

Meet Sarah

The Baltimore City Police Department responded to a domestic violence call and met with the victim, Sarah. She stated that her boyfriend, Brian, chased her around the house with a machete with one child in her arms and another running with her at her feet. She and both of the children barricaded themselves in the bedroom while he yelled that he was going to kill them all and then himself. He had previously broken her cell phone, so she yelled out the window for help, and someone called the police. When the police arrived, Brian resisted being arrested but was ultimately apprehended. Sarah knows that Brian also has a gun in the house, but she did not report this to the police at the time of the incident in fear of retaliation of him losing his job because he carries it for work. The police conducted a lethality assessment screening, and the information was given to House of Ruth Maryland.

The next day, an advocate reached out to Sarah. Sarah told the advocate that she was surprised by Brian's actions because nothing like this had happened before. Brian had choked her on numerous occasions but never assaulted her with something other than his hands. She said that outside of the home he was a good person. He always held a job for his family and did not drink or do drugs. While pregnant with their 2 children, Brian never put his hands on her, and she thought the relationship was improving. Since the birth of their 2nd child, the abuse has really been escalating in the past 2 months, and she is now scared that he will kill her. She is staying with a friend now but is worried that Brian's family will pay his bail, and he will be out in a day or two. He has already called her from jail and accused her of being with other men and threatened to 'take care' of her when he gets home.

During your conversation with Sarah, you start to realize that she puts a lot of emphasis on the physical abuse and minimizes other abusive behaviors. She states that things were better during the pregnancy, but it was annoying because he continued to keep her on a tight allowance even though she had more co-pays and medications to pay for because of her pregnancy. However, he would give her more money if she had sex with him.