

The Homicide Timeline

Professor Jane Monckton
Smith

METROPOLITAN POLICE Working together for a safer London

**WE ARE APPEALING FOR WITNESSES
CAN YOU HELP US?**

MURDER

ON FRI 3rd AUG 07 AT ABOUT 10.15pm
A YOUNG MALE WAS SHOT DEAD IN
MARCUS GARVEY WAY. THE GUNMAN
ESCAPED ON A MOPED.

In strict confidence, please phone
020 8247 4554

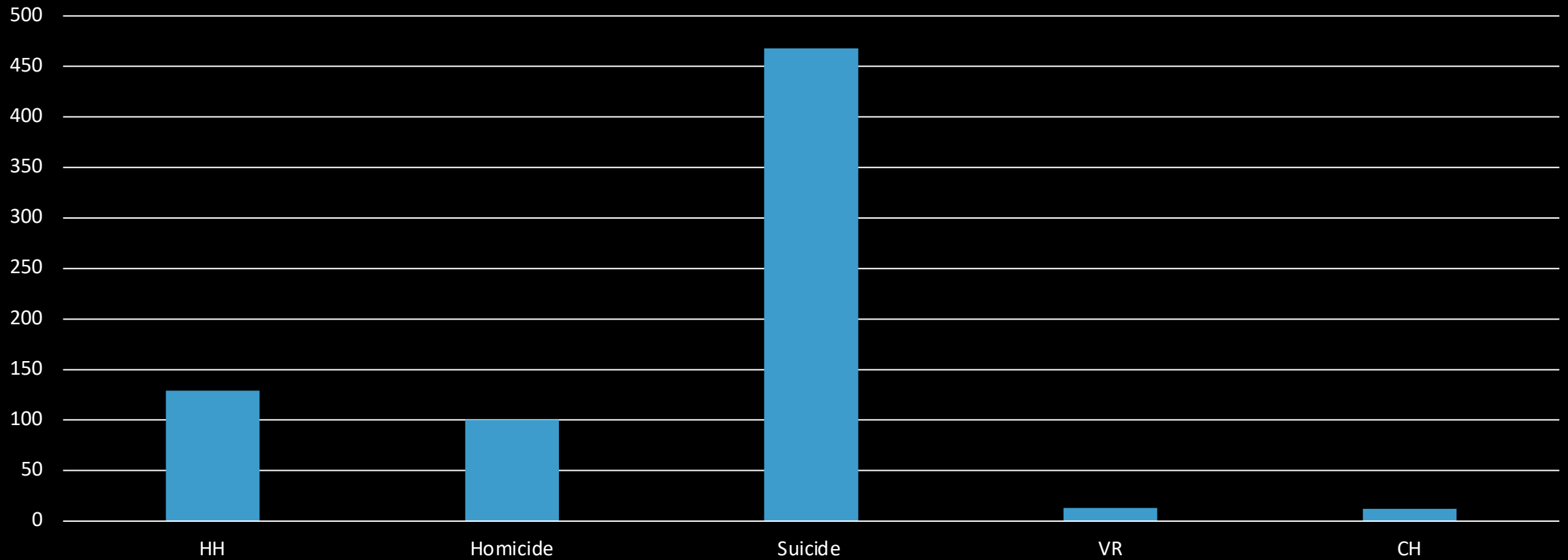
**DID YOU SEE OR HEAR ANYTHING?
PLEASE CALL US**

On the number above or at your local police
or ring CRIMESTOPPERS

Principles of the timeline: sequencing

- In homicide research temporal sequencing has an established presence
- The principle is that there are identifiable stages in an escalation to homicide, and that the later stages follow on from the earlier stages
- There are sequences for genocide, male confrontational homicide, serial killing and mass killing

Annual estimates DA related sudden deaths



Context

A UK Home Office consultation in 2012 concluded that coercive control was the best framework for understanding domestic abuse. It is patterns of control that links all of the categories

Coercive control was criminalized as a result in England and Wales (Serious Crimes Act 2015), Scotland (Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018); Ireland (Domestic Violence Act 2018 (Ireland))

Although the legislation is new, the research surrounding coercive control as the most dangerous and damaging form of IPA is not

Coercive Control is also considered to be the most significant high risk marker for serious harm and potential homicide

High Risk

- A particular cluster of three risk markers can be very dangerous
- Controlling patterns
- Violence
- Separation
- **Raises possibility of homicide by 900%**
- This single risk marker is highly dangerous
- Non-fatal Strangulation
- **Raises possibility of homicide by 750-800%**

What is Coercive Control?



