

1 **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TRAINING AMENDMENTS**

2 2021 GENERAL SESSION

3 STATE OF UTAH

4 **Chief Sponsor: Candice B. Pierucci**

5 Senate Sponsor: Lincoln Fillmore

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**LONG TITLE**

7 **General Description:**

8 This bill provides for domestic violence and lethality assessment training for law  
9 enforcement officers and reporting requirements.

10 **Highlighted Provisions:**

11 This bill:

12 ▶ requires the Department of Public Safety and Peace Officer Standards and Training  
13 create a training program for law enforcement officers in:

- 14 • recognizing domestic violence indicators;
- 15 • providing lethality assessments; and
- 16 • writing reports on incidents; and

17 ▶ directs the Division of Child and Family Services to provide to the Department of  
18 Public Safety and the State Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice with data  
19 on domestic violence for reporting to the Legislature.

20 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

21 None

22 **Other Special Clauses:**

23 None

24 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

25 ENACTS:

26 **78B-7-120**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **78B-7-120** is enacted to read:

**78B-7-120. Law enforcement -- Training -- Domestic violence -- Lethality assessments.**

(1) The Department of Public Safety shall develop training in domestic violence responses and lethality assessment protocols, which include the following:

(a) recognizing the symptoms of domestic violence and trauma;

(b) an evidence-based assessment to identify victims of domestic violence who may be at a high risk of being killed by a perpetrator;

(c) lethality assessment protocols and interviewing techniques, including indicators of strangulation;

(d) responding to the needs and concerns of a victim of domestic violence;

(e) delivering services to victims of domestic violence in a compassionate, sensitive, and professional manner; and

(f) understanding cultural perceptions and common myths of domestic violence.

(2) (a) The department shall develop and offer an online training course in domestic violence issues to all certified law enforcement officers in the state.

(b) All law enforcement officers shall complete the online course within two years after being certified as a peace officer.

(3) Training in domestic violence issues shall be incorporated into training offered by the Peace Officer Standards and Training division to all persons seeking certification as a peace officer.

(4) The department shall develop specific training curriculums that meet the requirements of this section, including:

(a) response to domestic violence incidents, including trauma-informed and victim-centered interview techniques;

(b) lethality assessment protocols which have been demonstrated to minimize retraumatizing victims; and

(c) standards for report writing.

(5) The Division of Child and Family Services and contracted providers shall provide

59 aggregate domestic violence lethality assessment data to the Commission on Criminal and  
60 Juvenile Justice and the Department of Public Safety not later than July 31 of each year. The  
61 data shall include domestic violence actions, including stalking, strangulation, violence in the  
62 presence of children, and threats of suicide or homicide. Analysis of the data and policy  
63 recommendations shall be provided to the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim  
64 Committee and in the commission's annual report required by Section [63M-7-205](#).