**This form should be completed with input from the victim at the time of completion.**

**Please forward the completed referral to e-mail:** [**idva.referrals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk**](mailto:idva.referrals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**Please direct any queries to this email address too.**

**The Male Victim’s IDVA accepts referrals at all risk levels, with informed consent.**

**Current threshold for Cambs MARAC referrals: 17 or above or on evidenced Professional Judgement.**

|  |
| --- |
| **Victim’s Name:** **DOB:** **Ethnicity:**  **Address of Victim:**  **Safe Contact Details:**  **Perpetrator’s name and DOB:**  **Address of Perpetrator:**  **Ethnicity of Perpetrator:**  **Relationship of perpetrator to victim:**  **Children:**  **Name:       DOB:** **Ethnicity:**  **Name:       DOB:       Ethnicity:**  **Name:       DOB:       Ethnicity:**  **Name:       DOB:       Ethnicity:**  **Name:       DOB:       Ethnicity:**  **Name:       DOB:       Ethnicity:**  **Address(es) of Children:**  **Details of any other people relevant to the referral** |
| **Reason(s) for Referral (including incidents, concerns and risks):**    **Is the referred person aware of the referral? Yes**  **No**  **If the score is below 17, do they consent to the referral to Male Victim’s IDVA? Yes  No**  **If person is aware of referral and it is safe to contact them, please consider the following questions.**   * **Who is the victim afraid of? (include all potential threats, and not just primary perpetrator)**      * **Who does the victim believe it is safe to talk to?**      * **Who does the victim believe it is not safe to talk to?**     **If you would like the case to be heard at MARAC, but it does not reach 17 tick threshold, please detail professional judgement for referral** |
| **Referring Practitioner and Agency:**  **Contact details**  **Telephone:** **Mobile:**  **Email:**  **Address:**  **Please read attached Safe Lives Guidance before completing this referral** |