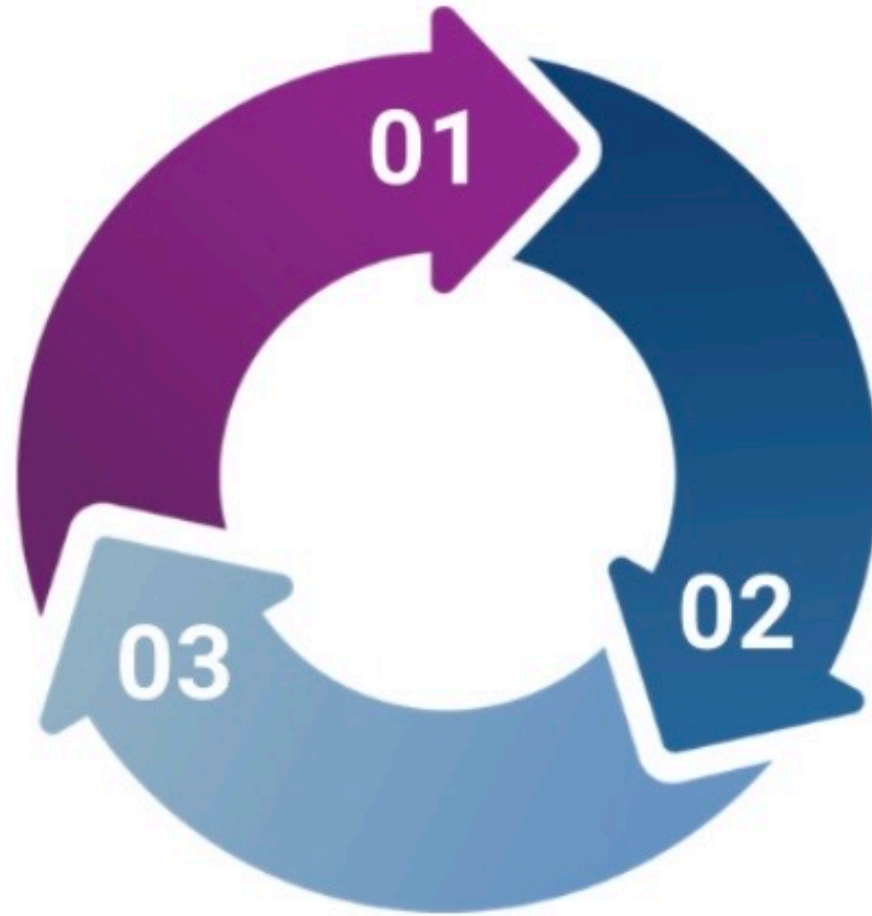
- A pattern of behaviour designed to trap people in a relationship
- It can Create what has been described as a kind of hostage situation
- It is designed to subjugate a person to the will of another
- It manipulates compliance
- It reduces the victim's choices and space for action

Coercive control is an umbrella term for many forms of abusive behaviour including:



The Three Cs allow us to start to understand what is happening in Coercive Control.

Control:
Often enforced through a series of unwritten rules.



Challenge:
Occurs when a rule is broken or resisted

Consequences:

The following three questions were developed to help identify coercive control:

- Is this a pattern of behaviour?
- Is this making someone change their daily routines and activities?
- Is this making someone afraid?



Fear doesn't always look the way we expect. There are two types of fear that are relevant in cases of Coercive Control.

