

**Best Practice
Self-Assessment Packets**

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Who is participating on the call today?

- a. Advocate from a domestic violence program
- b. Advocate from a law enforcement agency or prosecutor's office
- c. CCR coordinator
- d. 911 or Law enforcement personnel
- e. Prosecutor or other ("chat" in your response)

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Methods for Coordinating Community Response to Domestic Violence Cases

Has your community:

- 1. Organized a CCR (Coordinated Community Response) team?
- 2. Conducted a Safety and Accountability Audit?
- 3. Established a court watch?
- 4. Formed a Fatality Review Team?
- 5. Other methods? ("chat" in your response)

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Lessons Learned from Audits

- Complex systems
- Not designed to account for battering and domestic violence
- Best Practice Assessment: we know more now!
 - 30 years of experience with criminal legal system change
 - 70 or so Safety & Accountability Audits

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Effective Intervention: 6 Elements

1. Interagency approach
2. Attention to context and severity
3. Continuing engagement
4. Sure and swift consequences
5. Messages of help and accountability
6. Reduce disparity of impact

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Best Practice Assessment: Features & Best Fit

- Completed over a series of 3-5 meetings; 1-6 months
- Conducted by a small team
- Limited data collection
- Possible in some settings when there are challenging local conditions
- Examine a narrow scope of intervention
- Prelude to an Audit or “tune-up” following an Audit

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Steps

1. Organize and prepare
2. Map and examine case processing
3. Report findings and recommend changes

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Step 1: Organize and Prepare

- Assign a coordinator
- Select the assessment team
- Select a structure and timeline
- Develop and implement a confidentiality agreement
- Gather and organize policies and case files to review

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Step 2: Map and Analyze Case Processing

- Mapping the steps
- Case record analysis
- Policy analysis

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Step by Step: Case Record Analysis

Using the Workbook to analyze:

- 911 Calls
- Police Reports
- Police Investigation Files
- Prosecution Files

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Step by Step: Case Records Analysis Exercise

- Listen to call / read report: let the words do the talking
- Listen / read again: pay attention to practices on the worksheet
 - What practices are evident?
 - What practices are missing?
- Review and discuss as a team

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Exercise: Analyzing 911 Calls

How does the call-taker establish the type and level of danger?

For example:

- Eliciting information about acts of aggression or harm
- Eliciting information about the suspect's history of aggression
- Determining risk to persons at the scene
- Determining risk to responding officers

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Transcript of 911 call

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Exercise: Analyzing 911 Calls

How does the call-taker determine the nature of the emergency and the response priority?

For example:

- Establishing the threat of harm
- Determining the nature of injuries and need for medical attention
- Establishing whether children are safe or unsafe or being drawn into events in any way

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Another 911 transcript

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Transcript continued

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Exercise: Analyzing Patrol Reports

How does this report account for:

- Information specific to each witness and party's account of events
- Information from the victim regarding history of violence, risk and intimidation
- Attention to indicators of stalking

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Patrol Report - 1

Sample police report

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Exercise: Analyzing Patrol Reports

How does this report account for:

- Information specific to each witness and party's account of events
- Information from the victim regarding history of violence, risk and intimidation
- Attention to indicators of stalking

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Patrol Report - 2

Sample police report

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Step by Step: Policy Analysis

- Principles
- Procedures
- Monitoring

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Step by Step: Policy Analysis

Does the policy:

- Adhere to an inter-agency approach?
- Reference applicable laws, definitions and authority?
- Provide criteria for sorting cases into appropriate levels of response according to context and severity of abuse?
- Provide mechanisms for documenting the pattern and history of abuse when possible?
- Include mechanisms for tracking practitioner compliance to policy?

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1016 (Domestic Disturbance)

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| <p><u>Information Needed</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exact location 2. Who is involved 3. Are there any weapons, type, and where are they 4. Is it physical or verbal 5. Is anyone injured 6. Are both subjects still there 7. If one left, description, method, and direction of travel 8. Has anyone been drinking <p style="text-align: center;"><u>DISPATCH</u></p> <p>2 Police Officers If anyone is injured, dispatch ambulance and first responders. If suspect left, give out description and direction of travel. Check for paperwork between the two subjects as soon as names are known.</p> <p><u>Information</u></p> <p>A dispute is a domestic when one of the following or combination of the following is involved in a dispute: husband and wife; boyfriend and girlfriend; 2 people who cohabit who are over 18; father/mother and 18 yr. old child (if the child is 17, it is a domestic if the child is the perpetrator).</p> <p>Domestics are one of the most dangerous calls for emergency personnel. It is possible when personnel arrive that the subjects who were fighting, direct their hostility toward the responders to the incident. If someone is injured, medical personnel should be directed to wait until the scene is secured.</p> | <p><u>Other Considerations</u></p> <p>Is there any paperwork between the individuals. Check restraining orders and no contacts.</p> |
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Step 3: Findings and Recommendations

- Using the Findings Template
- Summarizing recommended policy changes
- Setting priorities
- Presentation to agency heads

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Praxis Technical Assistance

Technical assistance available could include:

- Emailing or phoning with questions
- Requests for materials
- Audio or video conference
- A Praxis consultant on the telephone during your team meeting

Refer your requests to Denise Eng at 651-699-8000, ext. 21 or denise@praxisinternational.org.

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