

# **Creating Stability within High Risk IPV Interventions Using Risk Assessments**

## **With a Rural Flavor**

David M. Scott, Ph.D., University of Texas at Tyler (UTT)

July 25, 2023

**Welcome Everyone!**





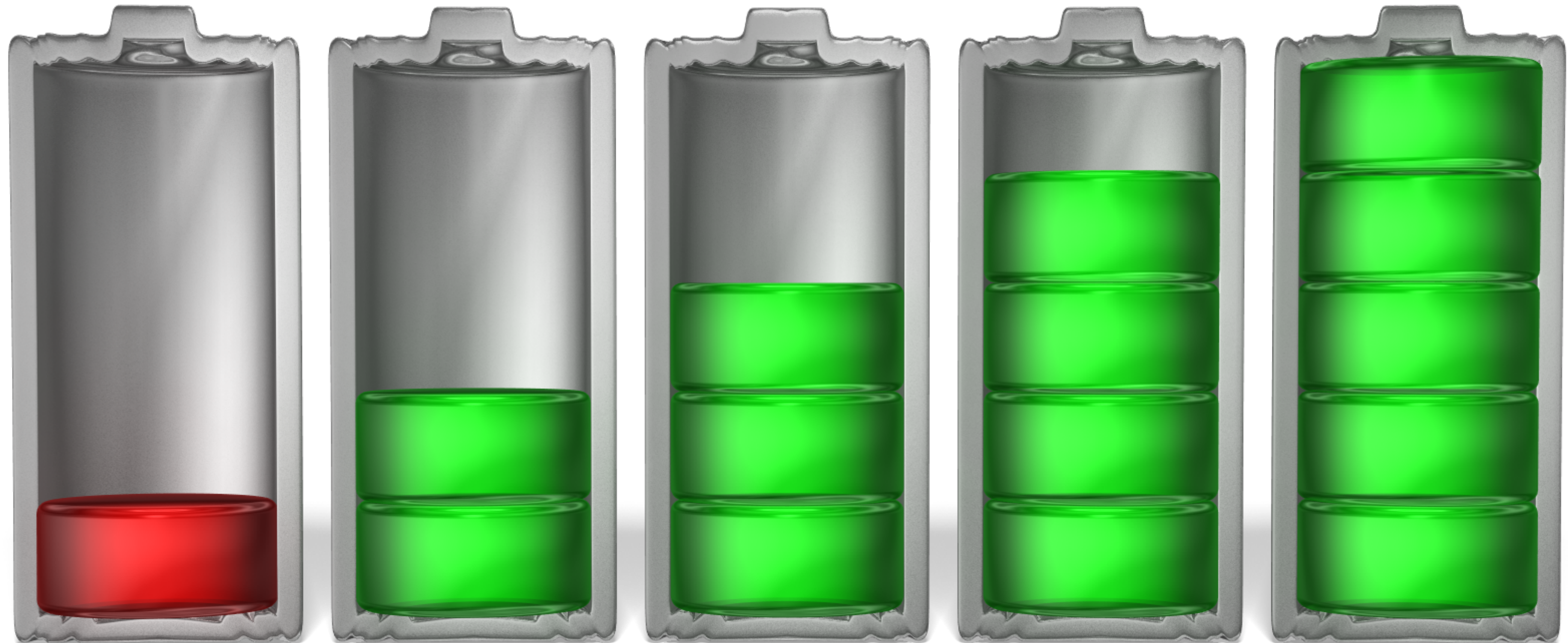
1  
Folding the IPV

2  
Getting Bad

3  
Sustainable but  
not Great

4  
Good but always  
could improve

5  
Excellent  
Meeting Goals



**Select a number that best identifies your IPV in the Chat Box**

# Today's Agenda

July 22, 2023

- Introductions
- Understanding the Landscape and Resources
- Risk Assessments are the Key
- Creating the Intelligence Network
- Sharing Information
- Sustaining



# Rural Communities and IPV





# What does Rural look like?

- Rural America comprises **28%** of the nation's population
- With regards to Domestic Violence research reveals the following:
  - Limited access to services
  - Lower education and literacy
  - Norms and attitudes of tolerance toward DV, Isolation, and Poverty
  - Increase alcoholism
  - Geographic and social isolation
  - Lack of public transportation

# What does Rural look like?

- Isolation
  - May serve as a barrier to safety for DV
  - Fear of disclosure and community response may isolate a victim even further
- Poverty
  - Limited employment
  - Being uninsured
  - Limited child care
  - Limited housing opportunities

# What does Rural look like?

- Rural perpetrators of DV are **twice** as likely to cause severe physical injuries to their victims compared, as well as use a weapon on their victims, compared to urban perpetrators (Logan et al, 2005; Shannon et al., 2006; Taylor & Xia, 2022).
- **Twice** as many rural perpetrators threaten to kill their victims compared to urban perpetrators
- Rural victims are also more likely to experience **multiple instances** of abuse before requesting orders of protection compared to urban victims (Logan et al., 2003; Taylor & Xia, 2022).

