Indianapolis CoC
CES Lethality Assessment

Assessment of lethality in domestic violence cases is a difficult and uncertain task, and no assessor can infallibly predict that a domestic violence perpetrator will or will not seriously harm or kill their partner or others. Lethality assessment tools assist the assessor in determining a comprehensive diagnostic profile.

Introduction Script: "You stated today that you are currently fleeing domestic violence. CES uses a Lethality Assessment Tool when assessing survivors of domestic violence so that we can better understand the severity of the situation and make sure that we take everything into account when we make decisions for housing openings. The assessment is 14 yes or no questions. I will not keep a record of your answers anywhere – CES will only record the number of "yes" answers. These can be upsetting or difficult to answer, so please let me know if you need a break at any point. You have the right to decline answering any of the questions, and you also have the right to decline the entire assessment, but it's important to know that not answering these questions might impact how quickly you receive housing assistance. Do I have your consent to begin?

- **A "Yes" response to any of Questions #1-5 automatically triggers the protocol for referral.**

1.	Has the perpetrator ever used a weapon against or you or your children to hurt you?	Yes	No	Not Ans.
2.	Has the perpetrator threatened to kill you or your children?	Yes	No	Not Ans.
3.	Does the perpetrator have a gun, or do you believe they can easily get one?	Yes	No	Not Ans.
4.	Do you fear ending the relationship because you believe the perpetrator will kill you and your children if you try to leave?	Yes	No	Not Ans.
5.	Has the perpetrator ever tried to choke you, strangle you, or make feel as though you cannot get enough air?	Yes	No	Not Ans.

- **"No" responses to Questions #1-5, but "Yes" responses to at least four of the questions #6-15, trigger the protocol for referral.**

6.	Do you have a child that the perpetrator knows is not theirs?	Yes	No	Not Ans.
7.	Is the perpetrator currently stalking/harassing you?	Yes	No	Not Ans.
8.	Does the perpetrator control your access to basic needs like food, hygiene, and shelter?	Yes	No	Not Ans.
9.	Has the perpetrator ever tried to or threatened to kill or harm themselves if you did not comply with something?	Yes	No	Not Ans.
10.	Has the perpetrator been charged and/or convicted of a violent crime?	Yes	No	Not Ans.
11.	Has the perpetrator harmed or killed a family pet(s) or threatened to do so?	Yes	No	Not Ans.
12.	Has the perpetrator broken a protective order or no-contact order in the past?	Yes	No	Not Ans.
13.	Have you previously or are you currently attempting to leave the relationship?	Yes	No	Not Ans.
14.	Does the perpetrator have a physical, medical, or mental health condition that contributes to their violence?	Yes	No	Not Ans.

Next Steps:

If the client answered "yes" to any of questions 1-5 and/or "yes" to 4 or more of questions 6-14 and the individual wishes to connect with a DV advocate, please contact Indy Champions to establish a connection before ending the assessment.

- Indy Champions 24/7 Crisis Hotline: 317-210-0866

If the client answered "no" to questions 1-5 and said "yes" to 3 or fewer of questions 6-14, the assessor should provide the individual with the "Domestic Violence Resource" sheet for additional resources and support.

Domestic Violence Resource Sheet

National & Local DV Resources

- Indy Champions 24/7 Crisis Hotline: 317-210-0866
- Salvation Army Women & Children's Shelter: 317-637-5551
- Julian Center: 317-920-9320
- Beacon of Hope Crisis Center: 317-731-6140
- Firefly Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services: 317-634-6341