Doctor Kills Nurse, Self

A 37-year-old nurse was killed at work by a doctor. Lori Dupont had been romantically involved with doctor Marc Daniel, an anesthesiologist at the hospital where she worked, until a few months earlier.

Dr. Daniel was having serious problems, and had been disciplined due to complaints from two other nurses. His relationship with Dupont deteriorated, culminating in his attempted suicide after a domestic dispute in 2005. He had since been diagnosed with a bipolar disorder.

Dupont got a restraining order against Daniel, and was provided with escorts to and from her car at work. But despite her concerns Dupont filed no formal grievance with her union, and made no internal report. Finally, Daniel cornered her in a surgical recovery room and stabbed her to death. But Daniel never came to trial. After fleeing the scene he took a lethal overdose.

Workplace violence often goes under-reported, especially between people who have had a prior relationship. The victim may think it's "personal business," or be afraid of ruining someone's career; and supervisors may not wish to be seen as meddling.

If you suspect that someone in your workplace is being bullied, harassed or stalked, don't just sit there.

Take the person aside and ask specific questions. Victims need to know someone is on their side. Stand up for the people you work with.

If you are the target of threats, harassment or violence, tell someone. Make sure all incidents are recorded and reported – especially at work. The aggressor is counting on you keeping quiet, so don't!

Source: Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, August 31, 2006