

1 State of Arkansas  
2 90th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2015

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1707

4  
5 By: Representative Ballinger

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT CONCERNING LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE AND  
9 REPORTING DURING THE INVESTIGATION OF AN ACT OF  
10 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE; TO BE REFERRED TO AS "LAURA'S  
11 LAW"; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

12  
13  
14 CONCERNING LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE AND  
15 REPORTING DURING THE INVESTIGATION OF AN  
16 ACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE; TO BE REFERRED  
17 TO AS "LAURA'S LAW".  
18  
19  
20

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

22  
23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 12, Subchapter 1, is  
24 amended to add a new section to read as follows:

25 12-12-108. Domestic violence investigation.

26 (a) When a law enforcement agency responds to a report of domestic  
27 violence, the first law enforcement officer to interview a victim of domestic  
28 violence shall assess the potential for danger by asking a series of  
29 questions provided on a lethality assessment form.

30 (b) The lethality assessment form shall be completed with the  
31 following information from the victim:

32 (1) Whether the offender ever used a weapon against the victim  
33 or threatened the victim with a weapon;

34 (2) Whether the offender threatened to kill the victim or  
35 victim's children;

36 (3) Whether the victim believes the offender will try to kill



1 him or her;

2 (4) Whether the offender ever tried to choke the victim;

3 (5) Whether the offender is violently or constantly jealous;

4 (6) Whether the offender controls most of the victim's daily  
5 activities;

6 (7) The victim's current living situation and if he or she has  
7 recently left or separated from the offender after living together or being  
8 married;

9 (8) The victim's employment status;

10 (9) Whether the offender has ever attempted suicide to the best  
11 of the victim's knowledge;

12 (10) Whether the victim has a child that the offender believes  
13 is not the offender's biological child;

14 (11) Whether the offender follows, spies on, or leaves  
15 threatening messages for the victim; and

16 (12) Any other pertinent information, including any other  
17 conditions or circumstances that concern the victim regarding his or her  
18 safety.

19 (c) Based on the results of the lethality assessment under this  
20 section, the law enforcement officer compiling the information required by  
21 this section from the victim may refer the victim to an available shelter or  
22 domestic violence intervention program and shall comply with § 16-90-1107.

23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36