Immediate Fear



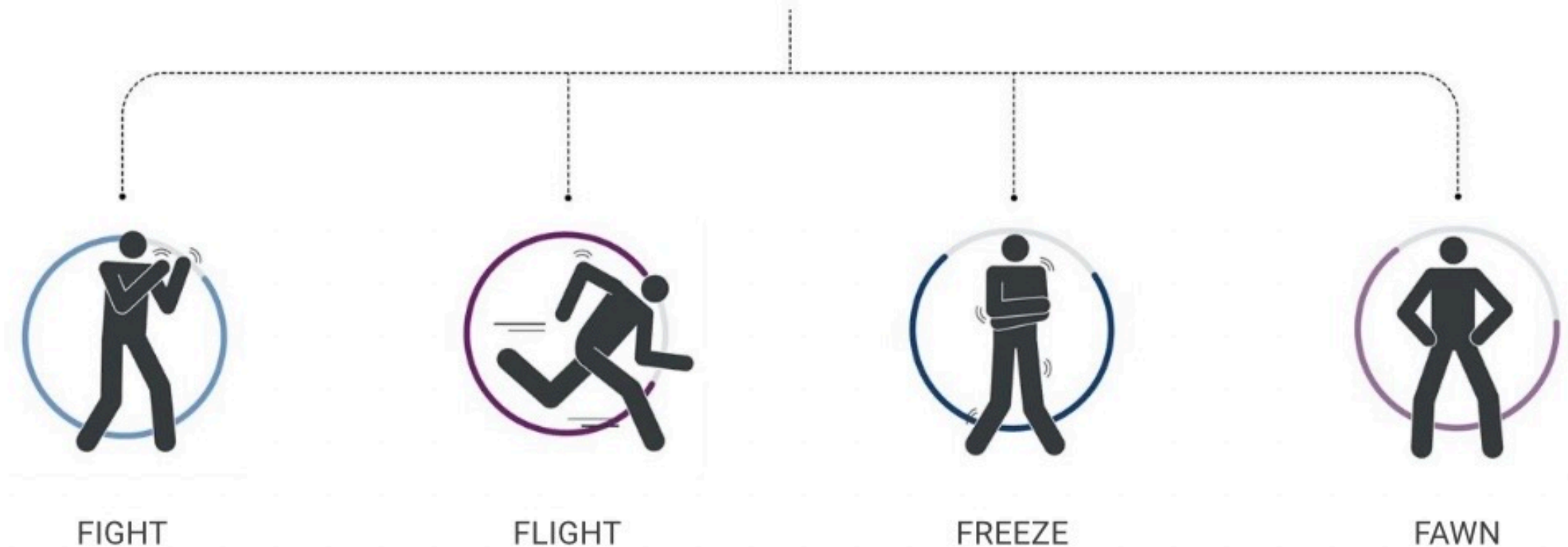
Types of
Fear



Chronic Fear

Immediate Fear happens when there is an immediate threat to someone's health, safety or wellbeing.

People respond to Immediate Fear in ways that are often recognisable:



Chronic fear builds up over time. It centres around the victim's past experiences; they have a knowledge and understanding of what the perpetrator is capable of.

Looking completely different to Immediate Fear, Chronic Fear is more about the victim avoiding the consequences of upsetting the controlling person.

Victims can become hostile to professionals to avoid upsetting the controlling person; they could change their minds about supporting prosecutions, or just want the professional to leave. They may pretend they are happy and the relationship is fine.



How to identify CC patterns



- **Control**
 - What are the rules of this relationship?
- **Challenge**
 - What are the reasons for a police call?
 - What are arguments about?
- **Consequences**
 - What would happen if...questions
 - What has happened?

Lily and George

- Lily was in a pub with her partner George. Katie was sitting with a female friend chatting and George was talking with his friends.
-
- A man approached her and her friend. He was known to the friend and started talking to them. Lily became nervous and got up to go into the ladies' toilets.
-
- George followed her in and started shouting and pushing her around. He accused her of flirting with the man. Lily shouted that she did not know him, and he was chatting to her friend.
-
- As a result of the noise in the toilet, staff asked George to leave the pub. He demanded Lily leave with him, so she did. Outside the pub the argument continued, and George grabbed Lily around the throat and threatened her. Lily tried to push him off and was screaming and shouting.
-
- Staff in a nearby shop called the police.

Lily and George



- When police arrived, George said Lily had attacked him. It was said that the two were in a toxic relationship and were always arguing. One person said that they were as bad as each other.
-
- Lily made a statement to police.
-
- George was arrested and released later under investigation.
-
- He returned to the home he shared with Lily
-
- He told her he couldn't believe she had reported him to police, and she was wrong to do that. He was annoyed first, then he started crying and said she would ruin both their lives if she didn't retract her statement.
-
- Lily retracted her statement the following day.

A close-up photograph of two hands. One hand, wearing a dark, ribbed sweater sleeve, is firmly grasping the other hand, which is wearing a green, ribbed sweater sleeve. The hands are resting on a wooden surface. The background is dark and out of focus, showing parts of clothing like a grey t-shirt and blue jeans.