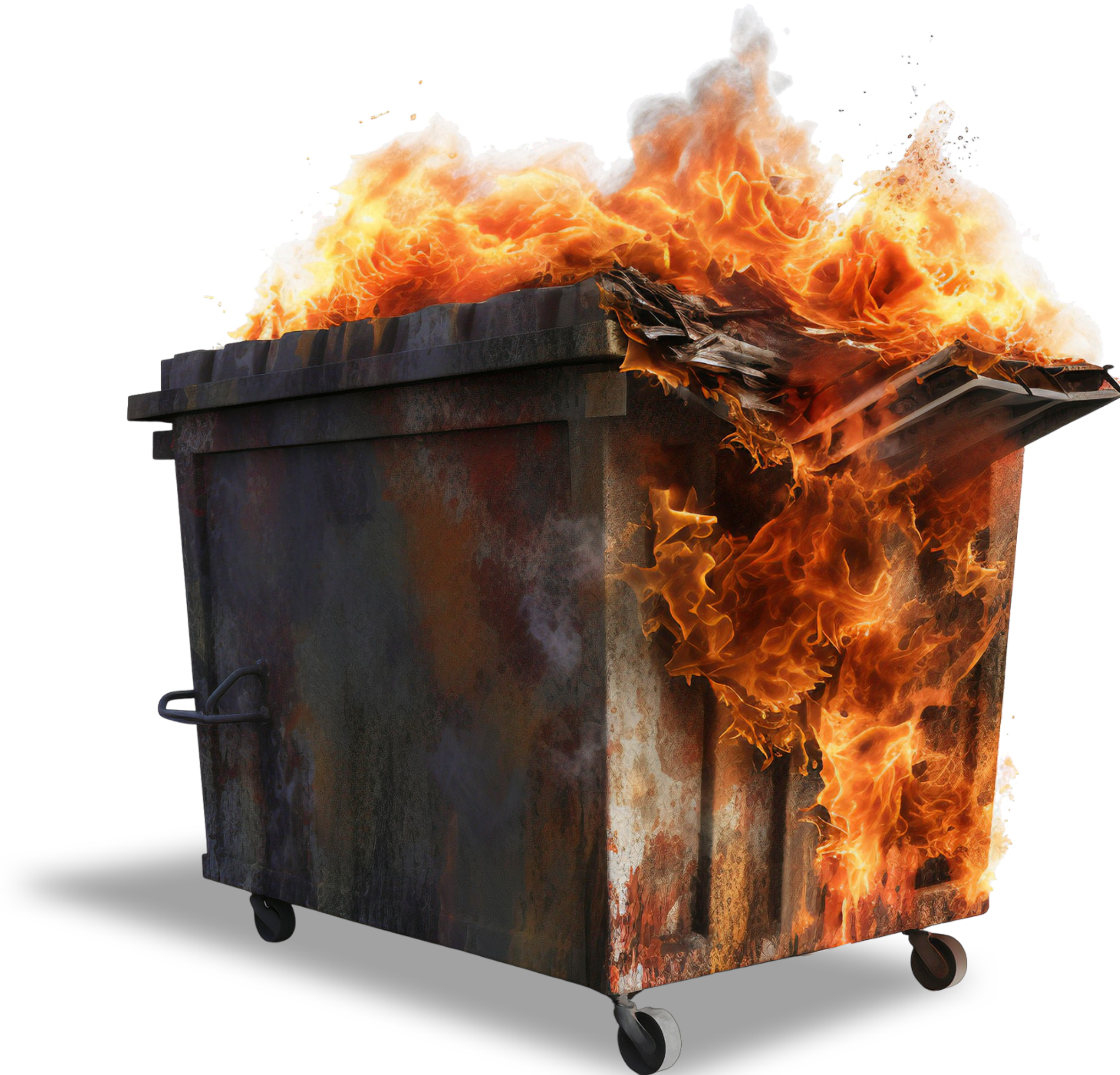


# What does Rural look like?

- Scholars estimate that between **10%** and **40%** of adolescents have experienced physical or sexual ADV, while up to **70%** have experienced psychological consequences or threatening forms of ADV (Taylor & Via, 2022).
- Violent men in rural communities are more likely to be protected by an “ol” boys network (Rennison et al., 2013; Wesdale, 1998).
- Patriarchal male peer support defined as “attachment to male peers and the resources they provide that encourage and legitimate woman abuse (DeKeserdy, 1990; Rennison et al., 2013).



