RELATIONWATCH RESEARCH BRIEF #11

RW-RB-011

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Removing the “Obstacle”: When Romantic Obsession Turns Against Children and Relatives

A case-based examination of children, relatives, and other third parties treated as barriers to a desired romantic relationship.

Fixed cohort: 33 distinct incidents | Full-text screened | Duplicate incidents removed

33

Strong-fit incidents

Public and source-linked

15

Included children

Sons, daughters, or other minors

19

Included relatives

Parents, in-laws, siblings, or extended family

33

Distinct source URLs

One or more traceable sources per incident

Executive Summary

RelationWatch screened 2447 active case records, including 2297 public records, through structured data and full-text narrative fields. A broad three-concept search—romantic context, violence, and family or dependent language—produced 1721 raw matches, but this was not treated as the result because long compilation transcripts repeated unrelated stories. Incident-level review, chronology checks, and duplicate removal produced a fixed cohort of **33 strong-fit public incidents**. Children, sons, or daughters appeared among the targets in 15 incidents; adult relatives appeared in 19. The repeated theme is not “love overpowering reason,” but an instrumental shift in which entitlement, secrecy, coercive control, or obsession recasts another person as removable.

Research Question

When a desired romantic relationship became the offender’s priority, which children, relatives, or other third parties were treated as obstacles—and what relationship dynamics preceded the violence?

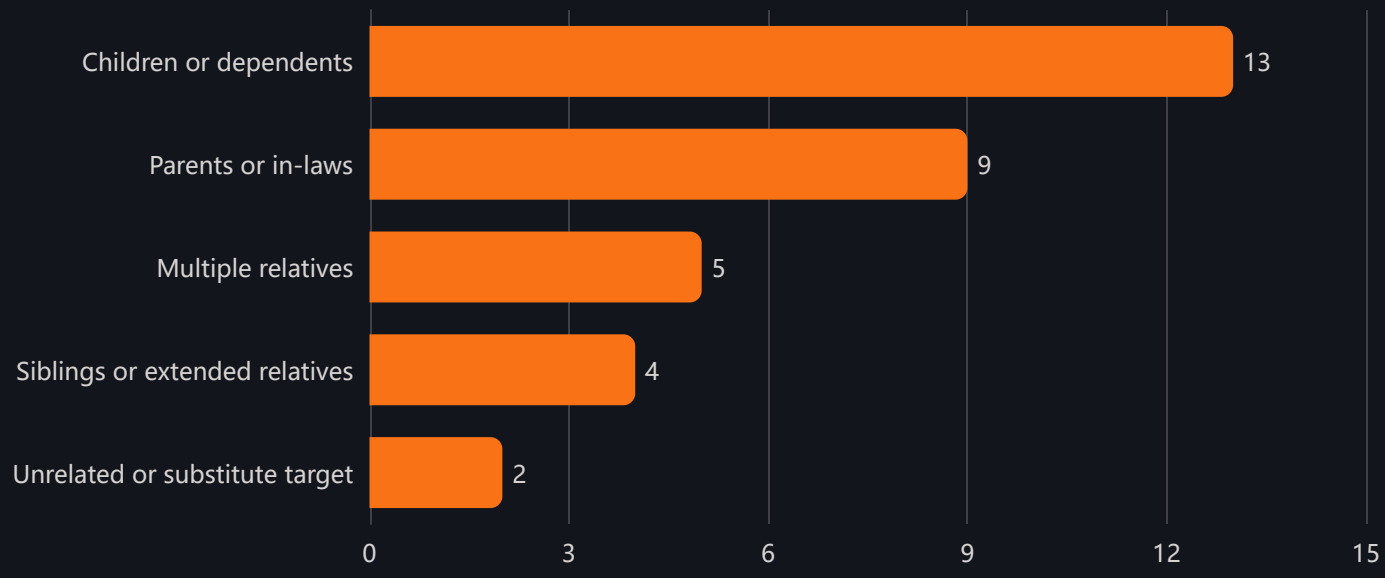
This Brief does not treat romance as an excuse or a causal diagnosis. It reports how motives and relationship objectives were documented in the underlying RelationWatch cases.