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| **Your feelings** | **Yes** | **No** | **Don’t know** | **State source of info if not the victim (eg police officer)** | |
| 1. Are you frightened? Click here to enter text. |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. | |
| 2. What are you afraid of?  Click here to enter text. |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. | |
| 3. Have you separated from the abuser?  Click here to enter text. |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. | |
| **Consideration as part of your professional judgement** | | | | | |
| * Would this male victim want to involve the police regarding any abuse or seek a civil protection order?   **Comments:** Click here to enter text. | | | | | |
| **What is happening to you now?** | **Yes** | **No** | **Don’t know** | | **State source of info if not the victim (eg police officer)** |
| 4. When was the last incident of abuse?  Please state what and whether this is the first injury: Click here to enter text. |  |  |  | | Click here to enter text. |
| 5. Does [Insert name of perpetrator] constantly contact, text, follow, stalk or harass you, either in person, online or by phone? |  |  |  | | Click here to enter text. |
| 6. Does [name] try to control everything you do? (For example, who you see, what you do or what you wear?) Do they get jealous about anything you do? |  |  |  | | Click here to enter text. |
| 7. Is the abuse happening more often? |  |  |  | | Click here to enter text. |
| 8. Is the abuse getting worse? |  |  |  | | Click here to enter text. |
| **Consideration as part of your professional judgement** | | | | | |
| **Comments:** 1 Does the male victim have any known vulnerabilities or disabilities? | | | | | |
| **Your life and relationships** | **Yes** | **No** | **Don’t know** | | **State source of info if not the victim (eg police officer)** |
| 9. Are you living together? |  |  |  | | Click here to enter text. |
| 10. Are you legally married? |  |  |  | | Click here to enter text. |
| 11. Are there any financial issues?  For example, is [name] experiencing difficulties with money (debts or loans) or are you dependent on [name] for money or do they take money from you? |  |  |  | | Click here to enter text. |
| **Consideration as part of your professional judgement** | | | | | |
| Length of abuse within the relationship  Dependency on the perpetrator  Length of separation if relevant | | | | | |
| **Things that might have happened to you in the past** | **Yes** | **No** | **Don’t know** | | **State source of info if not the victim (eg police officer)** |
| 12. Are you separated from the abuser? |  |  |  | | Click here to enter text. |
| 13. If you have children, is there conflict between you and the perpetrator having contact with your children? |  |  |  | | Click here to enter text. |
| 14. Has the abuser ever used weapons or objects (such as a phone or household items) to hurt you? |  |  |  | | Click here to enter text. |
| 15. Has [name] ever threatened to kill you or someone else?  If yes, tick who:  You  Children  Member of your family  Other (please specify) Click here to enter text. |  |  |  | | Click here to enter text. |
| 16. Has [name] ever attempted to strangle/choke/suffocate/drown you? |  |  |  | | Click here to enter text. |
| 17. Does [name] do or say things of a sexual nature that make you feel bad or that physically hurt you or someone else?  If someone else, specify who. Click here to enter text. |  |  |  | | Click here to enter text. |
| 18. Is there any other person who has threatened you or who you are afraid of? |  |  |  | | Click here to enter text. |
| 19. Do you know if [name] has hurt anyone else?  If yes, tick who:  Children  Another family member  Someone from a previous relationship  Other (please specify) Click here to enter text. |  |  |  | | Click here to enter text. |
| 20. Has [name] ever mistreated an animal or their family pet? |  |  |  | | Click here to enter text. |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **The person who harms you** | **Yes** | **No** | **Don’t know** | **State source of info if not the victim (eg police officer)** |
| 21. Has [name] had problems in the past year with drugs (prescription or other), alcohol or mental health, leading to problems in leading a healthy lifestyle?  If yes, please specify which and give relevant details if known.  Drugs  Alcohol  Mental health |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 22. Has [name] ever threatened or attempted suicide? |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 23. Has [name] ever breached their bail conditions/ court orders or not followed an order by the police or a judge in court?  Bail conditions  Child contact arrangements  Forced Marriage Protection Order  Other Click here to enter text. |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 24. Do you know if [name] has ever been in trouble with the police or has a criminal history?  If yes, please specify:  Domestic abuse  Sexual violence  Other violence  Other Click here to enter text. |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| **Consideration as part of your professional judgement** | | | | |
| Any other information concerning the pattern of abuse exhibited by the perpetrator and triggers for escalation of risk?    **Comments**: Click here to enter text. | | | | |
| **Total ‘Yes’ responses:** Click here to enter text. | | | | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **For consideration by professional:** | |
| What additional concerns do you have, based on your professional judgement? | Click here to enter text. |
| Is the victim willing to engage with your service? | Click here to enter text. |
| Consider the perpetrator’s occupation/interests:   * Could they use their occupation as a means of facilitating abuse? * Could this give them unique access to weapons? * How involved is the victim in relation to any illegal weapons and how might this affect their safety and help seeking? | Click here to enter text. |
| What is the victim’s main concern for their safety? | Click here to enter text. |
| Informed Consent | |
| **Please confirm you have obtained full consent from the victim for the above information to be shared and that he has expressed a wish to be supported by a Male Victims IDVA.** | Yes  No |
| **Signed:** Click here to enter text. | **Date:** Click here to enter text. |
| **Do you believe that there are reasonable grounds for referring this case to MARAC?**  **If Yes- please inform the victim.** | Yes No |

 

**SafeLives Dash risk checklist**

**Quick start guidance**

You may be looking at this checklist because you are working in a professional capacity with a victim of domestic abuse. These notes are to help you understand the significance of the questions on the checklist. This checklist can also be used for lesbian, gay, bisexual relationships and for situations of ‘honour’-based violence or family violence. Domestic abuse can include physical, emotional, mental, sexual or financial abuse as well as stalking and harassment. They might be experiencing one or all types of abuse; each situation is unique. It is the combination of behaviours that can be so intimidating. It can occur both during a relationship or after it has ended.