**A show of hands. Who operates like this from time to time with his or her  
IPV?**





# **Why the Risk Assessment?**



# **Why the Risk Assessment?**

**It provides a summary of the incident or assault**

**It clarifies details for context as to “what happened”**

**It is a tool that details the level of perceived danger by the victim at the time of contact**

# Risk Assessments



# Risk Assessment Scoring

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graph LR; A[Risk Assessment Scoring] --- B[Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP)]; A --- C[Danger Assessment (DA)]; A --- D[Ontario Danger Risk Assessment (ODARA)]; B --- B1[Questions #1-3 Answered "Yes"]; B --- B2["Yes" responses to at least 4 questions #4-11]; B --- B3[Can be an Officer triggered Protocol]; C --- C1[Some Danger (score <8)]; C --- C2[Increased Danger (score 8-13)]; C --- C3[Severe Danger (score 14-18)]; C --- C4[Extreme Danger (score >18)]; D --- D1[Score 0-6]; D --- D2[Score 7-13];
```

## Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP)

Questions #1-3 Answered "Yes"

"Yes" responses to at least 4 questions #4-11

Can be an Officer triggered Protocol

## Danger Assessment (DA)

Some Danger (score <8)

Increased Danger (score 8-13)

Severe Danger (score 14-18)

Extreme Danger (score >18)

## Ontario Danger Risk Assessment (ODARA)

Score 0-6

Score 7-13







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## DANGER ASSESSMENT

Jacquelyn C. Campbell, Ph.D., R.N.  
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Several risk factors have been associated with increased risk of homicides (murders) of women and men in violent relationships. We cannot predict what will happen in your case, but we would like you to be aware of the danger of homicide in situations of abuse and for you to see how many of the risk factors apply to your situation.

Using the calendar, please mark the approximate dates during the past year when you were abused by your partner or ex partner. Write on that date how bad the incident was according to the following scale:

1. Slapping, pushing; no injuries and/or lasting pain
2. Punching, kicking; bruises, cuts, and/or continuing pain
3. "Beating up"; severe contusions, burns, broken bones
4. Threat to use weapon; head injury, internal injury, permanent injury
5. Use of weapon; wounds from weapon

(If **any** of the descriptions for the higher number apply, use the higher number.)

Mark **Yes** or **No** for each of the following. ("He" refers to your husband, partner, ex-husband, ex-partner, or whoever is currently physically hurting you.)

- \_\_\_ 1. Has the physical violence increased in severity or frequency over the past year?
- \_\_\_ 2. Does he own a gun?
- \_\_\_ 3. Have you left him after living together during the past year?  