Identifying Coercive Control

- It's crucial to identify who is the controlling party
- In some cases you might have two people using violence, but often only one is also controlling.
- Which one is both controlling and violent?
- A CC pattern analysis can help

Stage One: History

- The person has a history of stalking
- The person has a history of controlling patterns
- The person has previous arrests for violence, stalking, or domestic abuse
- History of stalking (with or without arrest or prosecution)
- Criminal history
- Patterns of jealousy and possessiveness
- Inability to accept challenge
- Thin skinned & confrontational

Stage One:
Clive Ruggles
talks about
his daughter
Alice



Stage Two: Early Relationship

- Early cohabitation
- Early pregnancy
- Early declarations of love using possessive language (you're mine, together forever etc)
- Pushes for early commitment
- Possessive ay early stage
- Jealous at early stage
- Resist attempts to slow down or end the relationship

Stage Two:
Clive Ruggles
talks about
his daughter
Alice



Stage Three: Relationship

- Coercive control
- Stalking
- Violence (even low level pushing and shoving)
- Sexual aggression
- Possessiveness
- Jealousy
- Threats to suicide or kill
- Isolation of victim from family and friends
- Enforces routines on victim or family
- Threats to pets or children
- Quick temper and thin skin
- Drug or alcohol problems (not causal but can exacerbate)
- Depression (not causal but can exacerbate)

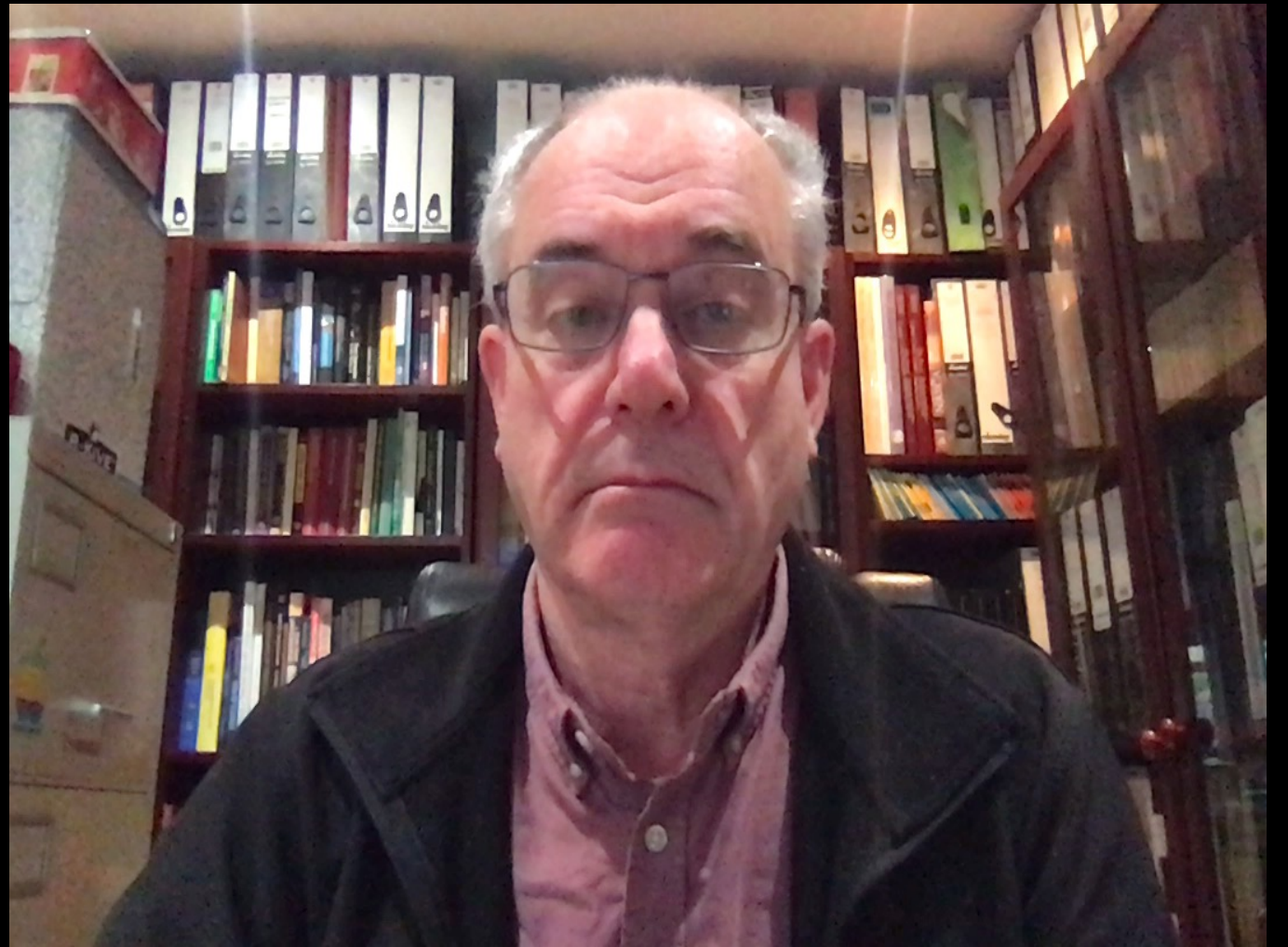
Stage Three:
Clive Ruggles
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Stage Four: Trigger

