Axon VR

Community Engagement Training (CET)



Domestic Violence I

Facilitator's Guide



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FACILITATOR'S GUIDE OVERVIEW & USAGE TIPS

This Facilitator's Guide is customizable, enabling you to adapt it to your specific needs for tracking trainee progress, preparing for and conducting training sessions, and debriefing and assessing trainees after they complete the CET scenario in-headset.

TRAINING SESSION PREPARATION	
NOTE: Trainers should complete the scenario in-headset at least once prior to facilitating this CET module with trainees.	
LESSON PLAN	Review the lesson plan, which provides a comprehensive overview of the CET module, including its purpose, scenario overview, trainer preparation guidance, references, and links to additional resources.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES	Review the CET module's learning objectives, identify additional learning objective skills to assess trainees on during the scenario, and add any agency-specific learning objective skills to assess.
AGENCY RESOURCES	Add agency-specific notes, including local and state resources, best practices, and pertinent guidelines tailored to your agency and community.
SCENARIO FLOW & DECISION POINTS	Refer to the one-page flowchart outlining the scenario's decision points and corresponding branches as needed.

TRAINEE EVALUATION	
Use the trainee evaluation form to track trainee completion and document notes on their scenario decisions. Conduct a debriefing with the trainee by asking debriefing questions. Print copies for each trainee and add the trainee's name, ID, and position at the top of each evaluation form to use as a training record. **NOTE**: If facilitating this CET with multiple trainees at once, use the group debriefing questions in the group evaluation section to debrief the group. Axon also recommends screen casting the in-headset experience for the group to observe.	
DEBRIEFING QUESTIONS	After the trainee completes the scenario in-headset, conduct a debriefing with them to provide feedback, discuss their choices and the scenario's outcome. Use the provided debriefing questions for guidance and incorporate any agency-specific debriefing questions.

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LESSON PLAN

COURSE OVERVIEW	Empathy lies at the heart of this scenario—experience firsthand the inner dialogue, anxiety, and despair involved in a domestic violence incident. Learn strategies to effectively communicate with victims of trauma and employ questioning techniques to help keep all parties safe. After completing this scenario, the trainee will debrief with the trainer.
IN-HEADSET VR EXPERIENCE	Trainees will begin the in-headset experience from the point of view as a Public Safety Officer responding to a complaint about arguing neighbors. Trainees will be asked to make decisions in real time by selecting from multiple on-screen options. The trainees will see the scenario play out based on their selections. No VR Controllers are required; trainees will use head movements to aim a crosshair and make selections. See the scenario flow and decision points flowchart for an overview of the VR scenario and decision points branching.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES	• Discover what life might be like for a person experiencing domestic violence. • Recognize and explain common victim behaviors when domestic violence has occurred. • Recognize and explain common abuser behaviors when domestic violence has occurred. • Successfully demonstrate proper conduct and situational awareness on a basic domestic violence call that ends with the best possible outcome for everyone involved.
INSTRUCTIONAL GOAL	As a responding officer, the trainee will apply agency policy and use available scenario information to demonstrate proper conduct and situational awareness to employ investigative and communication strategies to safely manage a basic domestic violence call, identify signs of trauma, engage effectively with subjects, and guide the situation toward the most positive resolution for all parties involved.
REQUIRED MATERIALS	• Facilitator's Guide • Sample Course Roster
DATE CET MODULE RELEASED	March 2021
PREREQUISITES	None

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COURSE LENGTH	30 minutes (in-person instructor-led training)
EQUIPMENT	• Axon VR headset • Samsung VR tablet *(optional, but recommended for trainer observation through Miracast)*
FACILITY LOCATION	The Training Space will be identified by the agency and must contain a virtual boundary to keep trainees safe. Training Spaces should be kept clear of objects, pets, live weapons, and other people.
TARGET GROUP	Public safety and law enforcement officers
INSTRUCTORS	Any agency-identified VR trainer
GROUP RATIO	This curriculum is designed for a trainer-to-trainee ratio of 1:1. **NOTE**: If facilitating this module with multiple trainees at the same time, Axon recommends screen casting a trainee's in-headset experience for the group to observe. Use the group debriefing questions to guide your debriefing with the group.
TRAINER PRE-WORK	1. Create a VR Training Space. This is a 360° video experience that is best viewed while seated. 2. Open the CET application and download the module to the Library if it's not already present. 3. Once downloaded, complete the module in-headset at least once prior to facilitating this CET. View the scenario more than once to experience the different possible outcomes.
ADDITIONAL MATERIALS	Download the optional Sample Course Roster. Print the sample course roster to use while facilitating training to collect the names and email addresses of trainees and track completion.
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	• For assistance facilitating this CET or setting up Axon VR equipment, see the Axon VR Training page • For assistance screen casting the in-headset experience, see the Screen cast options article • IACP Domestic Violence Policy

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SAMPLE COURSE SCHEDULE

0800-0815	Trainee completes VR scenario in-headset.
0815-0830	Trainer conducts a debriefing evaluation with the trainee using the debriefing questions in this Facilitator's Guide.

