

Case Documentation

POLICE:

Document to the crime report:

- description of all injuries and other signs of violence (*whenever possible use e.g. photos, videos, message transcription*)
- all identified risk factors
- evidence of coercive control
- your overall assessment of the risk situation
- victim's own assessment of the level of risk and fear of being killed

HEALTH CARE:

Document to the patient database:

- all identified risk factors
- your overall assessment of the risk situation
- victim's own assessment of the level of risk and fear of being killed
- right diagnostic codes photos of all the injuries and use of body scheme

SOCIAL WORK:

Document to client-database:

- all identified risk factors
- your overall assessment of the risk situation
- victim's own assessment of the level of risk and fear of being killed
- case specific cooperation and communication with other frontline responders

Triggers for increasing risk

The perpetrator is given a (court) decision of

- restraining order
- divorce/obligation to share assets
- negative residence permit
- different than desired child custody decision/child contact arrangements

- The victim declares intention of leaving/separation
- The victim attempts to leave for separation
- The victim starts a new relationship
- The perpetrator discovers the new address of the victim
- A previously violent perpetrator wants to meet "one last time"

- The perpetrator realizes that the situation was reported to the police
- The perpetrator is released from custody
- The perpetrator is being charged
- Trial is scheduled/occurred
- Sentence reading is scheduled/occurred
- Release from a prison sentence
- Expiry of a court order

Remember to reinforce risk reassessment and risk management in these situations/moments.



RISK ASSESSMENT CHECK LIST FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**POLICE,
HEALTH CARE
SOCIAL SECTOR
NGO'S**

Identify and document the following risk factors:

Critical domestic violence risk factors

The perpetrator is

- using violence more frequently (e.g. last month)
- using more intensive (harmful, injurious) violence (e.g. last month)
- controlling can also be dependent on victim

The perpetrator has

- strangled the victim
- threatened or tried to kill or caused serious injuries to the victim
- stalked the victim
- threatened to kill the victim
- used physical violence
- used coercive control
- used psychological, financial or digital violence
- used sexual violence
- used violence against other people or animals
- experienced negative life changes
- mental health issues (e.g. suicidal ideation)
- substance abuse issues

The victim is

- believing that he/she can be killed
- planning a separation or has already separated (last 6 months)
- pregnant or has a baby

Risk related information to check by each professional

POLICE:

The perpetrator has

- access to firearms
- used a weapon in the most recent event
- previous criminal record entries
- previously violated a restraining order

HEALTH CARE:

The victim

- has symptoms of strangulation
- has prior injuries caused by trauma
- is not allowed to see the nurse/doctor alone

SOCIAL SECTOR/NGO's:

- The victim is not allowed to meet the social worker/professional alone
- Signs of substance or non-substance addictive behavior including co-addiction (by partners or family members)
- Signs of conflict behavior that may lead to potential escalation of conflict
- Signs of child (or other specially vulnerable adult) mistreatment in the family

Victim's vulnerability factors

The victim

- is an elderly person
- is a minor
- is a disabled person
- is dependent on the suspect
- is an immigrant or a refugee
- is a homeless person
- belongs to an ethnic minority
- belongs to a sexual or gender minority

The victim experiences

- strong fear (e.g. wants to withdraw the criminal complaint)
- social isolation
- mental health issues (e.g. suicidal ideation)
- substance abuse issues
- additional constraints (e.g. perpetrator has a privileged position in the community)
- **The family or community of the victim or suspect is justifying violence based on honour/culture/religion**

Remember to use multiples sources of information, to attend to other risk factors that might be present and to reassess the (dynamic) risk.