3a. (If have *never* lived with him, check here\_\_\_)
- \_\_\_ 4. Is he unemployed?
- \_\_\_ 5. Has he ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a lethal weapon?  
(If yes, was the weapon a gun?\_\_\_)
- \_\_\_ 6. Does he threaten to kill you?
- \_\_\_ 7. Has he avoided being arrested for domestic violence?
- \_\_\_ 8. Do you have a child that is not his?
- \_\_\_ 9. Has he ever forced you to have sex when you did not wish to do so?
- \_\_\_ 10. Does he ever try to choke you?
- \_\_\_ 11. Does he use illegal drugs? By drugs, I mean "uppers" or amphetamines, "meth", speed, angel dust, cocaine, "crack", street drugs or mixtures.
- \_\_\_ 12. Is he an alcoholic or problem drinker?
- \_\_\_ 13. Does he control most or all of your daily activities? For instance: does he tell you who you can be friends with, when you can see your family, how much money you can use, or when you can take the car? (If he tries, but you do not let him, check here: \_\_\_)
- \_\_\_ 14. Is he violently and constantly jealous of you? (For instance, does he say "If I can't have you, no one can.")
- \_\_\_ 15. Have you ever been beaten by him while you were pregnant? (If you have never been pregnant by him, check here: \_\_\_)
- \_\_\_ 16. Has he ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?
- \_\_\_ 17. Does he threaten to harm your children?
- \_\_\_ 18. Do you believe he is capable of killing you?
- \_\_\_ 19. Does he follow or spy on you, leave threatening notes or messages, destroy your property, or call you when you don't want him to?
- \_\_\_ 20. Have you ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?
- \_\_\_ Total "Yes" Answers

**Thank you. Please talk to your nurse, advocate or counselor about what the Danger Assessment means in terms of your situation.**

DANGER ASSESSMENT

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- Has he ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a lethal weapon?  
(If yes, was the weapon a gun?)
- Does he threaten to kill you?
- Has he avoided being arrested for domestic violence?
- Do you have a child that is not his?
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- Has he ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?
- Does he threaten to harm your children?
- Do you believe he is capable of killing you?
- Does he follow or spy on you, leave threatening notes or messages, destroy your property, or call you when you don't want him to?
- Have you ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?
- Total "Yes" Answers

Thank you. Please talk to your nurse, advocate or counselor about what the Danger Assessment means in terms of your situation.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LETHALITY  
SCREEN FOR FIRST RESPONDERS



