

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

- Your input can 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.
- 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.
- Many families say they want to help prevent similar tragedies occurring. Your contribution may help officials to gain a complete understanding of what happened so giving them the best opportunity to help other victims.

What else does AAFDA do?

- Increases community awareness of domestic violence and risk factors.
- Helps public and voluntary bodies via training to:
 - Improve their services to prevent domestic abuse.
 - Interact with families after domestic homicide.
 - Improve the way these fatalities are reviewed.



Feedback from training has included:

"I found having real victims talking about their experiences hard hitting yet welcomingly refreshing compared to the death by PowerPoint style."

*"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."

*"I just wanted to say how deeply you affected me as a person. **The work you did today was hands down the best training I have had in 17 years of service.**"*

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

PO Box 3636, Swindon, SN3 9BG
T: 07768 386922
W: www.aafda.org.uk
E: info@aafda.org.uk

AAFDA is a registered charity no. 1125973

IN MEMORY OF JULIA & WILL PEMBERTON



Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse

SPECIALIST HELP FOR FAMILIES WITH DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEWS

AAFDA, helping the victim's
voice to be heard

Phone 07768 386922
(we can call you back)

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What is AAFDA?

Formed in April 2008, AAFDA (Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse) is a charity that helps families after domestic homicide. It does this by listening to families tell their stories and by providing 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?

Started in 2011, they are a way to ensure that public bodies like police, councils and social services, and other community based 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 victims of 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 should set up the review and 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.

Centre of Excellence for reviews after domestic homicide and for specialist peer support.

www.aafda.org.uk

AAFDA has expert knowledge of Domestic Homicide Reviews and can help you in the following ways:

- Answer questions and explain the nature and purpose of these 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 should 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, analyse and discuss the contents with you.
- Be available once the review is over to offer a listening ear and support.
- Give guidance and help on dealing with the media.
- Recommend other organisations that may be able to help.

See the film on the front page of our website which shows how we help families with these reviews.

www.aafda.org.uk

What does AAFDA know about Domestic Homicide Reviews?

AAFDA has expert knowledge of Domestic Homicide Reviews and helped to design their process. The Home Office asked AAFDA to help write the statutory guidance that supports those conducting these reviews and to write leaflets to inform the families and friends of victims. The statutory guidance and the leaflets can be seen on AAFDA's website.

AAFDA caseworkers have been providing specialist help for families facing these reviews since they became law in April 2011. With expert knowledge of domestic abuse, they have all been trained to be chairs of Domestic Homicide Reviews. They know how a review should be conducted.

AAFDA is a member of the national panel that decides if a Domestic Homicide Review is of an acceptable standard and can be published. AAFDA's Chief Executive is an appointed 'reader', which means that he provides expert assessments of reviews to this national panel.

The Chief Executive of AAFDA instigated the Pemberton Homicide Review, described as a "gold standard" by one expert. This review was a pilot for the Domestic Homicide Reviews that followed.

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Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse