

PRESS RELEASE
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THREATS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AND
HOW TO RESPOND

Often in investigating a case of domestic violence, particularly when a death occurs, the investigator learns that there were previous threats made against the victim that were overheard by other family members, friends, and even strangers. A frequent comment made to investigators during the course of the crimes investigation is **"he said he was going to kill the victim but I really did not think he would do it"**.

These threats should NEVER be taken lightly by the person making them, or hearing them, ignoring the threats can be deadly.

The victim needs to immediately reach out to professionals for help, whether it is law enforcement, social service counselors, or an attorney for guidance and assistance.

This crime is **"not a family matter"** that should be handled in private inside the walls of the victim's home. Professionals who specialize in this crime must be consulted so a "plan" can be put in place to help the victim and avoid violence.

The abuser needs to be put on notice that their threats have been brought to the attention of the authorities and the victim was empowered to go and seek help. Empowerment by the victim is essential in stopping the cycle of abuse whether it is physical, emotional or verbal.

Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior on behalf of the perpetrator and never the fault of the victim.

Always take a threat of domestic violence as a very serious matter that is not going to go away or be forgotten on behalf of the victim. Reporting the abuse or threat is the **FIRST STEP** in preventing violence and assisting the victim.