Dataset and screening

ACTIVE RECORDS FULL-TEXT SCREENED	2447
PUBLIC RECORDS IN THE SEARCH POPULATION	2297
RAW CONCEPT MATCHES—NOT A CASE COUNT	1721
DISTINCT STRONG-FIT PUBLIC INCIDENTS	33
ADDITIONAL MIXED/DISPUTED RECORDS	9
NAMED COUNTRIES REPRESENTED	10
RECORDS MISSING COUNTRY METADATA	2
DISTINCT SOURCE URLS	33
NORMALIZED INCIDENT-DATE COVERAGE	2008-04-14 – 2026-06-22

Primary target in each incident

Each incident receives one primary category so this chart sums to 33.



Key Findings

Children were not merely bystanders. Sons, daughters, or minors were included among the targets in 15 incidents (45.5%). The documented rationales included fear of exposure, custody or divorce burdens, a lover's rejection of the child, and punishment after a parent refused to leave.

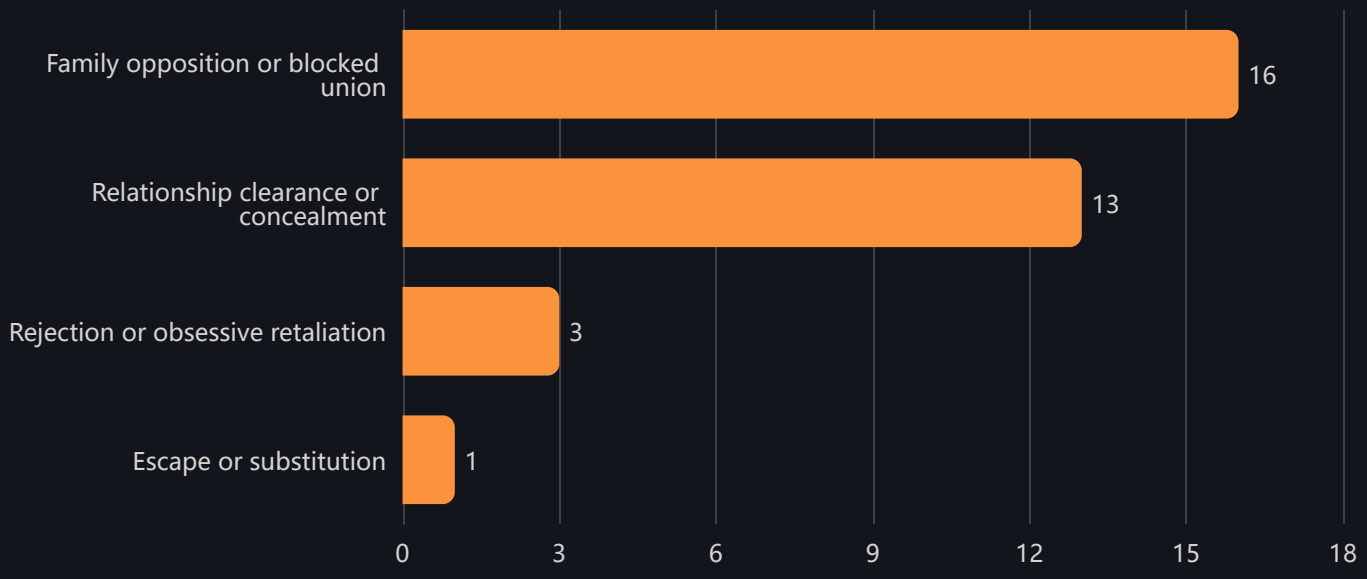
Family opposition was the largest coded dynamic. 16 incidents (48.5%) involved a blocked union or family resistance.

Concealment and "starting over" formed a second pathway. 13 incidents (39.4%) involved preserving a secret relationship or clearing a path to a new life.

"Obstacle" language describes instrumental thinking, not the victim. The category records an offender's reported framing; it does not validate that framing or diminish the victim's personhood.

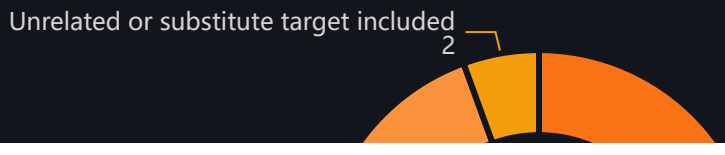
Relationship dynamics

Primary coding distinguishes blocked unions, concealment or clearance, retaliation, and substitution.



Victim-group inclusion

An incident can include more than one group, so percentages do not sum to 100%.



