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JUSTICE BEYOND THE GATE · FOR POLICE,
CORONERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

When a domestic abuse victim dies suddenly, look before you decide.

Katie Simpson's death was recorded as suicide. Danielle Charters-Christie's was recorded as suicide within fifty-five minutes. Both families were right to ask questions. Both investigations were later found to have fallen short.

ONE ASK, FOUR PARTS

- 1 Treat the death as suspicious from the first minute.**
A history of domestic abuse, coercive control or a recent separation is a reason to look harder, not a reason to stop.
- 2 Preserve the scene.**
Nothing moved, nothing cleaned, nothing handed back until a senior officer has decided it is safe to do so.
- 3 A forensic post-mortem and a senior investigating officer.**
The decision that a death is not suspicious should be made by someone with the rank, the evidence and the time to make it.
- 4 No cause of death declared at the door.**
The first account is one account. Listen to the family and friends before a conclusion is written down.

Book the learning. Refer a family. Talk to us.



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