

## Daniel – DHR – Summary, Key Issues and Recommendations

Daniel, aged 36, was murdered by his former partner's father in April 2021. The homicide occurred against a backdrop of prolonged family court proceedings and a historic criminal investigation into arson, in which Daniel was acquitted. The perpetrator pleaded guilty to Daniel's murder and received a life sentence.

### Key Issues

- Protracted criminal and family court proceedings created stress and risk escalation.
- Missed risk assessments when the arson investigation was reopened despite previous high-risk categorisation.
- Unrecognised coercive control and stalking behaviours by the perpetrator.
- Disclosure of Daniel's home address during family court proceedings increased vulnerability.
- Limited professional curiosity in healthcare settings regarding domestic abuse.
- Extended criminal proceedings compounded tensions and may have influenced the perpetrator's actions.

### Recommendations

- Implement tag/flag systems for reopened investigations involving high-risk victims.
- Engage Local Criminal Justice Board to address delays in DA-related cases.
- Provide case study briefings for frontline staff on risks from extended family exhibiting coercive control.
- Include Professor Monckton-Smith's homicide timeline in DA training.
- Raise awareness of DA risks in separation and child arrangement cases within family courts.
- Brief Local Family Justice Board and Designated Family Court Judge on dangers of address disclosure.
- Improve professional curiosity and recording of DA indicators in healthcare settings.