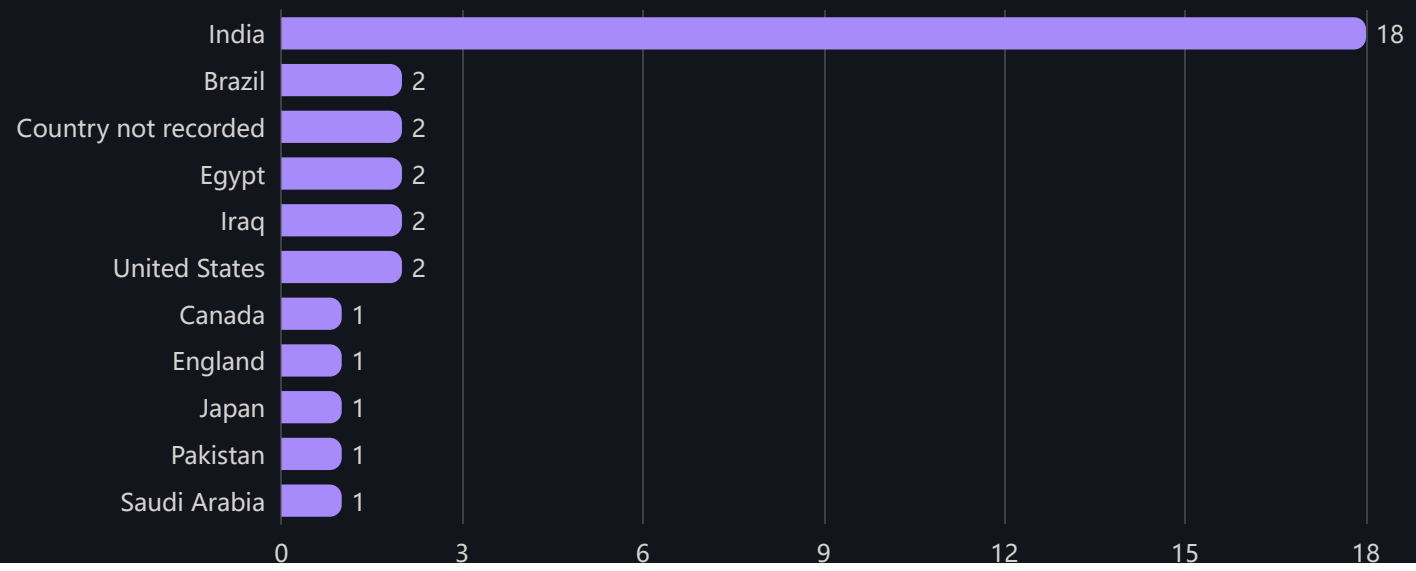


Ranked Primary Targets

PRIMARY TARGET	INCIDENTS	SHARE
Children or dependents	13	39.4%
Parents or in-laws	9	27.3%
Multiple relatives	5	15.2%
Siblings or extended relatives	4	12.1%
Unrelated or substitute target	2	6.1%

Countries represented

The geography reflects RelationWatch collection and source availability—not national prevalence.



What the recurring mechanisms suggest

- **Witness or disclosure threat:** a child or relative knew of the relationship or might reveal it.
- **Blocked autonomy:** a parent or relative restricted contact, marriage, or elopement.
- **Conditional acceptance:** a desired partner demanded separation from existing family obligations.
- **Entitled retaliation:** rejection or a thwarted union was converted into violence against people associated with the desired person.
- **Mixed motives:** inheritance, insurance, financial strain, coercion, or revenge frequently appeared alongside the romantic objective.

Representative RelationWatch Cases

These examples cover different target groups and dynamics. Descriptions are intentionally non-graphic. Every external source opens in a new tab.

A 6-year-old boy named Angadveer Murder Case by his mother Gurpreet Kaur and her boyfriend, Arpit Sharma, a bank employee. in Bahsuma, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, India,

Case 66 · India · 2026 · Children or dependents

A child was reportedly treated as a threat to the secrecy of an ongoing affair.

- A 6-year-old boy named Angadveer Murder Case by his mother Gurpreet Kaur and her boyfriend, Arpit Sharma, a bank employee. in Bahsuma, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, India, — Last Seen Alive USA

The Bawanced Family Homicide in Amroha, Uttar Pradesh, India

Case 183 · India · 2008 · Multiple relatives

A relationship opposed by the family preceded a multi-victim household homicide; property was also reported as a motive.