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this CET module, trainees should be able to do the following:

- Discover what life might be like for a person experiencing domestic violence.
- Recognize and explain common victim behaviors when domestic violence has occurred.
- Recognize and explain common abuser behaviors when domestic violence has occurred.
- Successfully demonstrate proper conduct and situational awareness on a basic domestic violence call that ends with the best possible outcome for everyone involved.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE SKILLS

Select additional learning objective skills to assess trainees on in this module:

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS & OBSERVATION

- ☐ 360º awareness
- ☐ Observation: Whole body, hands, belt line, demeanor (immediate area)
- ☐ Subject proximity
- ☐ Vehicle proximity

TASER ENERGY WEAPON DEPLOYMENT

- ☐ Post deployment activity (supervisor; medical; other)
- ☐ Probe deployment: Clothing consideration

ADMINISTRATIVE

- ☐ Court preparation
- ☐ Report writing
- ☐ Resource identification

DE-ESCALATION & COMMUNICATION

- ☐ Active listening & conflict resolution
- ☐ Building rapport
- ☐ Communication with partner
- ☐ Communication with subject/individual
- ☐ Cuffing under power
- ☐ Dispatch disparity (caller perception, bias, etc.)
- ☐ Duty to intervene
- ☐ Empathy
- ☐ Family intervention
- ☐ Indicators of domestic violence
- ☐ Non-verbal communication
- ☐ Third party considerations/bias
- ☐ Verbal de-escalation

TACTICS & MOVEMENT

- ☐ Interview stance

AGENCY-SPECIFIC LEARNING OBJECTIVE SKILLS

Add any additional agency-specific learning objective skills you would like to assess trainees on as a part of this scenario:

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AGENCY RESOURCES

This training is best augmented with agency-specific resources. Axon does not make any recommendations on agency policies.

In alignment with agency policy, consider creating a supplemental guide (or use the space below to add agency-specific notes) to share with trainees that includes the local and state resources available that are specific to your agency and community, best practices, and agency-specific guidelines.

AGENCY-SPECIFIC NOTES

TRAINEE EVALUATION (INDIVIDUAL)

After the trainee completes the VR scenario in-headset, conduct a debriefing with them to provide feedback and discuss their choices and the scenario outcome using the provided questions as a guide.

You can use the trainee evaluation form with the debriefing questions as a training record to record performance notes and track individual trainee evaluations. Simply print copies for each trainee.

NOTE: If facilitating this CET with multiple trainees at once, use the group debriefing questions in the group evaluation section to conduct a debriefing with the group.

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TRAINEE EVALUATION: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE I

TRAINEE NAME	ID	TYPE
		☐ Recruit ☐ Officer

DEBRIEFING QUESTIONS (INDIVIDUAL)

PRE-ARRIVAL & FIRST IMPRESSIONS (INITIAL RISK AWARENESS & OBSERVATIONS)

- ☐ What are your pre-arrival concerns?
- ☐ What are some visual clues upon arrival that this could be a situation of domestic violence?
- ☐ What are your considerations for approaching a home where there is a possibility of domestic violence?

ARRIVAL AT THE SCENE OBSERVATIONS (FIRST CONTACT)

- ☐ How does the couple act as they answer the door?
- ☐ Who appears first?
- ☐ What tactics does the man use to try to convince the officers that nothing happened?
- ☐ How does he deflect questions?
- ☐ How does the body language differ between the man and the woman?

ENTERING THE HOME & INITIAL SPLIT (TACTICAL ENTRY & PARTNER ROLES)

- ☐ What does your partner immediately do upon entering the home? Why?
- ☐ How does your partner position himself in relation to the couple?
- ☐ How does having a partner with you affect the dynamics when responding to a call like this? How is it beneficial?
- ☐ What are our agency's policies on how to enter a home where domestic violence is assumed to be occurring?
- ☐ What would you do if the person answering the door refused to let you enter?

