

Threat to Life 7 Minute Briefing

1. What is Threat to Life (TTL)

There is an obligation on the Police to take reasonable steps to protect the lives of people where there is a 'real and immediate' risk to them from the criminal acts of another.

The definition of 'real and immediate' has been interpreted and has two aspects; A risk that has been reasonably assessed to be credible, and that the potential assailant has the intention and the ability to carry out the threat **and** the risk should have the character of 'immediacy' – being 'right now' or 'very soon'.

A TTL notice is issued to an individual(s) when the Police receive information to suggest that there is a real and immediate risk to them.

2. History of Threat to Life

TTLs were previously known as 'Osman Warnings'. This was due to a court ruling by the European Court of Human Rights (*Osman -v- UK (1998)*) whereby the Osman family took a UK police force to Court alleging that the force had failed to provide them with sufficient information, available to the force at the time which indicated that they were at risk.

The case revolved around a teacher who stalked a child, Ahmet Osman. The teacher was ultimately convicted of Manslaughter after he shot and killed Mr Ali Osman and seriously injured Ahmet. The Court ruled in favour of the police force but this case is often referenced by Judges when dealing with any TTL matters.

3. Background to team

The Threat to Life safeguarding team in Salford is unique within Greater Manchester Police. The team was established in August 2015 following a well-publicised murder of an organised crime nominal in Salford. The concerns were that family members and close associates were at risk as a result of this murder. Primarily the team safeguard individuals and their families including children after being issued Threat to Life notices.

4. Threat to Life V Threat to Kill

Threat to life is the Police's obligation to warn somebody that their life is in real and immediate danger.

Threat to kill **is a crime** that is investigated by Police. The offender does not have to have the intention to kill but the recipient must believe it would be carried out. This can be difficult to prove. Where there is doubt the threat carried the necessary intent, a lesser charge may be more appropriate.

5. TTL Disruption Notice

A TTL *Disruption Notice* is issued where:

- There is intelligence which indicates an individual (perpetrator) is going to be involved in causing serious harm to another individual (victim)

AND

- It is assessed the threat is 'real' and 'immediate'.

6. TTL Warning Notice/ Closure Notice

A *TTL Warning Notice* makes individuals/ families aware of the risk and threat made against them. This allows precautionary steps and safeguarding measures to be put into place either by the individual, family and/or agencies.

A *TTL Closure Notice* will only be considered or issued when a Detective Inspector or above, having taken into consideration all information available at that time, concludes that the threat has significantly decreased.

7. Risk levels

TTL risk levels are categorised as low, medium and high; a Detective Inspector is responsible for assessment of the risk. The risk is calculated by assessing the probability of the risk and the impact of the consequences.

When considering risk to children/ young people at medium and high-risk levels, the person issued with a TTL notice i.e. the person at risk, cannot reside with anyone under 18. Any contact with under 18s needs to be risk assessed by Salford Children's Social Care. This is to reduce the likelihood of any risk being transferred to the children.

Additional Information

Visit: <https://safeguardingchildren.salford.gov.uk/>

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