- The Bawanced Family Homicide in Amroha, Uttar Pradesh, India — Mystery Chronicles-w4y

Jai Kumar Jain Allegedly Murdered by Praveen and Unnamed Minor Daughter, Bangalore, Karnataka, India

Case 328 · India · 2019 · Parents or in-laws

A daughter and her boyfriend were reported to have targeted the parent who discovered and restricted their relationship.

- Jai Kumar Jain Allegedly Murdered by Praveen and Unnamed Minor Daughter, Bangalore, Karnataka, India — Crime Tak - India

Sai Krishna, Madhupriya, and others Allegedly Murdered by Rajitha and Suru Shiva, Ameenpur, Telangana, India

Case 447 · India · 2025 · Children or dependents

Three children were reportedly treated as barriers after a lover demanded that their mother be childless.

- Sai Krishna, Madhupriya, and others Allegedly Murdered by Rajitha and Suru Shiva, Ameenpur, Telangana, India — Crime Tak - India

Shreyansh Allegedly Murdered by Roma Kumari and Nirmal Paswan, Patna, Bihar, India

Case 510 · India · 2025 · Children or dependents

A son who repeatedly objected to his mother’s reported affair was allegedly treated as the relationship’s principal obstacle.

- Shreyansh Allegedly Murdered by Roma Kumari and Nirmal Paswan, Patna, Bihar, India — Crime Tak - India

Shreyanshu Sharma Allegedly Murdered by Shanta Sharma and Ishrat, Hooghly, West Bengal, India

Case 568 · India · 2024 · Children or dependents

A child who encountered a concealed relationship was reportedly killed amid fear of exposure.

- Shreyanshu Sharma Allegedly Murdered by Shanta Sharma and Ishrat, Hooghly, West Bengal, India — Crime Tak - India

Ayush Sonkar Allegedly Murdered by Shivam Saxena, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India

Case 615 · India · 2025 · Children or dependents

A rejected romantic actor allegedly targeted the youngest child named as the reason his proposed new life was refused.

- घर से गायब हुए 7 साल बच्चे की लाश शाम को नदी में मिली,Mystery,UP Police ने भगा-भगाकर किया Encounter — Crime Tak - India

Han Pan and Bichapan Wand Allegedly Murdered by Jennifer Pan, Daniel Chong Wong, and others, Markham, Ontario, Canada

Case 2014 · Canada · 2010 · Parents or in-laws

Parental restrictions, a concealed relationship, escape, and inheritance were reported as overlapping motives.

- Das geheime Doppelleben einer Mörderin… — Insolito

Flávia dos Santos Carneiro Murdered by Leandro dos Santos Araújo, Milena, and others, Maceió, Alagoas, Brazil

Case 2117 · Brazil · 2024 · Parents or in-laws

A mother who opposed her minor daughter's relationship was killed with the daughter's reported involvement.

- Oposição ao Namoro da Filha de 13 Anos Levou a um Desfecho Trágico — Relato de Casos Criminais

Nourhan and Widad Allegedly Murdered by Haneen and Hussam, Baghdad, Iraq

Case 2197 · Iraq · 2010 · Multiple relatives

A couple reportedly targeted several relatives while attempting to overcome family opposition to marriage.

- جريمة هزت بغداد 😱 إسمع القصة إذا قلبك قوي | الحقيقة الكاملة — قصص دكتور محمد الجنابي - Iraq

Egyptian friend Allegedly Murdered by Malak and Youssef, Amman, Jordan

Case 2217 · Country not recorded · Unrelated or substitute target

A friend was used as a substitute victim in a plan to fake a death and escape with a boyfriend.

- الأردنية الداهية..كيف تسببت بجريمة هزّت الأردن ؟ القصة الكاملة — قصص دكتور محمد الجنابي - Iraq

Shanan Watts, Celeste Watts, and others Disappearance Involving Chris Watts, United States

Case 2529 · United States · 2018 · Children or dependents

A new relationship and the wish to avoid divorce obligations were among the documented motives for killing a spouse and children.

- توتر الزوج كشف ما فعله بعائلته ..قضية كريس واتس وشانان واتس ...كاميرات المراقبة تحمل مشاهد غامضة — Nahla Nabil نهلة نبيل - Algeria

Full 33-Incident Cohort

The fixed snapshot below makes the public findings auditable. The private analysis record additionally retains bounded narrative evidence and the excluded-review list.

