

DOMESTIC ABUSE DEATH REVIEW TEAM

Lucas State Office Building, 6th Floor
Des Moines, IA 50319-0075
(515) 281-5032

Co-Chairs:

Kirsten Faisal
Jane Rosien JD

Mary Hill-Sutherland LISW
John Kraemer PA

Agency Liaisons:

Anne Brown
Charlotte Burt
Becky Kinnamon
Mike Quinn
Ray Salisbury

Rachel Scott
Mary Tabor
Kevin Winker

Members:

Joseph Cowley PhD
James Davis
Dianne Fagner LISW

Roger Littlefield
Teama McGregor
Darin Raymond
Christopher Roush

Staff:

Binnie LeHew
Julie Jones

MEMO

TO: Violent Crime Victim Advocates
Domestic Violence Victim Advocates

FROM: Binnie LeHew

RE: Survivor Questionnaire

The Iowa Domestic Abuse Death Review Team is requesting your assistance gathering information for cases reviewed by the team. We currently have no way to gather information from family or friends of the homicide victim in cases of domestic abuse deaths. While law enforcement reports may include interviews conducted with family members, they are not done in all cases – particularly if the offender commits suicide. Out of a desire to get as complete a picture as possible of the circumstances surrounding the death(s), team members have drafted a questionnaire with items that they have determined would be helpful for case review.

We are asking your assistance to use this tool in cases where you have contact with family members following the homicide. Use of this is entirely voluntary and we expect you to use your judgment in deciding if it is appropriate to ask the survivors to help complete it. It is important that they understand they cannot participate in a case review or receive any information about the outcome of a case. The materials reviewed by the team are all confidential and protected by law. We can only release information that is aggregated. We hope that there may be some individuals who would like to offer the information in the spirit of helping us develop recommendations to prevent future deaths.

If you ask survivors to help complete the questionnaire, please keep it until you receive a formal request from us for the information. Usually, cases are reviewed in the calendar year following the year when the death occurred (for example, 2007 deaths are reviewed during 2008, etc.). You will receive a form that is similar to the one attached when we are ready to receive the information.

We thank you in advance for your help with this important task. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Binnie LeHew at (515) 281-5032 or blehew@idph.state.ia.us