

Firearms Technical Assistance Project

Summary of Advocate Tools Involving Firearms



Firearms Technical Assistance Project

Advocates' tools for addressing firearms in domestic violence cases

Tool	Format	Uses of tool	Sharing of information
SAFE Tool (National Center for Protection Orders and Full Faith and Credit/Battered Women's Justice Project)	Interview questions + images of weapon types	Safety planning and petition preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information kept confidential by advocates Victim may choose to include in petition/affidavit or share with law enforcement
Firearms Identification Worksheet (King County, WA)	Simple questions + images of weapon types	Preparation of petition for protection order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victim may complete and choose to attach the worksheet to petition (judge can review worksheet and it will be served on respondent) If victim is not comfortable with attaching it to petition, with consent, advocates share with law enforcement for their information and officer safety
Firearms Interview Worksheet (King County, WA)	Interview questions	After issuance of temporary protection order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prosecution-based advocates actively reach out to all petitioners in cases screened as firearms positive (based on screening of petitions) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information kept as work product of prosecutor's office With victim consent, information may be used to seek search warrant or shared with law enforcement responsible for recovering firearms Some information may be shared on Compliance Review Information Sheets compiled by the Regional Domestic Violence Firearms Enforcement Unit and sent to court in cases with Orders to Surrender Weapons

This project was supported by 2016-TA-AX-K043 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges collected and curated these materials. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.



BATTERED WOMEN'S JUSTICE PROJECT
**National Center on Protection Orders
and Full Faith & Credit**

S.A.F.E. TOOL

**Strategic Assessment of
Firearm Enforcement**

Revised 2016

PURPOSE OF THIS TOOL

The S.A.F.E. Tool is an inventory of questions designed to facilitate a discussion with a survivor on safety strategies around firearms. This Tool will assist survivors with evaluating if, when, how, and for what period they may want to request that an intimate partner who abused them to be prohibited from use, possession, or ownership of firearms and ammunition. The information obtained from this Tool can assist survivors when creating a comprehensive personalized safety plan that improves their safety and the safety of their child(ren). This Tool is not a lethality assessment tool nor should it be used as one.

WHO SHOULD USE THIS TOOL?

The S.A.F.E. Tool is designed for survivors and the attorney or advocate who assists them in preparing a comprehensive safety plan that includes firearm safety and, if they so choose, a petition for a protection order that requests removal of these weapons from their abuser. The attorney or advocate working with the survivor should be knowledgeable in the areas of intimate partner violence and the firearm laws of their jurisdiction. This Tool is not intended for use by system advocates, prosecutors, law enforcement professionals or any other professional who may assist survivors.

HOW TO USE THIS TOOL

This Tool consists of an inventory of questions divided into seven categories and a photographic guide of commonly possessed firearms. Please review each section in order. Each section is pertinent in helping the survivor make informed choices around firearm safety. It is recommended that the attorney or advocate working with survivors use this Tool in conjunction with the Firearm Checklist for Advocates. This Checklist can provide guidance on the federal domestic violence firearm prohibitions and how to remove weapons from prohibited persons.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The S.A.F.E. Tool was developed by the National Center on Protection Orders and Full Faith & Credit to assist survivors and the attorneys and advocates who help them devise safety strategies around firearms. For technical assistance on the use of this Tool or issues related to the issuance, service, and enforcement of protection orders or the removal of firearms, please contact us at 800-903-0111, prompt 2; or email us at ncffc@bwjp.org.

This project was supported by Grant No. 2014-TA-AX-K046 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view in this document are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

The previous pages are an excerpt of the full SAFE Tool. To receive an electronic or hard copy of the complete tool, please contact NCPOFFC at 1 (800) 903-0111, prompt 2, or ncffc@bwjp.org.

Case Name: _____

County: _____ Case No: _____

Firearm Identification Worksheet

(You may attach this to the petition.)