Officer:	Date:	Case #:
Victim:	Offender:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if victim did not answer any of the questions.		
▶ A "Yes" response to any of Questions #1-3 automatically triggers the protocol referral.		
1. Has he/she ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
2. Has he/she threatened to kill you or your children?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
3. Do you think he/she might try to kill you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
▶ Negative responses to Questions #1-3, but positive responses to at least four of Questions #4-11, trigger the protocol referral.		
4. Does he/she have a gun or can he/she get one easily?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
5. Has he/she ever tried to choke you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
6. Is he/she violently or constantly jealous or does he/she control most of your daily activities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
7. Have you left him/her or separated after living together or being married?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
8. Is he/she unemployed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
9. Has he/she ever tried to kill himself/herself?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
10. Do you have a child that he/she knows is not his/hers?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
11. Does he/she follow or spy on you or leave threatening messages?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
▶ An officer may trigger the protocol referral, if not already triggered above, as a result of the victim's response to the below question, or whenever the officer believes the victim is in a potentially lethal situation.		
Is there anything else that worries you about your safety? (If "yes") What worries you?		
Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> Victim screened in according to the protocol <input type="checkbox"/> Victim screened in based on the belief of officer <input type="checkbox"/> Victim did not screen in		
If victim screened in: After advising her/him of a high danger assessment, <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No did the victim speak with the hotline counselor?		

Note: The questions above and the criteria for determining the level of risk a person faces is based on the best available research on factors associated with lethal violence by a current or former intimate partner. However, each situation may present unique factors that influence risk for lethal violence that are not captured by this screen. Although most victims who screen "positive" or "high danger" would not be expected to be killed, these victims face much higher risk than that of other victims of intimate partner violence.





# **Before Risk Assessments**

**Who?**

**What?**

**Where?**

**When?**

**How Many Times?**

**Was Pain Reported?**





**Firearm?**

**Strangulation?**

**Children Present?**

**Actor Suicidal?**

**Separation Violence?**

**Threats of Violence?**



**Narcotics & Alcohol Abuse?**

**Control Issues?**

**Stalking?**

**Past Physical Violence?**

**Sexual Assault?**

**Harassment?**



**The End Result with Risk Assessments Is That It Gave Direction On Best Practices!**

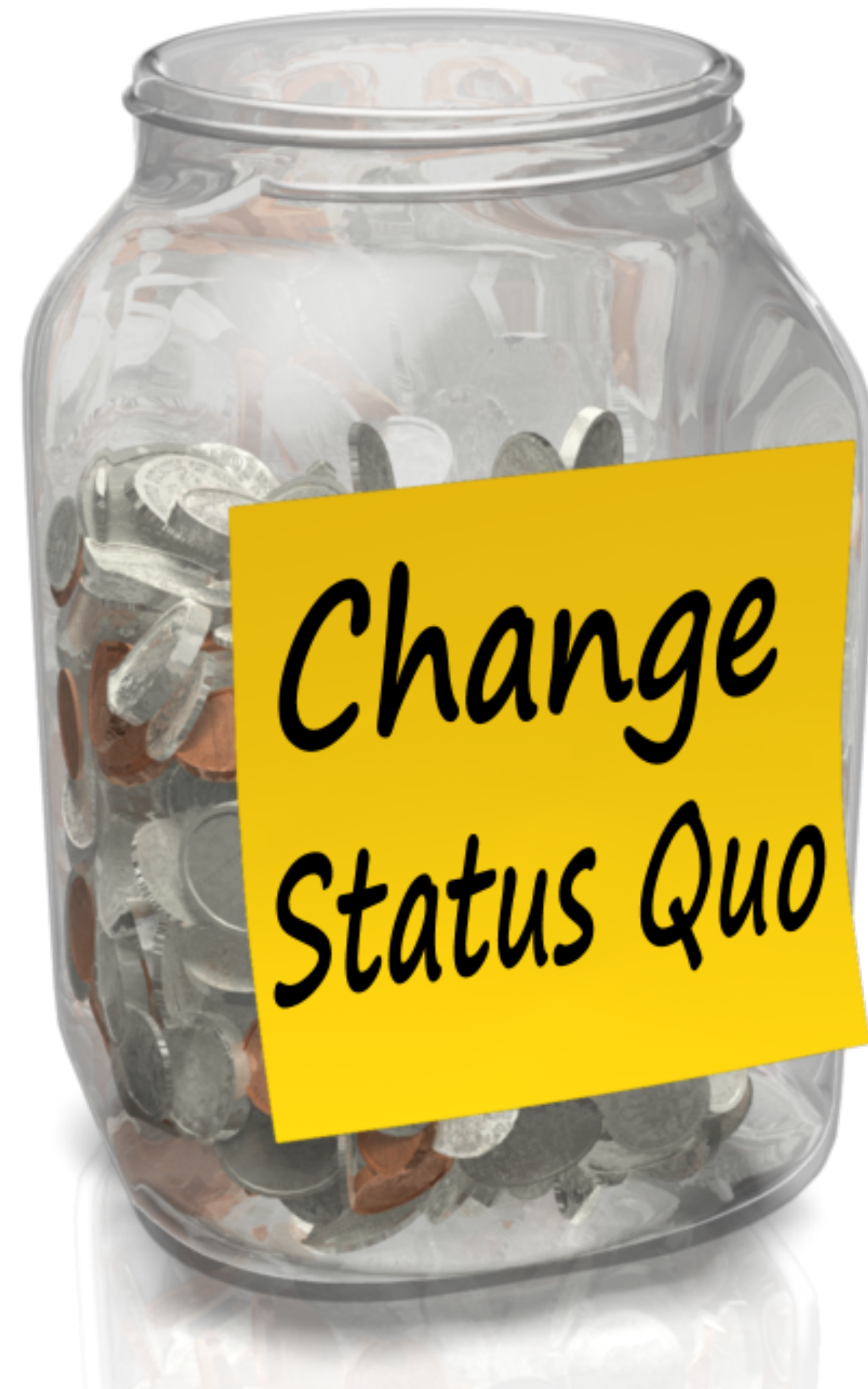


# Quick Reality Check!

- It is a tool and not a magic bullet
- Implementation has been reported difficult by IPV teams
- Deciding on which Risk Assessment to use
- Buy In
- Training



# What Do You Suppose Are the Two Biggest Obstacles to Risk Assessment Implementation?







**This is the initial  
reaction when Risk  
Assessments are  
presented  
to IPV Teams and  
Law Enforcement.**





**This is after the training and implementation of the Risk Assessments to IPV Teams and Law Enforcement.**



Risk Assessments are the key to opening the door  
Creating Stability within High Risk IPV  
Interventions



# Risk Assessment

High Risk

IPV Team

Core Team Members

- Coordinator
- Law Enforcement
- Prosecutor
- Advocacy
- Child Protective Services
- Adult Protective Services
- Probation/Parol
- Immigration Specialist
- Pretrial Services

Intervention Planning

IPV Out Put(s)

- Protective Order
- Shelter Services
- Victims Compensation
- Trial Preparation
- Police Follow Up investigations
- Civil Issues

Trial

- Disposition
- Lifetime Protective Order
- Counseling

# **Systems Model Approach**

## **Moving Forward**



# **Building the IPV**

**It is a system approach not a “one size fits all”**

**The Risk Assessment is the Foundation of the System**

**Team members consist of those working the case(s)**

**Mission is to provide safety for the client and hold offenders accountable to the highest degree by law**

# **Building the IPV**

**What is the overall mission?**

**What is the number or score on the Risk Assessment needed for IPV activation?**

**What does the process from start to finish look like?**

**What will success look like?**

# Law of Averages with Risk Assessments

$$\tilde{x}$$



EL	EM	EN	EO	EP	EQ	ER	ES	ET	EU	EV	EW
HasThereTh	RiskAssessmentIndi	RiskAssessm	DangerAssessmentDA	DangerAsse	DangerA	DangerAsse	DangerAsse	DangerAsse	DangerAsse	DangerAsse	DangerAsse
2	Danger Assessment	1	18 or more (Extreme Danger)	4	Yes	1	Yes	1	Yes	1	No
2	Danger Assessment	1	8 to 13 (Increased Danger)	2	Yes	1	No	2	Yes	1	No
1	Danger Assessment	1	14 to 17 (Severe Danger)	3	Yes	1	No	2	Yes	1	No
2	Danger Assessment	1	18 or more (Extreme Danger)	4	Yes	1	Yes	1	No	2	Yes
2	Danger Assessment	1	8 to 13 (Increased Danger)	2	Yes	1	Yes	1	Yes	1	No
