 

Severity of Abuse Grid (SOAG)

This Severity of Abuse Grid (SOAG) has been developed to be used with the Risk Identification Checklist. It gives you a framework within which you can identify specific features of the abuse suffered by your client and help you to address their safety in an informed and coherent way. It will also typically provide information that will be relevant for those cases going to MARAC.

To complete the SOAG, take the answers from the relevant questions on the checklist and then explore in more detail the severity of each category of abuse **currently suffered** and the escalation if it exists. Whether you are using it at the initial assessment or when reviewing risk, we recommend that the timeframe that should be applied for ‘current’ abuse is an incident within the last three months.

Please note that each case is unique and you will have to use your professional judgement in relation to the information that you are given by your client.

**The context in which these and similar behaviours occur is all important in identifying a level of severity.**

**If you answer ‘yes’ to any of the questions ‘is the abuse occurring?’ you must circle one answer for each of the boxes in the other three columns to identify the level of severity, the escalation in severity and in frequency.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of abuse** | **Is abuse occurring?** | **Severity of abuse** | **Escalation in severity (past 3 months)** | **Escalation in frequency (past 3 months)** |
| Physical | Yes  No  Don’t know  Not answered | High  Moderate  Standard | Worse  Unchanged  Reduced | Worse  Unchanged  Reduced |
| Sexual | Yes  No  Don’t know  Not answered | High  Moderate Standard | Worse  Unchanged  Reduced | Worse  Unchanged  Reduced |
| Stalking and harassment | Yes  No  Don’t know  Not answered | High  Moderate Standard | Worse  Unchanged  Reduced | Worse  Unchanged  Reduced |
| Jealous and controlling behaviour / emotional abuse | Yes  No  Don’t know  Not answered | High  Moderate Standard | Worse  Unchanged  Reduced | Worse  Unchanged  Reduced |