

Police Response

When a call about a domestic abuse or domestic disturbance comes in, the dispatcher will relay your information to the officer. If an ongoing assault is taking place, officers may choose to force entry to the home.

Once inside, officers will separate you and the offender and will speak to those involved, including witnesses. They will summon emergency medical personnel if needed. If it's a domestic assault, the offender will be arrested. If the offender is gone, officers will attempt to locate him/her. Anoka County Law Enforcement Departments may vary in their investigative procedures. Photographs, if appropriate, will be taken at the scene. Some departments may require the officer to take a recorded statement from you at the scene, and some police departments might have an investigator follow up at a later time to obtain a recorded statement.

Most importantly, an officer will engage you in a series of questions known as the Lethality Assessment Screening Tool. This assessment tool is used to determine the history and severity of the abuse taking place and what resources would be most helpful.

Questions we will ask include:

- Has he/she ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon?
- Has he/she threatened to kill you or your children?
- Do you think he/she might try to kill you?
- Does he/she have a gun or can he/she get one easily?
- Has he/she ever tried to choke you?

A determination of high-risk is based on your responses to the questions. If you are deemed high-risk, the officer, will contact an advocate at Alexandra House and put you on the phone so that guidance and assistance can be offered to you immediately.

Officers cannot force you to speak with an advocate, but it is highly recommended. The advocates are the professionals who can connect you to services that will be helpful in ensuring your future safety and welfare. At minimum, an officer will provide a "victim's rights" card that will have phone numbers to several resources that are available. And your information will be forwarded to Alexandra House.

The officer will leave the scene when you have been given the opportunity to speak with an advocate, and you appear to be in a safe environment.