2	Danger Assessment	1			Yes	1	No	2	No	2	No
2	Danger Assessment	1			Yes	1	Yes	1	Yes	1	No
2					No	2	No	2	No	2	No
2	Danger Assessment	1	18 or more (Extreme Danger)	4	Yes	1	No	2	Yes	1	
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	Danger Assessment	1			Yes	1	No	2	No	2	No
	Danger Assessment	1			Yes	1	No	2	Yes	1	No
2	Danger Assessment	1			No	2	No	2	No	2	No
2	Danger Assessment	1			Yes	1	No	2	Yes	1	No

EL	EM	EN	EO	EP	EQ	ER	ES	ET	EU	EV	EW
HasThereTh	RiskAssessmentIndi	RiskAssessm	DangerAssessmentDA	DangerAsse	DangerA	DangerAsse	DangerAsse	DangerAsse	DangerAsse	DangerAsse	DangerAsse
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2	Danger Assessment	1			Yes	1	Yes	1	Yes	1	No
2					No	2	No	2	No	2	No
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2	Danger Assessment	1	18 or more (Extreme Danger)	4	No	1	No	2	No	1	
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	Danger Assessment	1			Yes	1	No	2	Yes	1	No
2	Danger Assessment	1			No	2	No	2	No	2	No
2	Danger Assessment	1			Yes	1	No	2	Yes	1	No







# Risk Assessments for Client X

July 2022

First RA

Aggravated Assault

Firearm

Strangulation

Threats

August 2022

2nd & 3rd RA

Violate PO

Suicidal

Assault

Alcohol

Stalking

Pregnant

September 2022

4th RA

Sexual Assault

Firearm

Stalking

Homicide Threats

Assault

October 2022

5th RA

Assault

Stalking

Child Abuse

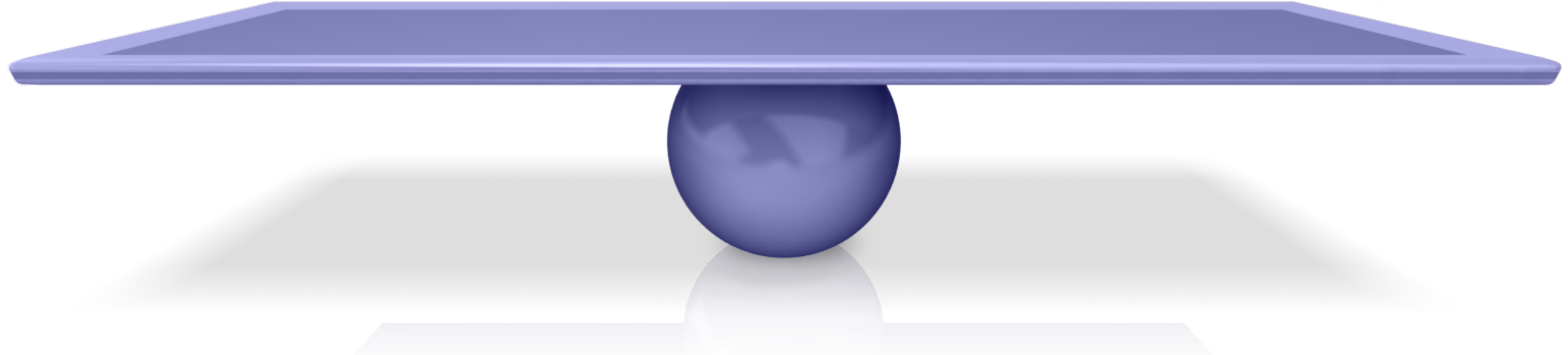
Resist Arrest



# When Multiple Risk Assessments Are Used

**Some  
Danger**            **Extreme  
Danger**

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20





# Gathering Intelligence

# Gathering Intelligence

Risk Assessment(s)

Following up with the client frequently

Each call to 911 or the hotline = Risk Assessment and Report

Information is immediately relayed to the IPV

Decisions are fluid

# Sharing Intelligence





# Access is Needed for Those Working Directly on a Case



# Sharing of Intelligence

- Does everyone have full access?
  - Are the Risk Assessments and Reports being shared?
  - How quickly is information being disseminated?
  - How quickly are team members reacting to it?
  - Who is the keeper of the information?



# Sharing of Intelligence

- How are we communicating?
  - Emails?
  - Phone tagging?
  - Texting
  - High Priority Alerts
- Secured Servers with Two Factor Authentication for Members

# Acting on the Intelligence



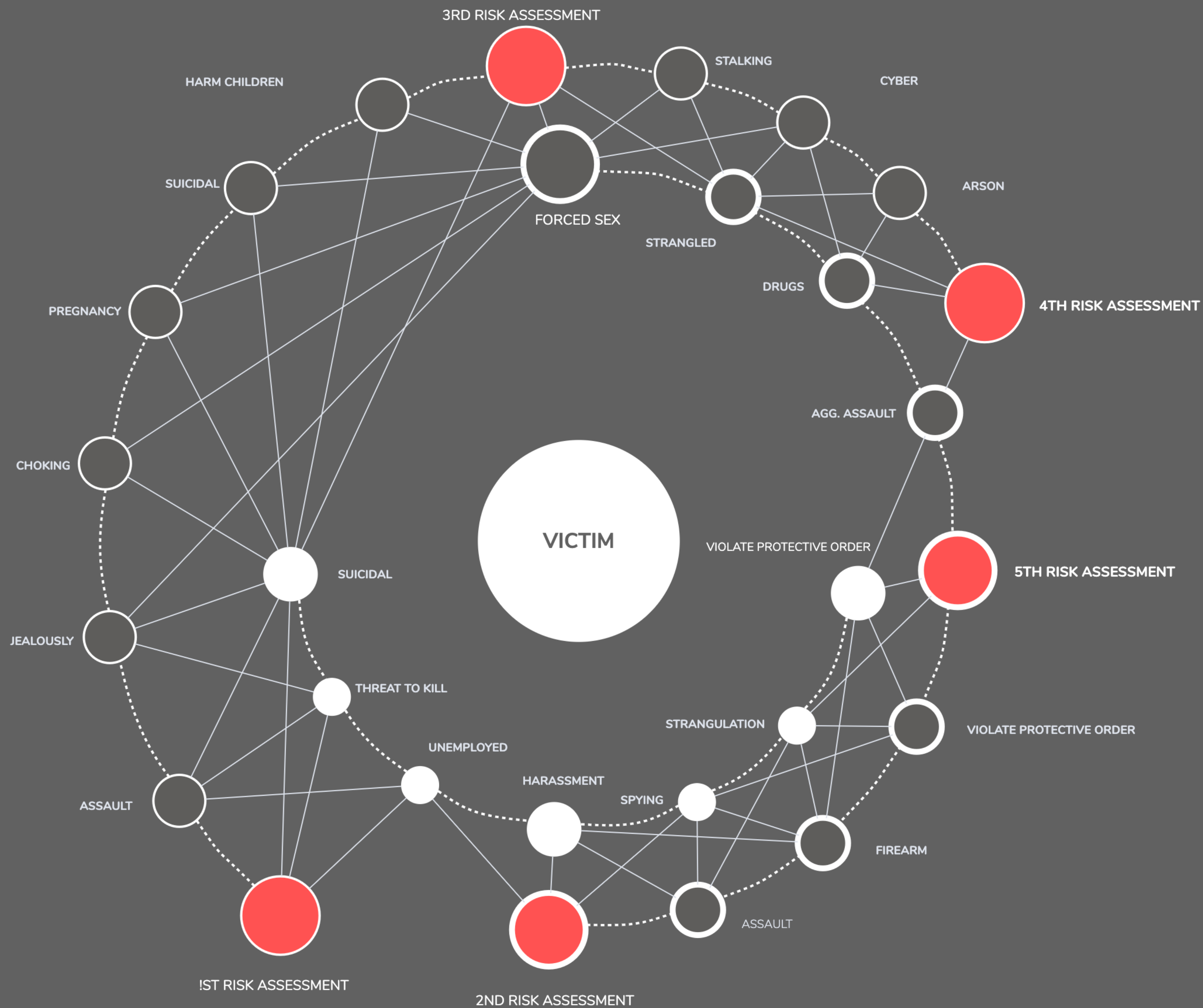
# What are we doing with the information?

- How may Risk Assessments are doing with a client?
  - Is it a **one and done** for the IPV?
  - Are there **pre and post** RA's being done with IPV activation?
  - Are team members conducting a RA **each time** a client calls 911, the hotline, or medical?

# Acting on the Intelligence

What is the Risk Assessment(s) telling the IPV?

