

For the following scenarios, consider the following questions:

- Would the victim qualify for a 50B protective order?
 - If the aggressor is arrested, would that person be subject to the 48-hour rule?
 - What types of pretrial release conditions might you impose for this defendant?
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Scenario 1:

Doug and Victoria are married. Doug lost his job two months ago and has been in a downward spiral of drinking and destructive behavior. One night, he called her a “worthless bitch” and said that he would “beat the crap out of [her] if [she didn’t] clean up the house.” She was afraid of him, so she started doing some dishes and he eventually fell asleep on the couch without violence. About a week later, he got upset when she came home later than expected from work. He grabbed her shoulders, pushed her up against the wall and told her she had better not be late again. His hands dug into her shoulders causing quarter-sized bruises that were visible for a week. After that incident, she moved out of their home and in with her mother, but today he called her on her cell phone and told her that if she didn’t come back home he was going to kill her, or maybe himself.

Scenario 2:

Alexis and Mary have been dating for about a year. They have never lived together. Alexis told Mary that Alexis was interested in dating other people. Mary flew into a rage, began shouting and screaming at Alexis about how she should have known all along that Alexis was just a faithless tramp, and picked up a can of soup and threw it at Alexis, just missing her head. Alexis was afraid and grabbed her cell phone to call 911. Mary knocked the phone out of her hand and said: “You don’t need to call the cops. You better not call the freaking cops. If you ever call the cops on me, I will make you wish you hadn’t.” Alexis’s phone broke when it hit the ground. Mary stormed out.

Scenario 3:

Denise broke up with her ex-fiancé Steve eight months ago after she caught him with another woman. He did not take the breakup well. Almost immediately, he sent a topless photo of Denise to her parents and co-workers via e-mail. (The photo is one that she sent to him early in their relationship while he was away on a business trip.) Since then, he has been sending text messages to Denise on a weekly basis, saying things like “If you come to the party at Joey’s house on Friday, I will bust you up,” and “I wouldn’t be surprised if someone threw acid on your face.” The various messages have made her fearful that he would hurt her. Yesterday, she was leaving Food Lion with a cart of groceries. Steve happened to be in the parking lot as well. He grabbed a hammer from his truck and started walking quickly toward Denise, swinging the hammer around and saying, “Now you’re going to get what’s coming to you.” She jumped in her car and drove away before he could get close enough to reach her, but she was extremely frightened and spilled some of her groceries in her haste. After that, she contacted law enforcement.