The purpose of the Dash risk checklist is to give a consistent and simple tool for practitioners who work with adult victims of domestic abuse in order to help them identify those who are at high risk of harm and whose cases should be referred to a Marac meeting in order to manage their risk. If you are concerned about risk to a child or children, you should make a referral to ensure that a full assessment of their safety and welfare is made.

**The Dash risk checklist should be introduced to the victim within the framework of your agency’s:**

* Confidentiality Policy
* Information Sharing Policy and Protocols
* Marac Referral Policies and Protocols

**Before you begin to ask the questions in the Dash risk checklist:**

* Establish how much time the victim has to talk to you: is it safe to talk now? What are safe contact details?
* Establish the whereabouts of the perpetrator and children
* Explain why you are asking these questions and how it relates to the Marac

**While you are asking the questions in the Dash risk checklist:**

* Identify early on who the victim is frightened of – ex-partner/partner/family member
* Use gender neutral terms such as partner/ex-partner. By creating a safe, accessible environment LGBT victims accessing the service will feel able to disclose both domestic abuse and their sexual orientation or gender identity.

**Revealing the results of the Dask risk checklist to the victim**

Telling someone that they are at high risk of serious harm or homicide may be frightening and overwhelming for them to hear. It is important that you state what your concerns are by using the answers they gave to you and your professional judgement. It is then important that you follow your area’s protocols when referring to Marac and Children’s Services. Equally, identifying that someone is not currently high risk needs to be managed carefully to ensure that the person doesn’t feel that their situation is being minimised and that they don’t feel embarrassed about asking for help. Explain that these factors are linked to homicide and serious harm and that if s/he experiences any of them in future, that they should get back in touch with your service or with the emergency services on 999 in an immediate crisis.

Please pay particular attention to a practitioner’s professional judgement in all cases. The results from a checklist are not a definitive assessment of risk. They should provide you with a structure to inform your judgement and act as prompts to further questioning, analysis and risk management whether via a SafeLives Dash risk checklist quick start guidance, Marac or in another way.

**The responsibility for identifying your local referral threshold rests with your local Marac.**

**Resources**

Be sure that you have an awareness of the safety planning measures you can offer, both within your own agency and other agencies. Be familiar with local and national resources to refer the victim to, including specialist services. The following websites and contact details may be useful to you:

* **National Domestic Abuse Helpline** (tel: 0808 2000 247) for assistance with refuge accommodation and advice.
* **‘Honour’ Helpline** (tel: 0800 5999247) for advice on forced marriage and ‘honour’ based violence.
* **Sexual Assault Referral Centres** (web: http://www.rapecrisis.org.uk/Referralcentres2.php) for details on SARCs and to locate your nearest centre.
* **Galop** (tel: 0800 999 5428 web: www.galop.org.uk for advice for LGBT victims) for advice and support for LGBT victims of domestic abuse.

**Asking about types of abuse and risk factors**

**Physical abuse**

* Physical abuse can take many forms from a push or shove to a punch, use of weapons, choking or strangulation.
* You should try and establish if the abuse is getting worse, or happening more often, or the incidents themselves are more serious. If your client is not sure, ask them to document how many incidents there have been in the last year and what took place. They should also consider keeping a diary marking when physical and other incidents take place.
* Try and get a picture of the range of physical abuse that has taken place. The incident that is currently being disclosed may not be the worst thing to have happened.
* The abuse might also be happening to other people in their household, such as their children or siblings or elderly relatives.
* Sometimes violence will be used against a family pet.
* If an incident has just occurred the victim should call 999 for assistance from the police. If the victim has injuries they should try and get them seen and documented by a health professional such as a GP or A&E nurse.

**Sexual abuse**

* Sexual abuse can include the use of threats, force or intimidation to obtain sex, deliberately inflicting pain during sex, or combining sex and violence and using weapons.
* If the victim has suffered sexual abuse you should encourage them to get medical attention and to report this to the police. See above for advice on finding a Sexual Assault Referral Centre which can assist with medical and legal investigations.

