Professor Jane Monckton Smith's Homicide Timeline ©

Pre-relationship history

Criminal record or allegations from former partners of control, domestic abuse or stalking. Victims often aware but do not always believe reports.

Relationship

Relationship dominated by coercive control, usually with some high-risk markers.

Escalation

An increase in frequency or severity of control tactics, like suicide threats, begging, violence and stalking.
Attempts to reinstate control.

Planning

May include buying weapons, seeking opportunities to get victim alone, stalking and threats.

Early relationship

Relationship sped up with early declarations of love, possessiveness and jealousy.

Trigger/s

An event occurs which threatens the control of the perpetrator. Usually separation or its potential. May be a physical or mental illness or financial problems.

Change in thinking

Feelings of revenge, injustice or humiliation may drive a decision to resolve issues through either moving on, revenge or potentially homicide.

Homicide

May involve extreme violence, suspicious deaths, missing persons, multiple victims (including children).

Figure 3 - Adapted with permission from Monckton Smith, 2019