- Separation
- Threat of separation
- Imagines a separation (constant accusations of an affair for example)
- Bankruptcy or financial ruin
- Physical health deteriorates in offender or victim
- Mental health deteriorates in offender or victim
- Redundancy, retirement
- Event which prompts retaliation or revenge on victim

Stage Four:
Clive Ruggles
talks about
his daughter
Alice



Stage Five: Escalation

- Concerning behaviours become more frequent
- Concerning behaviours become more serious or severe
- Stalking (even low level) (begins or continues)
- Threats to kill or suicide
- Exerts more control
- Anger or desperation evident
- Uses language like 'I won't let you leave', 'I cant live without you', 'if I can't have you no-one can'

Stalking





The Rejected Stalker responds to the breakdown of a close relationship.

The initial motivation of a Rejected Stalker is either attempting to reconcile the relationship or exacting revenge for a perceived rejection.

The most common form of stalking, the Rejected Stalker, makes up over 50% of all stalking cases.

The Rejected Stalker is the most dangerous and likely to seriously harm or kill the victim. Over 50% of rejected stalkers will carry out their threats (compared to an average of 10% in other groups).

Stalking should always be taken seriously. The earlier the intervention, the better the outcome. It is best to label it as stalking at the earliest opportunity.

Victims of stalking often do not report this until they have become afraid. This means that the earliest opportunity for intervention may have been missed.

Stalkers are obsessive individuals, so they will rarely just stop without intervention.



Most forms of stalking will have both covert and overt behaviours.



Covert behaviours are hidden and may include both cyber and physical stalking.



Overt behaviours may be seen and identified. They may make the victim very afraid.

It is likely that BOTH will be present in The Rejected Stalker.