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INTERVIEWING THE MALE PARTNER (BEHAVIORAL CUES, DEFLECTION, & ESCALATION)

- [ ] Why do you think the man appears surprised when he is separated from the woman for questioning?
- [ ] Why do you think the man appears worried when you ask to keep him separated from the woman?
- [ ] What does the man claim to be concerned about?
- [ ] What are some themes or patterns in the responses the man is giving?
- [ ] How does the man's body language change over time? When does it change?
- [ ] How does he attempt to deflect officer questions?
- [ ] What behaviors are you observing from the man?
- [ ] What questions should we ask during domestic violence calls?
- [ ] What behaviors or body language should you look for when conducting interviews?
- [ ] What is the importance of gathering information from both parties during a domestic violence call?
- [ ] How does our agency handle interviewing different types of witnesses?
- [ ] What is important to consider about the relationship of the witness to the couple?

INTERVIEWING THE WOMAN (VICTIM SAFETY, TRUST BUILDING, & RESOURCES)

- [ ] What was your partner able to find out about the dispute from the woman?
- [ ] What concerns does your partner have? Why?
- [ ] What is preventing your partner from taking action on an arrest?
- [ ] What concerns does the woman have when speaking to the officer?
- [ ] How does the officer handle the interviewing process?
- [ ] What do you notice about the woman's body language after speaking with your partner? What might she be feeling? Why?
- [ ] Why might the woman not want to speak with an officer?
- [ ] What negative consequences does she anticipate?
- [ ] What language should you use or avoid with potential victims?
- [ ] In what ways could interviewing people in a domestic dispute become complicated?
- [ ] What factors may make it difficult to speak to the victim?
- [ ] What is required to arrest someone for domestic violence?
- [ ] What is missing from your partner's interview?
- [ ] What are common behaviors you may see from a victim being interviewed?
- [ ] How does our agency suggest handling victims who are reluctant to speak?
- [ ] What resources could you call in a situation like this?
- [ ] What does our agency provide victims in this situation?
- [ ] How should you follow up with a victim after a domestic violence call?

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FROM THE WOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE (IMMERSION, TRAUMA, & OFFICER TACTICS)

- [ ] What behaviors does the woman exhibit that are commonly tied to being a victim of domestic violence?
- [ ] What tactics does the officer use to get her to open up?
- [ ] How does she respond to the suggestion that the man will be arrested?
- [ ] What are common behaviors the man exhibits that are tied to domestic violence and abuse?
- [ ] What sets the man off before he grabs the woman?

REUNITING THE COUPLE: ESCALATION RISK (TACTICAL ERRORS, RISK, & AGENCY POLICY)

- [ ] When you bring the couple together to speak, how has the dynamic changed?
- [ ] What happens when the woman shares her experience?
- [ ] What causes the escalation?
- [ ] What changes in the man's behavior after she sits next to him?
- [ ] Why did bringing the couple together cause violence?
- [ ] Who was put at risk after this decision?
- [ ] What is our agency's policy about bringing couples together for questioning?

ATTEMPTING MEDIATION (POWER IMBALANCE & VICTIM SILENCING)

- [ ] How does the man respond to the woman being seated next to him?
- [ ] How does the woman react?
- [ ] Why won't she speak up?
- [ ] What changes in their body language?
- [ ] Why is mediation ineffective in this instance?
- [ ] How does the man control the situation?
- [ ] What would you say to your partner if they suggested mediation here?

RESPONDING TO A SECOND CALL (TRAGIC OUTCOME, CONSEQUENCES OF MISSED INDICATORS)

- [ ] How could the earlier officer decisions have led to this outcome?
- [ ] Is there any domestic violence scenario where you would feel comfortable mediating?
- [ ] Do you have the adequate resources for this type of call?
- [ ] How did power dynamics shift during mediation?
- [ ] How does the man try to convince you nothing is wrong?

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CANCELING THE CALL (CALL TERMINATION RISKS & LEGAL CONCERNS)

- [ ] If you cancel the call, the scenario ends with the woman found unresponsive. What mistakes were made in the initial call?
- [ ] How could it have been handled differently?
- [ ] What steps should you follow before leaving a potential domestic violence scene?
- [ ] Is it acceptable to cancel a call if the victim says they don't want prosecution?
- [ ] Why might this outcome have occurred after leaving?

