of time since death: \_\_\_\_\_
- "Parasitic Lifestyle":  
  - perpetrator appears to exploit victim's tendency to "caretake"
  - perpetrator dependant on victim  
    - emotionally     financially
    - for social interaction & support
- Unusual or remarkable enmeshment w/mother (perp may also be controlling her)
- Perpetrator & victim meet or have an encounter "one last time" (post-separation /appears to precede homicide) Reason for meeting:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Indications of decompensation
- Changes in perpetrator's activities in daily living:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Known mental health issues/diagnosis:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Financial struggles     Gambling

Atypical Considerations/Other:

This checklist features "red flags" that have been identified by the DMDVFR through the case review process. The checklist is **not** intended to be used as an instrument to predict lethality or risk and the CDVFRB reminds all those using this checklist that there are recognized *validated tools and research*\* to use for the purposes of risk assessment. Please be aware of the limits regarding the use of this checklist. We do urge any professionals who may work with, or come in contact with, victims or offenders, to use this tool to help in their assessment, safety planning and response to concerning situations.

\*References: Jacqueline Campbell, Ph.D., R.N., Joanne Belknap, Ph.D., David Adams, Andrew R. Klein, Angus Nurse, Gavin DeBecker, Edward Gondolf, Dobash & Dobash, Barbara Hart, et al.

CASE NAME:

REVIEW DATE:

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Interventions Used

Potential Interventions Missed