- Things are bad for the client?
- Time for a protective order?
- Time for shelter protection?
- Time to expedite the trial or hold the offender?





**Sustainment within the IPV**

# **Sustainment within the IPV**

**Adopt and Implement a Risk Assessment**

**Train Everyone on how to properly use the Risk Assessment**

**Review and Study the Responses**

**Create the High Risk Threshold in the IPV**

**Collaborate Accordingly**

# **Why Do IPV High-Risk Interventions Fail?**

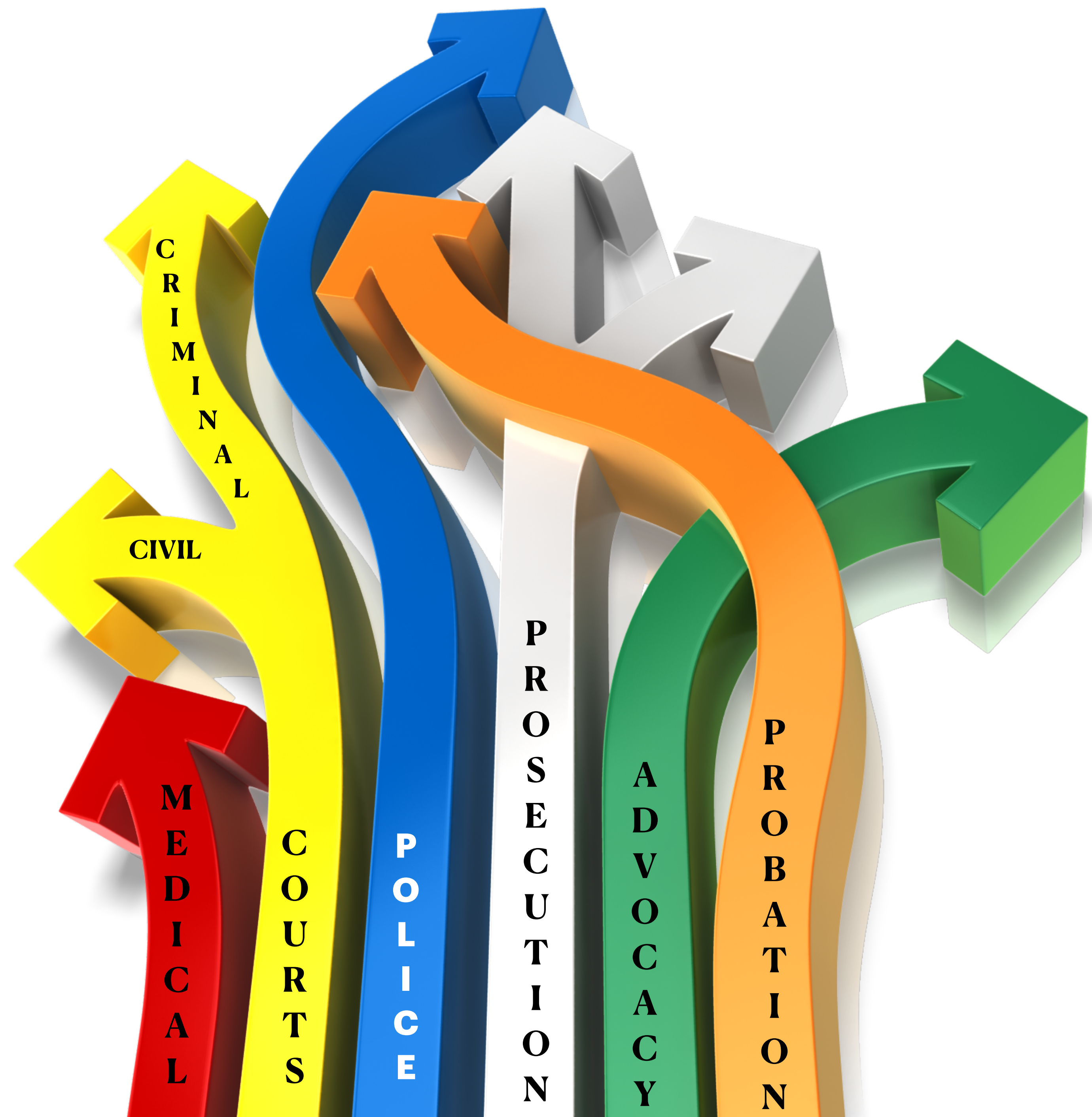








**Does the  
Mission  
Statement  
Make Sense?**



ARE MEMBERS  
ROTATING OFF  
OR  
LEAVING THE IPV?

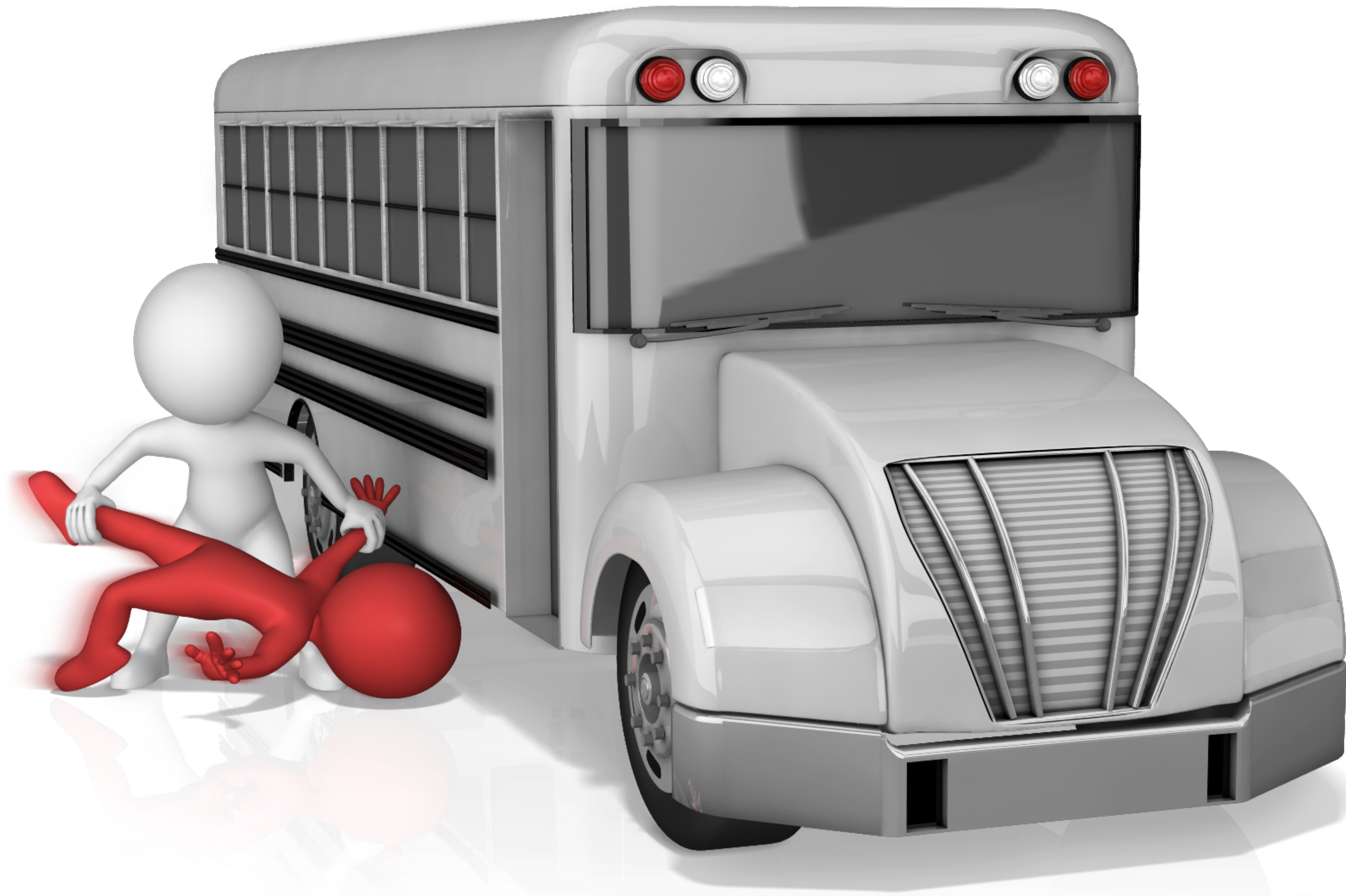




# No Sense Urgency from Core Membership



# De-Compartmentalization Among Members





# Meeting Infrequently or Not at All

## Meetings are Time Wasters





# Absence of a clear definition of High-Risk IPV among members

high-risk adjective

1: likely to result in failure, harm, or injury : having a lot of risk

*a high-risk activity*

*high-risk investments*

2: more likely than others to get a particular disease, condition, or injury

*high-risk patients patients in the*

*high-risk group*

# Trial Begins in San Antonio in Murder of College Cheerleader

*Friends and family of Cayley Mandadi filled a San Antonio, Texas, courtroom during opening arguments Tuesday in the trial of Mark Howerton, who is charged with murdering his 19-year-old girlfriend in October 2017.*

DANIEL CONRAD / December 3, 2019





## Arrests On Domestic Violence Charges

© May 24, 2023    Bill Oliver



A 60 year old College Station man is charged with violating a protection order while in the Brazos County jail awaiting a trip to prison for a prior conviction of violating protection orders against the same person. The arrest report from College Station police says the victim last month gave officers two threatening letters from her ex-boyfriend in violation of a lifetime protection order. In February, Robert Rankin and the district attorney's office reached a plea agreement where Rankin received a four year prison sentence after he admitted to protection order violations in 2021. Prosecutors dismissed two



LISTEN LIVE



Excel Car Wash



# **Take and Celebrate the Victories!**





# Get the Word Out!!!







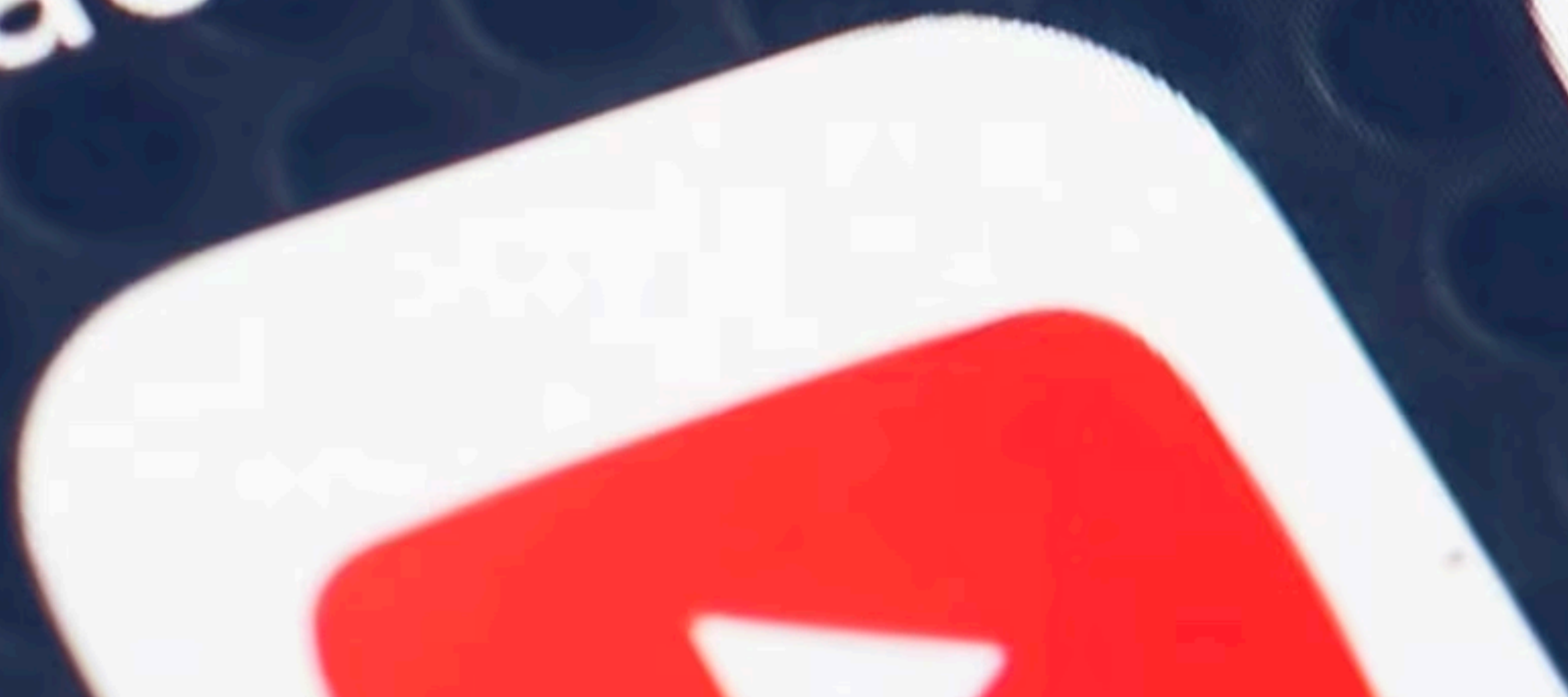
Facebook



Instagram



LinkedIn





# Risk Assessments are Fluid

What types of questions or directions will be needed in the future for IPV?

Immigration?

- Dating Violence with Juveniles and Adolescents?
- Cyber Crime related questions- revenge porn or sextortion?
- More detailed questions about Strangulation or “Choking?”
- Financial Crimes?
- What else?







# Questions?

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