**Coercion, threats and intimidation**

* It is important to understand and establish: the fears of the victim/victims in relation to what the perpetrator/s may do; who they are frightened of and who they are frightened for (e.g. children/siblings). Victims usually know the abuser’s behaviour better than anyone else which is why this question is significant.
* In cases of ‘honour’ based violence there may be more than one abuser living in the home or belonging to the wider family and community. This could also include female relatives.
* Stalking and harassment becomes more significant when the abuser is also making threats to harm themselves, the victim or others. They might use phrases such as “If I can’t have you no one else can…”
* Other examples of behaviour that can indicate future harm include obsessive phone calls, texts or emails, uninvited visits to the victim’s home or workplace, loitering and destroying/vandalising property.
* Advise the victim to keep a diary of these threats, when and where they happen, if anyone else was with them and if the threats made them feel frightened.
* Separation is a dangerous time: establish if the victim has tried to separate from the abuser or has been threatened about the consequences of leaving. Being pursued after separation can be particularly dangerous.
* Victims of domestic abuse sometimes tell us that the perpetrators harm pets, damage furniture and this alone makes them frightened without the perpetrator needing to physically hurt them. This kind of intimidation is common and often used as a way to control and frighten.
* Some perpetrators of domestic abuse do not follow court orders or contact arrangements with children. Previous violations may be associated with an increase in risk of future violence.
* Some victims feel frightened and intimidated by the criminal history of their partner/ex-partner. It is important to remember that offenders with a history of violence are at increased risk of harming their partner, even if the past violence was not directed towards intimate partners or family members, except for ‘honour’-based violence, where the perpetrator(s) will commonly have no other recorded criminal history.

**Emotional abuse and isolation**

This can be experienced at the same time as the other types of abuse. It may be present on its own or it may have started long before any physical violence began. The result of this abuse is that victims can blame themselves and, in order to live with what is happening, minimise and deny how serious it is. As a professional you can assist the victim in beginning to consider the risks the victim and any children may be facing.

* The victim may be being prevented from seeing family or friends, from creating any support networks or prevented from having access to any money.
* Victims of ‘honour’ based violence talk about extreme levels of isolation and being ‘policed’ in the home. This is a significant indicator of future harm and should be taken seriously.
* Due to the abuse and isolation being suffered victims feel like they have no choice but to continue living with the abuser and fear what may happen if they try and leave. This can often have an impact on the victim’s mental health and they might feel depressed or even suicidal.
* Equally the risk to the victim is greater if their partner/ex-partner has mental health problems such as depression and if they abuse drugs or alcohol. This can increase the level of isolation as victims can feel like agencies won’t understand and will judge them. They may feel frightened that revealing this information will get them and their partner into trouble and, if they have children, they may worry that they will be removed. These risks are addressed in questions 21 & 22.

**Children and pregnancy**

* The presence of children including stepchildren can increase the risk of domestic abuse for the mother. They too can get caught up in the violence and suffer directly.
* The perpetrator may use the children to have access to the victim, abusive incidents may occur during child contact visits or there may be a lot of fear and anxiety that the children may be harmed.
* Please follow your local Child Protection Procedures and Guidelines for identifying and making referrals to Children’s Services.

**Economic abuse**

* Victims of domestic abuse often tell us that they are financially controlled by their partners/ex-partners. Consider how the financial control impacts on the safety options available to them. For example, they may rely on their partner/ex-partner for an income or do not have access to benefits in their own right. The victim might feel like the situation has become worse since their partner/ex-partner lost their job.
* The Citizens Advice Bureau or the local specialist domestic abuse support service will be able to outline to the victim the options relating to their current financial situation and how they might be able to access funds in their own right.

We also have a library of resources and information about training for frontline practitioners at <http://www.safelives.org.uk/marac/Information_about_Maracs.html>