



Alberta Relationship Threat Assessment  
and Management Initiative

Suite 720  
Associated Engineering Building  
10909 Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5J 3L9

▲ PH: 780-495-0920  
▲ FAX: 780-495-0930

*"Memores acti prudentes futuri" (Mindful of what has been done, aware of what will be)*

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## **Mandate**

ARTAMI is a joint forces, multi-disciplined unit that assesses threats and develops risk reduction plans for high risk domestic violence and stalking cases in Alberta. As well, ARTAMI provides expert advice and training to police, government, and community agencies throughout the province.

## **Professional Team**

ARTAMI consists of police members from the RCMP and Calgary, Edmonton, Medicine Hat and Lethbridge police services (threat analysts), teamed with a Crown prosecutor, a child protection expert, a family law expert, as well as a consulting psychologist and psychiatrist.

## **Referral Process**

All referrals to ARTAMI come through police services, prosecutors, Corrections, or Children and Youth Services. Other outside agencies such as victim service's units, HomeFront, women's shelters, and mental health professionals may also refer cases through their local police services.

## **Screening Process**

The referring police agency/primary investigator will be asked to obtain and provide ARTAMI with the following:

- Copies of all occurrence reports relating to the investigation
- All checks relating to both the suspect and target (i.e. CPIC, PIRS, NCDB etc)
- Copies of any/all correspondence relating to the investigation
- Copies of any statements of both the victim or suspect
- Relationship status between victim and threatener (Include employment of all parties, names, ages and sex of children, custody/ access Information etc.)
- Family Violence Investigative Report form (FVIR) attached;
- History Evaluation Assessment Tool (HEAT) attached;

The threat analysts will review the information provided by the primary investigator for thoroughness and determine whether a formal threat assessment and case management plan is required. The threat analyst may provide investigative advice, strategies, case management recommendations and victim safety suggestions in cases not selected for a complete threat assessment. The threat analyst will consult with the primary investigator as part of the review.

## **Services Provided**

Specially trained police members (threat analysts) provide police, courts, corrections and Children and Youth Services with the following services:

- Formal threat assessments and case management plans
- Recommendations in respect of investigations, charges, court orders, victim safety requirements and strategies
- Expert court testimony for purposes of bail and sentencing hearings, child custody and access hearings, and guardianship applications
- Participation in case conferencing
- Specialized training in domestic violence, stalking and assessment and management of high-risk cases

### **Services Not Provided**

In order to ensure the objectivity and integrity of the threat assessment process, ARTAMI is not a first response unit and does not respond to crisis situations or crime scenes. Nor does it conduct or manage primary investigations or meet with offenders or victims/witnesses.

### **Information Sources**

Information relating to the individual suspect/offender is obtained from a number of records ARTAMI has access to, including but not limited to:

- All police reports/incident reports and supplements within and outside of Alberta
- Criminal Record
- Mental health/medical health assessments/reports
- Corrections/Parole/Probation reports
- Child Family and Youth Services reports
- Witness/victim statements

The threat analysts review information from these reliable record sources and put it into a comprehensive threat assessment report where scientifically researched and proven threat assessment tools are applied - thus exposing a person's entire known history and level of threat he/she may pose.

### **Purpose of Threat Assessments**

- Primary investigators are better equipped to prioritize their cases in areas such as case management, officer safety and deployment of staff.
- Police, courts, corrections and child protection workers are fully informed of whom they are dealing with and how they might better manage the risk.
- Criminal and family courts have access to the entire known history of an individual and the level of risk he/she poses.

### **Threat Assessment Tools and Training**

The threat assessment process involves the analysis of verbal, written, behavioural, personal and situational indicators to assess the likelihood of violent acts. These indicators are based on scientific research conducted by a number of disciplines including the medical and mental health professions, law enforcement and specialists in the field of threat management, as well as, the training and experience of the analyst. The information assists analysts to make an informed statement concerning violence risk using standardized measures.

