

PARTNER STALKING & HOMICIDE

- Stalking increases the risk of intimate partner homicide by three times.
- 76% of female homicide victims had been stalked by their male intimate partner who killed them.
- 54% of female homicide victims reported stalking to police before they were killed by their male intimate partner.
- 89% of women who had been physically abused, had also been stalked by their male intimate abuser in the 12 months before their murder.

SPARC, 2022

“Homicide is rarely a random act and often occurs after repeated patterns of physical and/or sexual abuse and psychologically coercive and controlling behaviours.”

Toivonen, C. & Backhouse, C., 2018

WHEN IN DOUBT, REFER.
You may save a life!

MAKING A REFERRAL

If you are aware of an offender who exhibits high risk behaviors, please make a referral to the High Risk Task Force.

Contact the HRTF Coordinator at the Cape and Islands DA’s Office.

**Ph: 508-362-8113
Fx: 508-362-8221**

Download our Referral Form @ independencehouse.org.

When we collaborate as a team, we create a safer community.

CAPE COD DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HIGH RISK TASK FORCE

A multidisciplinary team addressing the needs of domestic violence survivors at greatest risk of future serious physical harm or death



**A Guide for First Responders and Helping Professionals:
Assessing for High Risk
in Intimate Partner Relationships**

**BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES BY
INCREASING VICTIM SAFETY AND
MAXIMIZING OFFENDER ACCOUNTABILITY**

Updated: 3/23

THE TEAM

The Cape Cod Domestic Violence High Risk Task Force (HRTF) was formed in 2008. It was recognized that a coordinated, team effort could strengthen domestic violence responses and achieve better outcomes for survivors.

The HRTF is a collaborative effort whose core team members are:

- All 15 Barnstable Co. police depts.
- Barnstable County Sheriff's Office
- Cape & Islands District Attorney's Office
- Department of Transitional Assistance
- Independence House, Inc.
- Intimate Partner Abuse Education Program

Members share information and jointly construct and implement a coordinated, victim-centered, multi-agency response.

Any professional can make a referral to the HRTF. See "Making a Referral" information on back.

HIGH RISK ASSESSMENT

An abuser does not have to use physical force to be a high risk offender. There are a multitude of other behaviors within a relationship that can place a victim at high risk.

High risk assessment is the identification of dangerous behaviors and indicators that put a domestic violence victim at increased risk of experiencing lethal or near lethal assault using indicators identified through evidenced-based research.

By identifying high risk cases and sharing information amongst Task Force team members, a more complete picture emerges, and the team can collaboratively construct a comprehensive, individualized intervention plan to increase victim safety and maximize offender accountability.

Interventions may include

**Offender-Focused Responses
and
Victim-Focused Support**

HIGH RISK BEHAVIORS & INDICATORS

Strangulation

Threat to Kill

Increased Frequency & Severity of Violence

Use of or Threat to Use Weapons

History of Intimate Partner Violence (multiple victims/RO violations)

Forced or Coerced Sexual Activity

Violent Outside the Home

Violence During Pregnancy

Threatened, Harmed or Killed Pets

Drug or Alcohol Misuse

Suicide Threats or Attempts

Obsessive or Delusional Jealousy

Controls all or most of daily activities

Recent Separation or Attempt to Separate

(This is not a complete list)

If you have a concern for a victim's safety, refer to the HRTF for case assessment.