**Domestic Abuse Related Death Review (DARDR)**

**Referral Form**

## Criteria for a Domestic Abuse Related Death Review (DARDR)

## (formerly known as Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR)

The Victim and Prisoners Act (2024) defines a DARDR as a review into the circumstances of the death of a person which is held:

* where the death has, or appears to have, resulted from domestic abuse towards the person, within the meaning of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, and
* with a view to identifying the lessons to be learned from the death.

The [Domestic Abuse Act (2021)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/17/section/1) defines domestic abuse as the behaviour of a person towards another person, where the two people are aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and the behaviour is abusive. Abusive behaviour is defined as: physical or sexual abuse; violent or threatening behaviour; controlling or coercive behaviour; economic abuse; psychological, emotional, or other abuse.

Where the definition set out in these paragraphs has been met, a Domestic Homicide Review should be undertaken. This includes the consideration of deaths by suicide.

**Submitting a Referral**

Anyone who believes a case meets the criteria for a DARDR can submit a referral. Before doing so, please discuss the case with your agency’s representative involved in the DARDR process.

If you are unsure who your representative is, or need further guidance, please contact the **Community Safety & Engagement Team in Sefton Council**  
**Email:** [Janette.Maxwell@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:Janette.Maxwell@sefton.gov.uk)

**More information on DARDRs/DHRs:** www.sefton.gov.uk/safer-sefton-together  
**More information on domestic abuse:** www.sefton.gov.uk/domestic-abuse

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| Referrer Details | |
| Name |  |
| Job role and organisation |  |
| Email address |  |
| Telephone number |  |
| Date submitted |  |

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| 1. **Victim Details** | |
| **Name** |  |
| **Date of birth** |  |
| **Date of death** |  |
| **Age at time of incident** |  |
| **Home Address** (plus any known previous addresses) |  |
| **Gender** |  |
| **Ethnicity** |  |
| **Sexual orientation** |  |
| **Nationality** |  |
| **Language(s) spoken** |  |
| **Disability** |  |
| **Religion** |  |
| **Any other vulnerabilities** |  |
| **Children**  (include address and school attended where known) |  |
| **GP Surgery** |  |

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| 1. **Alleged Perpetrator Details (where appropriate)** | |
| **Name** |  |
| **Date of birth** |  |
| **Age at time of incident** |  |
| **Home Address** (plus any known previous addresses) |  |
| **Relationship to Victim** |  |
| **Gender** |  |
| **Ethnicity** |  |
| **Sexual orientation** |  |
| **Nationality** |  |
| **Language(s) spoken** |  |
| **Disability** |  |
| **Religion** |  |
| **Any other vulnerabilities** |  |
| **Children**  Include address and school attended where known |  |
| **GP Surgery** |  |

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| 1. **Other Relevant Individuals** (add additional sections for multiple people) | |
| **Name** |  |
| **Date of birth** |  |
| **Home Address** (plus any known previous addresses) |  |
| **Gender** |  |
| **Relationship to Victim** |  |

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| 1. **Circumstances and Reason for Referral** |
| **Circumstances of the case/incident** |
| **Reason for referral**  Explain why the case is being referred to Safer Sefton Together, considering the DHR criteria above |
| **Are any of the above named people known to your agency?**  If yes, provide brief details, including any known domestic abuse and/or safeguarding concerns |
| **Any other information**  Such as any other known agency involvement, any other information to decide whether to instigate a DARDR. |

## Submission Instructions

Please return the completed form securely to the Sefton Council’s Community Safety & Engagement Team at [janette.maxwell@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:janette.maxwell@sefton.gov.uk)

## What Happens Next

A DARDR notification will be sent to key Sefton agencies to ask for initial information. This will be collated and used to inform the decision as to whether the referral meets the DARDR criteria and a review should be commissioned. The decision is made by Sefton Safer Together. You will be informed of the outcome of the decision once it has been made.