The threat analysts receive comprehensive training in threat assessment, risk management, personality disorders and mental illnesses, with specific emphasis on the following threat assessment tools:

- Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA) (Kropp and Hart)
- Stalking Assessment Manual (SAM) (Kropp and Hart)
- B-Safer (Kropp and Hart)
- Historical Clinical Risk Factors (HCR-20) (Kropp and Hart)
- Risk of Sexual Violence Protocol (RSVP) (Kropp and Hart)
- Path to Violence 6 Step Guide (Calhoun & Westin)
- Justification, Alternatives, Consequences, Ability (JACA) (DeBecker)
- RECON Typology for Stalking (Meloy)

### **Distribution of Threat Assessments and Case Management Plans**

Completed threat assessments may be distributed to the requesting police agency (case manager), Crown prosecutor, Children and Youth Services (where children are at risk), probation officer (Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security) or parole officer (Correctional Service of Canada). The safety of victims and children is paramount; therefore, the case management plans will not be disclosed beyond these mentioned partners.

ARTAMI reports shall not be disseminated further without the consent of the originator.

#### **Contact Information:**

John Ratcliff, Assistant Director

720, 10909 Jasper Avenue

Edmonton, AB

T5J 3L9

Phone: 780-495-0924

Fax: 780-495-0930

Email: [john.ratcliff@police.edmonton.ab.ca](mailto:john.ratcliff@police.edmonton.ab.ca)

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## Information Required from Requesting Police Agency

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*In order to facilitate a comprehensive evaluation, the following information is required from the investigator:*

- ▶ ***Copy(s) of all occurrence reports relating to the investigation***
- ▶ All checks relating to both the suspect and target (i.e. CPIC, PIRS, NCDB etc)
- ▶ Copy(s) of any/all correspondence relating to the investigation
- ▶ Copy(s) of any statements of both the victim or suspect
- ▶ Relationship status between victim and threatener (Include employment of all parties, names, ages and sex of children, custody/ access information etc.)
- ▶ Family Violence Investigative Report form (FVIR) attached;
- ▶ History Evaluation Assessment Tool (HEAT) attached;

## FAMILY VIOLENCE INVESTIGATION REPORT

Instructions: Obtain information within first 12 hours of Investigation from CPIC, Complainant, Witness, etc.  
Use the "Officer's Notes" for preparing police report.

File # \*\*\* Information required for Bail Hearing

SUSPECT HISTORY		OFFICER'S NOTES	
<b>1. Suspect's Criminal Violence History:</b> Does the suspect have a history of investigations, charges or convictions for	YES	NO	***
<b>2. Previous Domestic Violence History</b> Is there a history of violence or abusive behaviour in the relationship or with a previous intimate partner?	YES	NO	***
COMPLAINANT		OFFICER'S NOTES	
<b>3. Complainant's Perception of Personal</b> Does the complainant believe the suspect will disobey terms of release (eg. No contact orders) ?	YES	NO	***
<b>4. Complainant's Perception of Future</b> Does the complainant fear further violence if the suspect should be released from custody?	YES	NO	*** What is the basis of victim's fear
<b>5. Alcohol/Drugs:</b> Does the suspect have a history of drug or alcohol abuse?	YES	NO	***
<b>6. Mental Illness:</b> Does the suspect have a history of mental illness (eg. depression or paranoia)?	YES	NO	***
<b>7. Suicidal Ideations:</b> Has the suspect threatened or attempted suicide?	YES	NO	*** If yes, when and how?
RELATIONSHIP BACKGROUND		OFFICER'S NOTES	
<b>8. Current status of relationship:</b> Is there past, recent or pending separation in the relationship?	YES	NO	
<b>9. Escalation in Abuse:</b> Is there escalation in the frequency/intensity of violence or abuse towards the complainant, family members or another person?	YES	NO	
<b>10. Children Exposed:</b> Are there children under 18 in the family who are living in the home?	YES	NO	Children's Services Notified? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Who are the parents and is there a custody dispute?
<b>11. Threats:</b> Has the suspect ever threatened to kill or harm the complainant, family member, another person, children or a pet?	YES	NO	
<b>12. Firearms:</b> Does the suspect have access to firearms?	YES	NO	

<b>13. Use of Firearms and Other Weapons:</b> Has the suspect used or threatened to use a firearm, other weapon (ex. knife) or thing that can be used to cause death or injury (ex. baseball bat) against the complainant, family member, children or an animal?	YES	NO	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>14. Court Orders:</b> Has the suspect ever violated a court order?	YES	NO	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>15. Employment instability:</b> Is the suspect unemployed or experiencing financial problems?	YES	NO	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>16. Forced Sex:</b> Has the suspect ever forced sex on the complainant?	YES	NO	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>17. Strangling, Choking or Biting:</b> Has the suspect ever strangled, choked or bit the complainant?	YES	NO	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>18. Stalking:</b> Has the suspect displayed jealous behaviours, stalked or harassed the complainant?	YES	NO	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>19. Other Information:</b> Any other relevant information (eg. Is the complainant socially / physically isolated; unwilling to leave the home; cultural barriers inhibit complainant?)	YES	NO	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