1. Does the respondent own or have access to firearm(s)? Yes No Unknown
2. Does the respondent have a concealed pistol license (CPL)? Yes No Unknown
3. When was the last time you saw the firearm(s)? _____
4. Do you know where the respondent keeps the firearm(s)? Yes No Unsure

They are usually kept: (Circle all that apply)

On His/Her Person In their Car In their Home Storage Unit In a Safe

5. Has the respondent used the firearm to threaten or intimidate you? Yes No
 - When did they last threaten you with it? _____
 - Did you report the incident to the police? Yes No
 - Which law enforcement agency? _____
6. On a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being "not very important" and 5 being "very important"), how important are firearms to the respondent?

1 2 3 4 5

7. What does the respondent generally use the firearm for? (Circle all that apply)
Hunting Collecting Target Shooting Protection Other: _____
8. Does the respondent possess explosives? Yes No Unknown

The following pictures are examples of the most common types of guns. If you recognize any of the guns below as similar to the one(s) the respondent has, **please circle it and write in the circle how many you think they have.**

Rifle



Semi-automatic Rifle



Signed: _____

Dated: _____

FIREARM INTERVIEW WORKSHEET

Date: _____

VICTIM NAME:	
EMAIL ADDRESS:	
BEST CONTACT NUMBER:	
ALTERNATE CONTACT NUMBER:	
ATTORNEY'S NAME/CONTACT INFO:	

FIREARM INFORMATION	
Background Notes	
Where do you believe the firearms are now?	
How long have you known/lived with the respondent? How familiar are you with the respondent's habits with regard to their firearm(s)?	
When was the last time you saw the firearm(s) personally? Please describe:	
To the best of your knowledge, how many/what types of firearm(s) do you think the respondent has access to? Do you know how/when they were purchased?	
Who else could verify the location of the firearm(s)? [Name, Phone, Address, Relationship]	
Does the respondent keep their firearm(s) in their car? Can you describe their car? License plate #?	
Are you concerned that there are firearm(s) at the residence where the respondent is currently living? Do you know the name(s)/DOBs of the person/people with whom the respondent is residing?	
Has the respondent ever pawned their firearm(s)? If so, do you know which pawn shop?	

FIREARM INTERVIEW WORKSHEET

Is the respondent current or former military? If so, which branch? Who is their commanding officer?	
Does the respondent hunt? When was the last time you know they went hunting?	
Does the respondent go to shooting ranges? Target practice? Do you ever hear the respondent talk about these? If so, where and when?	
Does the respondent know how to make explosives? Do they have bomb-making material?	
Are you aware of any photos on social media or other recent photos of the respondent with guns?	
Has the respondent recently been suicidal? Are there any other mental health concerns? Has the respondent ever been on a mental health hold?	
What is the respondent's attitude toward law enforcement?	
How does the respondent's access to firearm(s) impact your safety?	
Are you willing to speak with law enforcement to further investigate?	

SERVICE INFORMATION

How was the temporary protection order served?	
Do you know where the respondent lives, works or spends time?	
Who else might know? [Name, Phone, Address, Relationship]	

OTHER CASE INFORMATION

Have you made any recent police reports?	
Which law enforcement agency responded?	
Do you have an incident number?	
Is there a criminal case pending?	

FIREARM INTERVIEW WORKSHEET

Do you have a case number?	
Do you have an advocate?	
SAFETY	
Do you have a safety plan?	
Are you working with a community DV agency?	
Do you have a specific community advocate?	
Do you have your own guns or guns in the home where you currently reside?	
Does the presence of those guns make you feel less safe?	
Would you like those to be picked up for safe keeping?	

HB 1501 "LIE & TRY" INFORMATION

[SCRIPT]: This summer (2017) WA State passed a law that requires gun dealers to report to the Washington Association Of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs when someone tries to legally purchase a gun, but are denied because they are prohibited from owning a gun. You can register your PO at www.registervpo.com so that you will be notified if/when your abuser attempts to buy a gun at a licensed dealer in WA state. If your abuser DOES try to purchase a gun, the dealer is required to notify law enforcement within 5 days so that you can be notified. This isn't a perfect system yet – there isn't a system set up for victims on criminal cases who don't have a PO; abusers still find ways to get guns through non-reporting dealers; and the notification may come days after the attempted purchase. But it is a step in the right direction.