When conducting Spouse/partner abuse investigations the social services worker must follow the consecutive steps outlined in SOP 21.2. These steps should be followed in order. The information below has been condensed to create this document so please review SOP 21.2 for the entire policy.

Safety of the alleged victim is paramount in Spouse/partner abuse investigations. It is prohibited to establish contact with an alleged perpetrator without the expressed permission of the alleged victim. The consecutive steps to establish contact with an alleged victim of Spouse/partner abuse are:

**Step 1**-Telephone Contact (The preferred approach is telephone contact)

**Step 2**-Home Visit (If telephone number is not available and after safety has been considered)

**Step 3**-Standardized Letter (When no telephone number is available and a home visit is inadvisable)