**Domestic Disturbance Scenario Activity**

**Instructions:** Read the scenario below, then work as a group to identify the appropriate actionsto be taken by you, the public safety dispatcher. The Negotiation Scenario Rubric will be used for assessment. Use it as a guide for your problem solving. You have 15 minutes to address this problem and write your actions on the materials provided. A spokesperson from your group will present your group’s findings to the entire class.

**Scenario:** Richard and Sandra Hall have been married for 6 years. They have a 4-year-old sonnamed Matthew. Sandra told Richard that she wanted a divorce because she found out he was being unfaithful. Sandra kicked Richard out of the house a week ago. He is now living in an apartment downtown. Richard does not want a divorce. Sandra has threatened to take Matthew and move out of state to live with her parents once the divorce is final.

Sandra took Matthew to daycare on her way to work this morning. When she went to pick him up at 4:00 pm she found that Richard had picked him up several hours before. She immediately called Richard and demanded that he return Matthew to her. Richard says she will never see Matthew again.

Sandra called the police and told them that Richard does not hunt and that they own no guns. She did however notice yesterday that there was a recent and large purchase at a gun store on their checking account records.

Richard’s demands are simple. He wants Sandra to stop divorce proceedings. He will never be unfaithful again. He wants to be able to return home. He still loves Sandra deeply and wants to work out their marriage problems. He will agree to go to counseling if she will stop the divorce. No one in his family is divorced and he does not want that stigma.

If negotiations are successful, he will release Matthew unharmed and be taken into custody without incident.

If negotiations are unsuccessful, he will kill Matthew and then himself.