CASE	PRIMARY TARGET	PRIMARY DYNAMIC	SOURCE
#66 — A 6-year-old boy named Angadveer Murder Case by his mother Gurpreet Kaur and her boyfriend, Arpit Sharma, a bank employee. in Bahsuma, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, India,	Children or dependents	Relationship clearance or concealment	Open source ↗
#71 — Ghulam Mustafa Child Homicide and murdered by Paternal Grandfather Nazir Ahmed, in Lahore, Pakistan.	Children or dependents	Family opposition or blocked union	Open source ↗
#447 — Sai Krishna, Madhupriya, and others Allegedly Murdered by Rajitha and Suru Shiva, Ameenpur, Telangana, India	Children or dependents	Relationship clearance or concealment	Open source ↗
#510 — Shreyansh Allegedly Murdered by Roma Kumari and Nirmal Paswan, Patna, Bihar, India	Children or dependents	Relationship clearance or concealment	Open source ↗
#568 — Shreyanshu Sharma Allegedly Murdered by Shanta Sharma and Ishrat, Hooghly, West Bengal, India	Children or dependents	Relationship clearance or concealment	Open source ↗
#615 — Ayush Sonkar Allegedly Murdered by Shivam Saxena, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India	Children or dependents	Relationship clearance or concealment	Open source ↗
#622 — Pradeep Allegedly Murdered by Mamta, Mayank, and others, Kanpur Dehat, Uttar Pradesh, India	Children or dependents	Relationship clearance or concealment	Open source ↗
#630 — Viyan Allegedly Murdered by Sharanya and Nitin, Kannur, Kerala, India	Children or dependents	Relationship clearance or concealment	Open source ↗
#640 — Dhruvan Allegedly Murdered by S. Bharathi and Sumitra, Chinnatti, Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu, India	Children or dependents	Relationship clearance or concealment	Open source ↗
#1173 — Kavya Singh Allegedly Murdered by Anjali Singh, Ajmer, Rajasthan, India	Children or dependents	Relationship clearance or concealment	Open source ↗
#2111 — Thaís Araújo de Oliveira Paula, David Luís Araújo de Paula, and others Injured in Alleged Murder Attempt by Antônio Ribeiro Barros, São Miguel do Araguaia, Goiás, Brazil	Children or dependents	Rejection or obsessive retaliation	Open source ↗

CASE	PRIMARY TARGET	PRIMARY DYNAMIC	SOURCE
#2220 — Karim's wife, Karim's eldest daughter, and others Allegedly Murdered by Karim and Secret girlfriend, Kirkuk, Iraq	Children or dependents	Relationship clearance or concealment	Open source ↗
#2529 — Shanan Watts, Celeste Watts, and others Disappearance Involving Chris Watts, United States	Children or dependents	Relationship clearance or concealment	Open source ↗
#183 — The Bawanced Family Homicide in Amroha, Uttar Pradesh, India	Multiple relatives	Family opposition or blocked union	Open source ↗
#1251 — Rajkumar Vishwakarma, Tanishk Vishwakarma, and others Allegedly Murdered by Mukul Singh, Cavia Vishwakarma, and others, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, India	Multiple relatives	Family opposition or blocked union	Open source ↗
#1536 — Inoue, Inoue's father, and others Murdered by Endo Ki, Chuo City, Yamanashi, Japan	Multiple relatives	Rejection or obsessive retaliation	Open source ↗
#2197 — Nourhan and Widad Allegedly Murdered by Haneen and Hussam, Baghdad, Iraq	Multiple relatives	Family opposition or blocked union	Open source ↗
#2287 — Moamen, Soham, and others Murdered by Aya and Maher, Al-Khosous, Egypt	Multiple relatives	Family opposition or blocked union	Open source ↗
#58 — Murder Case of Nirmala Devi by Rajan sharma and Ranjana in Lucknow, India	Parents or in-laws	Relationship clearance or concealment	Open source ↗
#74 — Policewoman Poisoned her Policeman Father's Milkshake, Maharashtra , India	Parents or in-laws	Family opposition or blocked union	Open source ↗
#104 — The Murder of Premveer and Santosh Singh in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, India	Parents or in-laws	Family opposition or blocked union	Open source ↗
#109 — Shwetha and Kenneth Case in Bengaluru, India,	Parents or in-laws	Family opposition or blocked union	Open source ↗
#328 — Jai Kumar Jain Allegedly Murdered by Praveen and Unnamed Minor Daughter, Bangalore, Karnataka, India	Parents or in-laws	Family opposition or blocked union	Open source ↗

