



ISSUE 15 | OCTOBER 2026

NEWSLETTER

**Everyone Has a Role:
LAP and Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time to increase awareness of domestic violence and its impact across all communities and spaces. We know that domestic violence can affect anyone, and October gives us an opportunity to be more intentional about expanding that awareness and encouraging meaningful conversations about risk and safety.

The same is true for the Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP). While LAP is a statutorily required tool for law enforcement when responding to intimate partner violence (IPV)-related calls for service, the questions can also provide an opportunity for others to recognize signs of elevated risk and help connect someone who may be at risk of serious injury or death to lifesaving community-based resources.

So, what does that look like outside of law enforcement? Who can use LAP, when can it be helpful, and how can we all play a role in recognizing risk and connecting people to safety?



Bring LAP Training to Your Community

Partner with Us to Strengthen Your Response to IPV

Our LAP Training is CLEET-Approved for two (2) hours of continuing education or mental health. If your agency or community is interested in strengthening your response to intimate partner violence, we would be happy to provide a LAP training. Our team offers in-person and virtual sessions tailored to law enforcement, prosecutors, and service providers. To request a training or learn more, please fill out the form below—we're here to support your team in implementing a proactive, coordinated approach to victim safety.

[Training Request Form](#)

Who can use LAP?

LAP was designed for law enforcement professionals. However, the questions can also be used by anyone who identifies someone who may be experiencing intimate partner abuse. Whether in a professional or personal setting, if you recognize warning signs or red flags, such as stalking, harassment, threats of harm, or extreme jealousy and control, LAP can help guide a conversation about risk and connect a victim to available services.

Who is LAP designed to help?

LAP is designed to help someone who is experiencing abuse from a current or former intimate partner.

Can LAP be used by people outside of law enforcement and victim services?

Yes. LAP was developed from another risk assessment tool called the Danger Assessment, which was created for use in healthcare settings. LAP questions can be helpful for other first responders, healthcare professionals, teachers, mental health professionals, spiritual leaders, and laypersons. The list goes on.

Numbers to Know

Oklahoma has consistently ranked in the Top 10 in women being murdered by men in single victim/single offender incidents since 1996. The most recent state rankings ranked Oklahoma as 2nd in the nation when analyzing 2020 homicide data.

Violence Policy Center. (2023). When men murder women: A review of 25 years of female homicide victimization in the United States. Retrieved from: <https://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2023.pdf>

When is it appropriate to use LAP in your personal or professional life?

LAP can be helpful whenever you recognize that someone may be experiencing IPV. If something causes you to be concerned about someone's safety, the LAP questions can help you better understand whether there may be indicators of elevated risk.



OFFICE OF THE OKLAHOMA ATTORNEY GENERAL
LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL (LAP) TEAM



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What should I do if someone screens high-risk on LAP?

If someone screens high-risk on LAP, you can contact a local victim service provider. The Oklahoma Attorney General's Office maintains a list of certified victim service programs throughout the state, and the Native Alliance Against Violence maintains a list of tribal programs in Oklahoma.

<https://oklahoma.gov/oag/about/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/certified-dvsa-programs.html>

<https://oknaav.org/tribalprograms>

What if someone does not want help or services?

That is okay. The decision to seek help belongs to the person experiencing the abuse. Simply letting them know that you are concerned and that help and services are available if and when they want them can be meaningful.

How can I connect someone to a local victim service provider?

Making a phone call is one of the best ways to connect someone with a local victim service provider. You can call the provider's hotline, explain that you have someone who screened high-risk on LAP, and let them know that the person would like help. The provider can then help determine the appropriate next steps and safety planning resources.



A Role for Everybody

We all have a role to play in combating domestic violence. This Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we call on everyone to educate themselves on how to recognize warning signs and red flags. Know what to look for in your professional and personal life and recognize when those signs may be an opportunity to ask a few more questions that could lead someone to safety.

LAP may be a law enforcement tool, but recognizing risk, starting conversations, and helping someone find a path to safety are things we can all be a part of. Throughout DVAM in October, we encourage everyone to remember those that have been taken away from us because of domestic violence, and reflect how we can all, whether it be in our professions or in our personal lives, be a part of working towards a better Oklahoma for survivors of domestic violence.

The Lethality Lens

Breaking down each LAP question to better understand indicators of high danger.

- The Question**
Does the victim think the person will try to kill the victim?
- The Lens**
Victim perception is a powerful risk indicator. Studies show that victims often accurately perceive when they are in danger, even when specific risk markers are less visible to outsiders. The Danger Assessment incorporates this as a direct risk factor.
- The Research**
"Experts believe that victims of IPV should be educated about their risk and potential risk factors, particularly because protective actions often occur upon recognition that violence is escalating, and concerns for safety may motivate victims of IPV to leave their abuser."
Messing, J. T., Campbell, J. C., Webster, D. W., Brown, S., Patchell, B., & Sullivan Wilson, J. (2015). The Oklahoma Lethality Assessment Study: A quasi-experimental evaluation of the Lethality Assessment Program. Social Service Review, 89(3), 429-510. Violence Policy Center. American Roulette: Murder-Suicide in the United States (2026).

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“
The Lethality Assessment Protocol represents one of our most critical tools in protecting vulnerable Oklahomans. This partnership between law enforcement and victim advocates isn't just procedure - **it is a lifeline that saves lives.**”



GENTNER DRUMMOND
Oklahoma Attorney General