IF: Safety of complainant and / or children is a concern, also consider an "Emergency Protection Order" provided for in the *PROTECTION AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE Act*

# HISTORY EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT TOOL

## “HEAT”

Some important reminders in completing this form:

- **This form is not a risk assessment tool. It is an information gathering tool. Once the information is gathered, it will provide a factual context so that decisions about risk assessment can be made. The answers given in this form may assist in completing other risk assessment tools.**
- This form is a generic collection of questions that capture well-recognized lethality indicators.
- Risk assessment is not an exact science – the major purpose of the exercise is to help victims and their support system and services identify the extent or perpetrator risk and engage in appropriate safety planning.
- Dangerousness is situational. High risk cases need to be immediately red-flagged with other professionals who are involved with the victim – most importantly the information gathered needs to be filed, such as police officers and Crown Attorneys, know that the risk assessment exists and can be accessed.
- Disclosure of abuse often takes time and may require a trusting relationship – be prepared for the reality that the first version of this form may change time with more disclosure of abuse and more details about these incidents, particularly in areas related to sexual abuse and traumatic memories. Incomplete information should not be held against victims at a future time.
- It is important to be aware of cultural considerations. Cultural interpreters and American Sign Language interpreters and/or other appropriate supports may be required. Explain the interviewing process thoroughly, including the various steps assuring the interviewee that they are not in trouble. Attempt to decrease the level of shame that may be experienced. When interviewing in a same-sex partner situation, biases should be left at the door and all questions should be thoroughly explored as in a heterosexual situation. Be aware of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bi and trans) services in the community for appropriate referrals.
- It is extremely important to document and capture information in as much detail as possible from the victim. Please use quotation marks for direct quotes.



2. To the best of your knowledge, has your partner assaulted or been abusive to any other person (e.g. socially, to co-workers or strangers)? Please explain.


3. To the best of your knowledge, has your partner assaulted or been emotionally or sexually abusive with any previous spouse(s)/intimate partners(s), family members, or children from another relationship? Please describe. How did you acquire this information?


**YOUR CHILDREN**

4. How old are your children/stepchildren? Which children are from this relationship? Were any children present during this incident? Did they witness the incident? Were they directly involved in this incident? Have they been present for any prior incidents? Have the children ever seen you being hit before this incident occurred?




**Children**

8. Has your partner ever removed children from your care? Has your partner ever not returned children when required to do so? Has your partner attempted or threatened to do so? Is your partner using the children to control or influence you? Do you fear for the safety of your children in the presence of your partner?


**Drugs and Alcohol**

9. Does your partner use drugs or alcohol? How much and how often does your partner drink? Is your partner drunk everyday or almost everyday? What type of drugs and how frequently are they used? Is your partner addicted to any drugs, and if so, what drugs?


**Mental Health**

10. Is your partner under care for any mental health issues, or has your partner been under such care in the past? If so, for what? Does your partner suffer any delusions, paranoia or depression? Explain.


11. Is your partner on any medication? Please describe all prescription medications. Is your partner taking such medications as prescribed?


12. Has your partner ever participated in any treatment programs for alcohol/substance abuse or mental health issues? Has your partner ever refused to participate in such programs?


**Counselling**

13. Has your partner ever participated or received counseling in a program design to deal with domestic violence? Please describe. What was your partner's attitude about taking the program? Did your partner benefit from the program?


**Court Orders**

14. Has your partner ever failed to obey any past family or criminal court order (e.g. breach of restraining order, breach of bail condition, breach of probation, breach of parole)? Explain.


**PROPERTY**

15. Has your partner destroyed or damaged or threatened to damage: a) any of your belongings or contents of your home; b) property owned by your children, other family members, or friends?


**PETS**

16. Has your partner injured or killed a pet or domestic animal or threatened to do so?


**PRIOR POLICE RESPONSE**

17. Have the police been called to respond to any domestic situations involving you and your partner prior to this incident? What happened? What was your partner's reaction? Were any other social services involved?