TRAINER NOTES

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TRAINEE EVALUATION (GROUP)

If facilitating this CET with multiple trainees at once, use these group questions to conduct a debriefing with the group. Add additional questions as needed.

DEBRIEFING QUESTIONS (GROUP)

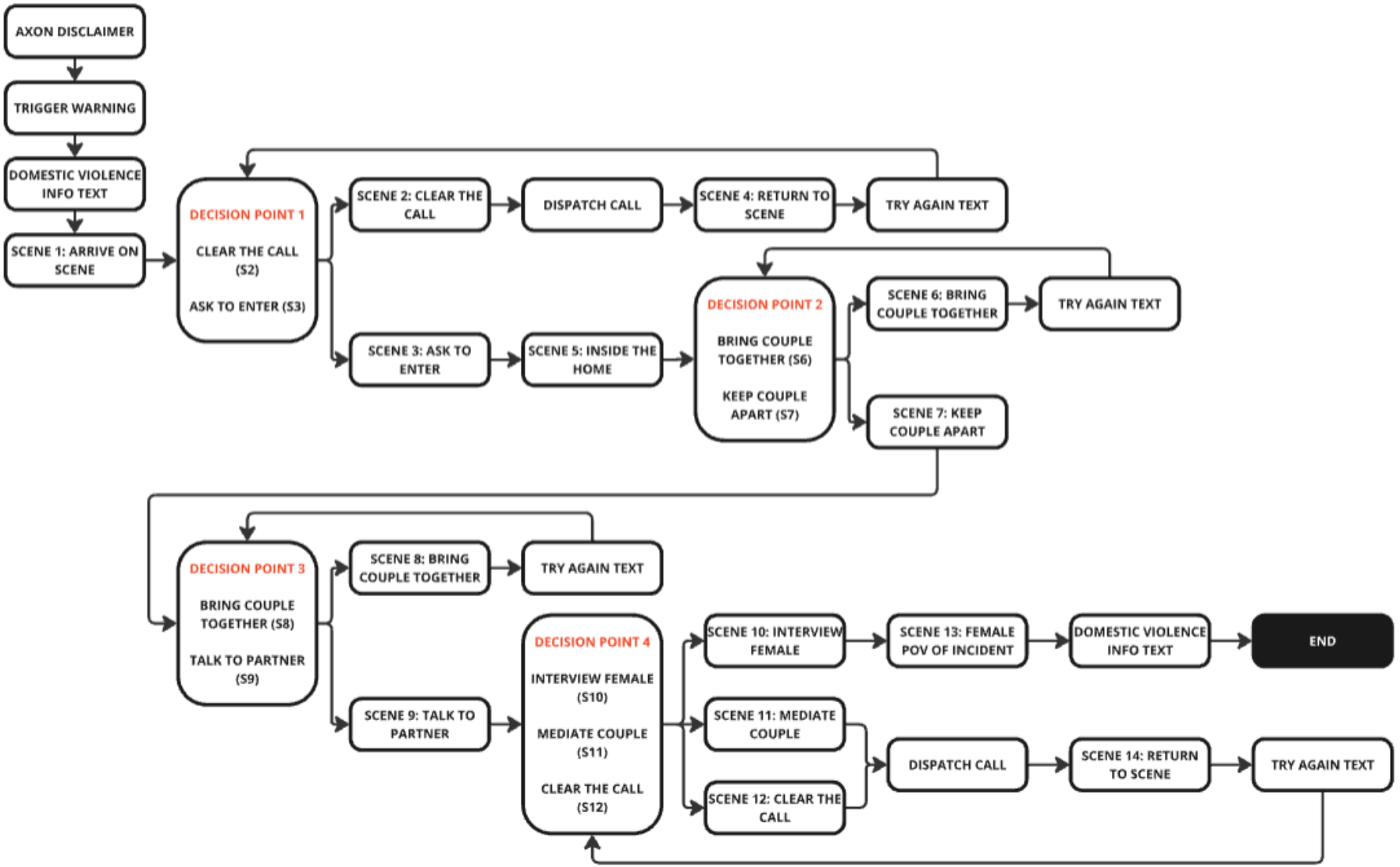
- [ ] What about this scenario is similar or dissimilar to your real-life experience with domestic violence calls?
- [ ] If you were in the officer's position in this scenario, what would you have done differently, or what have you done differently on similar calls?
- [ ] What are some lessons learned from this scenario?

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SCENARIO FLOW & DECISION POINTS

The flowchart below displays the trainee decision points and their respective branches in the scenario.



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