CASE	PRIMARY TARGET	PRIMARY DYNAMIC	SOURCE
#473 — Usha Singh Allegedly Kidnapped by 15-year-old daughter and 17-year-old boyfriend, Semra, Uttar Pradesh, India	Parents or in-laws	Family opposition or blocked union	Open source ↗
#514 — Anjali Disappearance Involving Unnamed Minor Daughter, Shiva, and others, Medchal, Telangana, India	Parents or in-laws	Family opposition or blocked union	Open source ↗
#2014 — Han Pan and Bichapan Wand Allegedly Murdered by Jennifer Pan, Daniel Chong Wong, and others, Markham, Ontario, Canada	Parents or in-laws	Family opposition or blocked union	Open source ↗
#2117 — Flávia dos Santos Carneiro Murdered by Leandro dos Santos Araújo, Milena, and others, Maceió, Alagoas, Brazil	Parents or in-laws	Family opposition or blocked union	Open source ↗
#36 — The Murder of Saima Khan by Sabah Khan (sister) - England	Siblings or extended relatives	Relationship clearance or concealment	Open source ↗
#2138 — Muhammad Mahmoud and Kholoud Allegedly Murdered by Ismail Mahmoud, Giza, Egypt	Siblings or extended relatives	Family opposition or blocked union	Open source ↗
#2227 — Abu Mohammed and Abu Samra Murdered by Abdullah, Samra, and others, Sana'a, Yemen	Siblings or extended relatives	Family opposition or blocked union	Open source ↗
#2540 — Hasnaa, Yusuf's uncle, and others Allegedly Murdered by Yusuf, Mahd Al-Dhahab, Saudi Arabia	Siblings or extended relatives	Rejection or obsessive retaliation	Open source ↗
#2217 — Egyptian friend Allegedly Murdered by Malak and Youssef, Amman, Jordan	Unrelated or substitute target	Escape or substitution	Open source ↗
#2444 — John Thomas McClure Murdered by Amanda Michelle Naya McClure, Larry McClure, and others, Sky Gusti, Indiana, United States	Unrelated or substitute target	Family opposition or blocked union	Open source ↗

Search, Review, and Reproducibility

The search combined structured fields with full text. It did not rely on a single dropdown value or on the exact words “romantic obsession.” Fields reviewed included:

- Case titles and summaries

- AI pattern and reconstruction fields
- People and relationship notes
- Ordered case events
- Structured motives, factors, red flags, and outcomes
- Case-source titles and notes
- Linked intake article text and transcripts

Inclusion rule

A non-partner third party was killed or attacked and the record directly connected that violence to enabling, preserving, concealing, escaping for, or retaliating over a desired romantic relationship.

Exclusions

- Duplicate records of the same incident
- Spouse-only affair homicides without a child, relative, or other third-party target
- Honor killings in which relatives attacked the couple rather than acting for their own desired relationship
- Child abuse by a new partner when the romantic relationship was not a documented motive
- Cases where romantic context was secondary, disputed, or insufficiently supported

The fixed snapshot prevents future database additions from silently changing this edition. A new edition can repeat the screening and review process against later cases.

Mixed and Disputed Records

Nine additional records—eight public and one private—were kept outside the primary statistics because the perpetrator or motive was disputed, romance was secondary to abuse or financial conflict, or the source record did not clearly establish the romantic objective. They remain in the private audit rather than being blended into the strong-fit cohort.

Limitations

- RelationWatch contains reported relationship-connected crime cases and is not a representative sample of relationships, families, countries, or criminal violence.
- The cohort describes documentation in source material; it does not establish that romance independently caused the violence.
- “Strong fit” is a research coding decision, not a legal finding. Allegations remain allegations unless the source documents adjudication.
- India accounts for 18 of 33 incidents, reflecting collection and language/source availability; national comparisons would be misleading.
- Long source compilations can duplicate stories. The raw full-text match count is disclosed but excluded from all percentages.
- Some incidents contain several target types and motives; primary categories simplify complex events for comparison.

These findings should not be used to stigmatize intense affection, family disagreement, or any demographic group. The recurring concern is the combination of entitlement, coercive control, instrumental thinking, threats, and escalating violence.

RelationWatch. (2026). *Removing the “Obstacle”: When Romantic Obsession Turns Against Children and Relatives*. RelationWatch Research Brief No. 11 (RW-RB-011).