

**Child Fatality/Near Fatality (CF/NF) analyses of cases with Intimate Partner Violence(IPV)/Domestic Violence (DV) have shown child safety assessments can be strengthened by looking beyond what the parents/caregivers and intimate partners in question, initially share about the violence. Below are trends observed during CF/NF reviews regarding IPV/DV along with recommendations.**

**Trend**

Assessing only the IPV/DV incident that generated the referral.

**Recommendation:**

**Include patterns of violence in your assessment. IPV/DV is cyclical and without intervention, the frequency and severity of abuse may increase over time. Have honest conversations with families about how they navigated conflict in their past relationships and observations of IPV/DV in their childhood.**

**Questions to consider:**

- What are some things you like about your relationship with your partner? What are some of the challenges?
- Tell me about a time you were able to successfully resolve a disagreement with your partner?
- How did your parents resolve disagreements when you were growing up?

**Trend**

Overlooking the importance of assessing the person who left the home where the children reside.

**Recommendation:**

**It is important to assess both parents/domestic partners involved in the violence. Often times the survivor will state they have ended their relationship with the person who initiated the violence and/or disclose that individual no longer resides in the home. When survivors of violence say their partner has left the home, there is still a likelihood they will resume their relationship later. It is important to interview both parents/domestic partners and engage, assess, and intervene if needed. All fathers/partners involved in any violent relationship need to be interviewed to make a fair assessment. Make extra efforts to locate the person who has left the home by reaching out to relatives and friends.**

**Questions to consider:**

- What are some worries or challenges if you separate? How will the separation impact the children (finances, attachment, etc.)?
- What kind of home environment do you want your children to grow up in?
- What needs to change so your children can see how your family works out their differences without violence?

**Trend**

Overreliance on Temporary Restraining Orders (TRO) and Restraining Orders (RO)

**Recommendation:**

**Engage parents/partners about the benefits and challenges of having a TRO/RO. Ask parents questions about what actions they will take if their partner does not follow the order. Willingness to get an order does not equate readiness to change or be protective. Closely assess if a parent involves their Social Connections to follow through with obtaining the protective order and the conditions of the order.**

**Questions to consider:**

- What worries DCFS if you do not obtain or follow the TRO/RO?
- Which relative/friend can support you in obtaining and following the TRO/RO?
- Which relatives can follow up and make sure the children are not exposed to any more violence?
- Who will call the police if the TRO/RO is ignored?