



**ISSUE 11 | JUNE 2026**

# NEWSLETTER

## Hidden in Plain Sight: When LAP Really Applies

One of the unique features of the Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) statute in Oklahoma is the language that appears before the LAP questions are listed:

“Upon the preliminary investigation of a domestic violence crime involving intimate partner violence, the first peace officer who interviews the victim of domestic abuse shall assess the potential for danger by asking a series of questions provided on a lethality assessment form...” (21 O.S. § 142A-3).

What exactly does this mean? When should a LAP be completed?

### Understanding “Domestic Violence Crime”

First and foremost, it is important to recognize that a domestic violence crime is not limited to assault and battery. While physical violence is one of the most visible and commonly recognized forms of abuse, domestic violence extends far beyond physical acts.

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women defines domestic violence as “a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner.”

This definition emphasizes that domestic violence is about patterns of behavior, not just isolated incidents, and that those behaviors can take many forms.






## Bring LAP Training to Your Community

Partner with Us to Strengthen Your Response to IPV

Our Lethality Assessment Protocol (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\*\*](#)



 [oklahoma.gov/oag/lap](http://oklahoma.gov/oag/lap)  (405) 522-1269  [lap.training@oag.ok.gov](mailto:lap.training@oag.ok.gov)

## Intimate Partner Violence

The Oklahoma statute further specifies that a LAP must be completed for a domestic violence crime involving intimate partner violence (IPV).

Domestic violence is an umbrella term that encompasses multiple forms of abuse within a household, including child abuse, elder abuse, sibling abuse, and intimate partner violence. IPV, however, is more specific. It refers to a pattern of coercive behaviors, physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, or financial, used by a current or former partner to establish and maintain power and control over another partner.

## Attend the Partners for Change Conference

The annual Partners for Change Conference will be held September 2–3 at the Embassy Suites in Norman. This multidisciplinary event brings together professionals across Oklahoma to strengthen coordinated community responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking. The registration deadline is August 15th. Register using the link or QR code.



**[Register for the Partners for Change Conference](#)**

## Submit a Workshop Proposal

The Planning Committee is seeking workshop proposals that strengthen criminal justice responses and enhance victim services. Topics may include stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, trafficking, and culturally specific responses. The proposal deadline is May 31st. Apply using the link or QR code.



**[Submit a Workshop Proposal](#)**



## Applying This to LAP

So, what does this mean when determining whether to complete a LAP?

The reality is that LAPs should likely be completed more often than we may initially think.

Intimate partner violence does not always present as a clearly defined domestic violence call. In many cases, it may begin as a different type of call and only later reveal indicators of IPV through further investigation and questioning.

Calls such as trespassing, animal abuse, abduction, burglary, victim protective order violations, property damage, vandalism, or even wellness checks may uncover underlying patterns of intimate partner violence.

Because of this, it is critical to remain vigilant and approach each call with an understanding of how IPV can manifest.

If you suspect that a situation may involve intimate partner violence, use tools like the Power and Control Wheel to help identify patterns of abuse. When in doubt, complete the LAP. Taking a proactive approach can be crucial in identifying high-risk situations and connecting victims with potentially life-saving resources.

## 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>





Wellness Checks  
 Burglary  
 Civil Standbys  
 Property Damage  
 Suicide  
 Robbery  
 Murder  
 Stalking

**Trespassing**  
**Vandalism**  
**Strangulation**  
**Harassment**  
**Rape**

Robbery  
 Animal Cruelty  
 911 Hang-Ups  
 Child Abuse  
 Traffic Calls

Noise Complaints  
 Civil Standbys  
 Arson

[oklahoma.gov/oag/lap](http://oklahoma.gov/oag/lap) (405) 522-1269 [lap.training@oag.ok.gov](mailto:lap.training@oag.ok.gov)

## Contact Information

### Scott Hawkins

Lead Lethality Assessment Program Coordinator  
Former Lieutenant/Sheriff's Office of 22 Years  
[Scott.Hawkins@oag.ok.gov](mailto:Scott.Hawkins@oag.ok.gov)

### David Folkert

Lethality Assessment Program Coordinator  
Former Police Detective of 10 Years  
[David.Folkert@oag.ok.gov](mailto:David.Folkert@oag.ok.gov)

### Jaiden Balthrop-Russell

Lethality Assessment Program Coordinator  
Former Violence Against Women Act Grant Specialist  
[jaiden.balthrop@oag.ok.gov](mailto:jaiden.balthrop@oag.ok.gov)

## The Lethality Lens

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



### The Question

*Has the person ever threatened to use or used a weapon against the victim?*



### The Lens

Use or threat with a weapon is one of the strongest indicators of potential lethality. Dr. Campbell's research found that abusers who had access to or used weapons were 20 times more likely to commit a homicide. Weapon use signifies a capacity for lethal violence and a willingness to escalate.



### The Study

*"That finding is simple to interpret: use of a weapon facilitates murder, but is not necessary to assault."*

RoeH, J. O'Sullivan, C., Webster, D., & Campbell, J. C. (2005). Intimate partner violence risk assessment validation study. Final report. U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice. "That finding is simple to interpret: use of a weapon facilitates murder, but is not necessary to assault."

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



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