## **FIREARMS/WEAPONS**

18. In the past, has your partner owned or had access to any firearms or other weapons? If so, please describe the firearms/weapons and indicate whether they belonged to your partner or someone else?


19. Does your partner currently own or have access to any firearms or other weapons? If so, please describe these firearms/weapons, where they are presently located, and whether they are properly stored.


20. Has your partner ever possessed a firearms license or FAC (Firearms Acquisition Certificate)? Does your partner currently possess one? Where does your partner keep his/her firearms documentation?


21. Is your partner currently prohibited from possessing firearms? Has your partner ever been prohibited from possessing firearms? When and where did the prohibition order get made? When did it start, and if over, when did it end? Why was the prohibition order made?


22. Is your partner familiar with the use of firearms or other weapons? Has your partner received any previous training (e. g. military, law enforcement)? Does your partner belong to any shooting clubs or ranges? Has your partner expressed an obsession or fascination with firearms or other weapons? Does your partner subscribe to or read any firearms or para-military publications?


23. Has your partner ever used, or threatened to use, firearms or other weapons on other occasions in the past? Explain.






29. Has your partner ever threatened or tried to commit suicide? If so, when? In these threats, have there been specific details of a plan or method (e.g. a specific weapon or dangerous act)?


### **STALKING BEHAVIOURS**

30. Has your partner engaged in any of the following behaviours with you in the past? Please circle answers.

Harassing phone calls or other communications to you, your friends, or family? Yes / No

Watching, photographing, or video taping? Yes / No

Letter writing? Yes / No

Leaving notes? Yes / No

Frequenting your workplace? Yes / No

Following? Yes / No

Contacting you through third parties? Yes / No

If yes, when did they occur, and under what circumstances? Did any of these behaviours result in face-to-face contact?


31. To the best of your knowledge, has your partner engaged in any of the behaviours in Question # 30 with any other person? When did this occur, and under what circumstance? If so, how did you acquire this information?

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**ESCALATION**

32. Has there been an increase in severity and frequency of abuse, stalking and/or controlling behaviours, and/or threats to kill by your partner during the past year?


**VICTIM'S FEARS AND CONCERNS**

33. Do you believe your partner is capable of severely injuring or killing you (or your family or anyone else)? Do you believe your partner is capable of committing suicide? Do you have any fears for your safety, or the safety of others? What are your fears, and why?


*If you are not aware of support services which may assist you with information, counseling, emergency shelter, and accommodations, please ask the interviewer who will assist you.*

*If circumstances have changed, or if you think of additional, relevant information, please immediately notify the interview, to update the information on this form.*

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**Date**

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**Victim's Signature**

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**Witness's Signature**

**INDICATE PRESENCE OF RISK FACTORS:**

Risk Factors	
1. History of violence outside of the family by perpetrator*	
2. History of domestic violence	
3. Prior threats to kill victim	
4. Prior threats with a weapon*	
5. Prior assault with a weapon*	
6. Prior threats to commit suicide by perpetrator*	
7. Prior suicide attempts by perpetrator*	
8. Prior attempts to isolate the victim	
9. Controlled most or all of victim's daily activities	
10. Prior hostage-taking and/or forcible confinement	
11. Prior forced sexual acts and/or assaults during sex	
12. Child custody or access disputes	
13. Prior destruction or deprivation of victim's property	
14. Prior violence against family pets	
15. Prior assault on victim while pregnant	
16. Choked victim in the past	
17. Perpetrator was abused and/or witnessed domestic violence as a child	
18. Escalation of violence	
19. Obsessive behaviour displayed by perpetrator	
20. Perpetrator unemployed	
21. Victim and perpetrator living common-law	
22. Presence of stepchildren in the home	
23. Extreme minimization and/or denial of spousal assault history	
24. Actual or pending separation	
25. Excessive alcohol and/or drug use by perpetrator*	
26. Severe and excessive alcohol and/or drug use by perpetrator*	
27. Depression – family/friend/acquaintance opinion - perpetrator*	
28. Depression – professionally diagnosed – perpetrator*	
29. Other mental health or psychiatric problems – perpetrator	
30. Access to or possession of any firearms	
31. New partner in victim's life	
32. Failure to comply with authority – perpetrator*	
33. Perpetrator exposed to/witnessed suicidal behaviour in family of origin*	
34. After risk assessment, perpetrator had access to victim*	
35. Youth of couple	