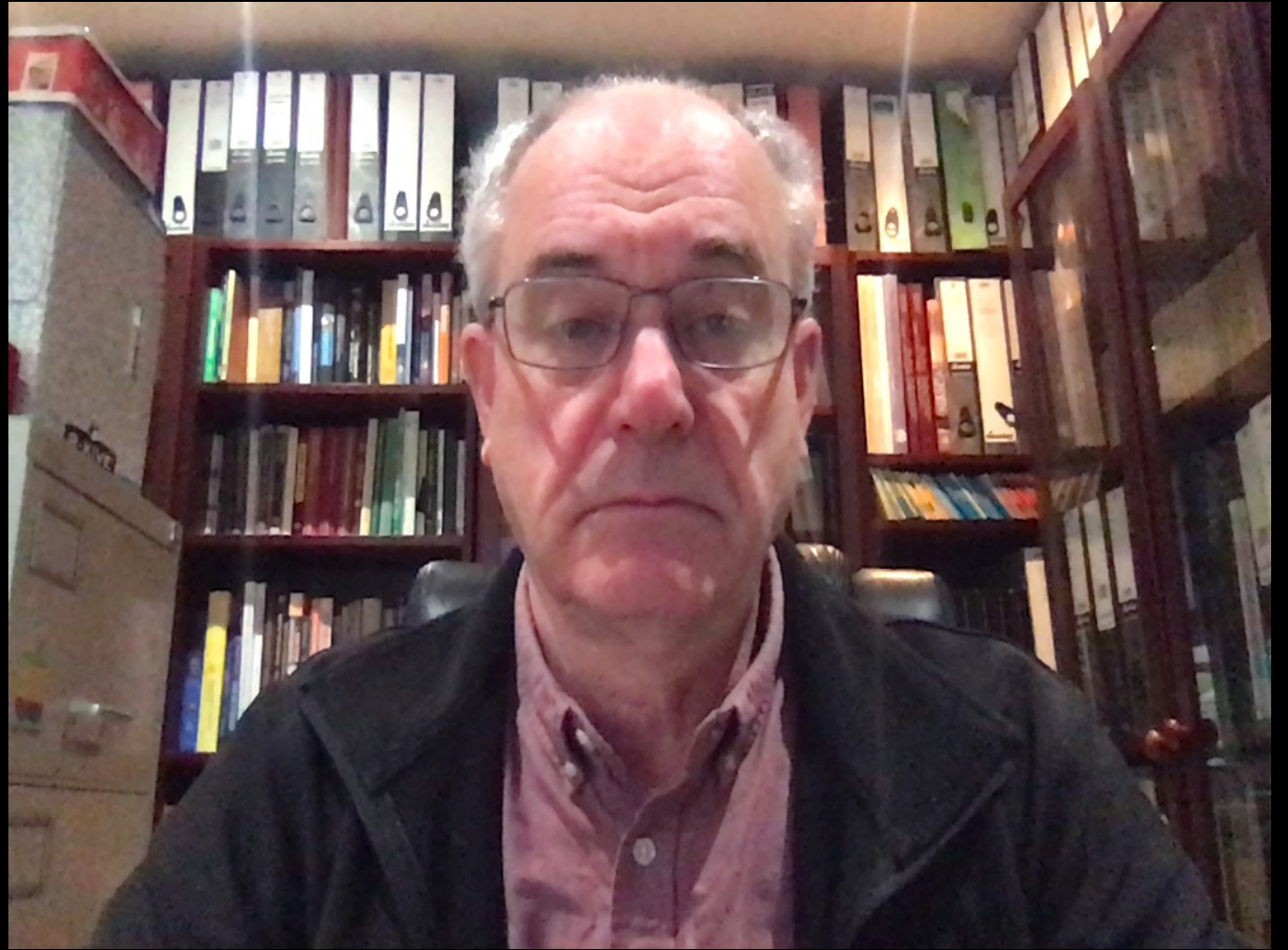
Breaches



Stage Six: Homicidal Ideation

- Situation is irreversible or irretrievable
- Last chance thinking
- Last attempts at reconciliation
- Stalking – intelligence gathering
- Victim may be concerned about a change in behaviour or approach
- Talking about death
- Threats may be more specific
- Things may calm
- Things may intensify

Stage Six:
Clive Ruggles
talks about his
daughter Alice



Stage Seven: Planning

- Stalking
- Change in usual behaviour
- Opportunity creation
- Increased menace
- May tell people of plans, or may continue to make threats
- Internet searches
- Gathering of weapons or other tools to incapacitate the victim, or dispose of them
- Suicide threats
- Isolate children



Stage Seven: Clive Ruggles talks about his daughter Alice

Stage Eight: Homicide

- Clear homicide with confession
- Homicide with suicide of offender
- Homicide made to look like suicide
- Homicide made to look like 'mercy killing'
- Homicide made to look like accident
- Homicide made to look like misadventure or natural causes
- Stage missing person
- Children targeted for homicide
- Children collateral damage
- Children witness homicide
- Victim blaming – claiming self defence or provocation



Stage Eight: Clive Ruggles talks about his daughter Alice

Violent Resistance Timeline

- 1. History: vulnerabilities
- 2. Early relationship: quick
- 3. Relationship: control, violence, retaliation, resistance
- 4. Disclosure: friends or family - validation
- 5. Help-Seeking: police, GP, midwife, IDVA, A&E, housing, MH, alcohol
- 6. Suicidal Ideation: depression, PTSD, threats to suicide, self harm
- 7. Entrapment: panic, fear, hopelessness, humiliation, toxic guilt
- 8. Suicide, Homicide

Conspiratorial Domestic Homicide Timeline

- 1. Defining Relationship: conservative values; shared belief system
- 2. Relationship: with key actors – family, group, community
- 3. Triggers: challenging shared belief system – females predominantly
- 4. Disclosure/Help-seeking: family or professionals
- 5. Escalation: attempts to reinstate control
- 6. Decision: joint decision taken
- 7. Planning: joint planning
- 8. Homicide: joint perpetration of homicide and covering it up

Final Comments

- Travel through all of the stages is not inevitable – the pattern can be disrupted
- Most controlling people will not progress beyond stage 5
- Breaches should be responded to irrespective of the nature of the breach
- The ‘what would happen if’ questions can give a lot of information about the consequences and nature of the patterns
- Stalking motivation can develop (control-revenge-reconnaissance)

Resources

- Online training
- Book
- Training film
- Homicide Timeline App
- In person training
- Advanced training

