

## What else does AAFDA do?

Increases awareness of domestic violence and risk factors associated with it.

Helps public and voluntary bodies via training to:

- improve their services to prevent domestic abuse
- interact with families bereaved through domestic abuse
- improve the way these fatalities are reviewed

## Feedback from training has included:

“The words training or presentation do not do justice to what you brought to us. It was a really fantastic motivational interaction and dialogue about a hugely important area.”

“We have had domestic violence training before but for me this wasn't about **what we learnt**, it was about **what we felt** and that is far more powerful.”

“One bit of training that was so compelling it will remain with me throughout the rest of my career.”

“The work you did today was **hands down the best training** I have had in 17 years of service. To have you speak of real experiences like this was more powerful than you can imagine.”



[www.aafda.org.uk](http://www.aafda.org.uk)

## Feedback from families on AAFDA's work:

“Without your help and support, we could not have progressed in gaining a greater understanding of what further questions we should be asking.”

“Thank you so much for this letter, you have written it very sensitively and very thoroughly. These are all areas that have been confusing for us, and you have explained each option clearly.”

“We will always remember how AAFDA helped us understand the potential for inquests to uncover information and enabled us to get involved and influence the scope of that enquiry.”

If you wish to find out more about how AAFDA can help you, please do get in touch.

IN MEMORY OF JULIA & WILL PEMBERTON



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AAFDA is a registered charity no. 1125973

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Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse

# HELPING FAMILIES WITH DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEWS

[www.aafda.org.uk](http://www.aafda.org.uk)

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**AAFDA, here to help victims have a voice in the criminal justice system**

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## If you are facing a Domestic Homicide Review, this is how AAFDA can help you:

- Answer questions and explain the nature and purpose of reviews.
- Explain what the review will do and how you can contribute and influence the report it will produce.
- Accompany you to meet those conducting the review, if you decide you wish to contribute information to the review team.
- Represent your views to the review team should you not wish to have contact.
- Be available for you to contact throughout the review period.
- Once the report of the review team is available, discuss the contents with you.
- Give guidance and help on dealing with the media.
- Be available once the review is over, to offer a listening ear and support.
- Recommend other organisations that may be able to help.

## What is AAFDA?

Formed in April 2008, AAFDA is a charity that helps families after fatal domestic abuse. It does this by listening to families tell their stories and by offering information, guidance, support and where appropriate, advocacy and practical help. This leaflet is mostly about how AAFDA can help you with Domestic Homicide Reviews.

## What are Domestic Homicide Reviews?

They are a new way to ensure that public bodies like police, councils and social services and other community organisations understand and learn from the circumstances that led to the death of your family member. Reviews will then identify how to improve responses to domestic violence and prevent these tragedies.

These reviews became law under section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004). This section came into force on 13th April 2011.

If you have lost a family member through domestic violence, the local Community Safety Partnership will set up the review and they should invite you to contribute. This would give you the opportunity to share your understanding of what happened and why. Close friends of the deceased may also be invited to contribute.

## What does AAFDA know about Domestic Homicide Reviews?

AAFDA has particular experience and knowledge of Domestic Homicide Reviews following many years of study. The co-ordinator of AAFDA instigated the Pemberton Homicide Review, described as a “gold standard” by one expert. This review was a pilot for these inquiries which became law in April 2011.

The Home Office asked AAFDA to help write the statutory guidance that supports those undertaking these reviews and to write leaflets for the families and friends of victims. The guidance and the leaflets can be seen on AAFDA’s web-site.

## Some reasons why you may wish to contribute to the review:

- You may know of attempts your family member made to get help from organisations. But those carrying out the review could be unaware of these if the contacts were not recorded.
- Many families say they want to help prevent similar tragedies occurring. Your contribution may help officials to gain a complete understanding of what happened and give them the best opportunity to help others.
- Your input may help the reviewers see the tragedy through the eyes of the victim, their family and friends. This can help them to make the best recommendations.

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