

**Moderate – Scale 1**  
 Child/ren and families with additional needs.  
 CAF completed - single practitioner – targeted support  
 Child/ren under 7yrs / or with special needs increases risks.  
 The younger the child/ren the higher the risk to their safety.  
 Consider protective factors.

Evidence of DV	Y	N	S
1 - 3 minor incidents of physical violence which were short in duration			
Victim did not require medical treatment			
Occasional intense verbal abuse			
Risk factors / potential vulnerabilities	Y	N	S
Child/ren were not drawn into incidents			
Control of abuser is not intense			
Protective factors	Y	N	S
Child / mother relationship is nurturing, protective and stable			
Significant other in child's life - positive and nurturing relationship			
Presence of child/ren was a restraint for the abuser			
Abuser accepts responsibility for abuse / violence indicating remorse			
Abuser willing to engage in services to address his abusive behaviour			
Victim has positive support from family / friends & community			
Victim appears emotionally strong (not worn down by the abuse)			
Victim sought appropriate support and/or is willing to accept help from other agencies			

Y= Yes N=No S=Suspected

**Moderate to Serious – Scale 2**  
 Child/ren and families with additional needs.  
 CAF completed – lead professional – integrated support  
 Child/ren under 7yrs/or with special needs  
 - at higher risk of emotional/ physical harm – limited self-protection strategies - can raise threshold to Scale 3. Consider protective factors.

Evidence of DV	Y	N	S
History of minor / moderate incidents of physical violence - short duration			
Victim received minor injuries - medical attention not sought			
Evidence of intimidation / bullying behaviour – pushing / finger poking / shoving / to victim but not towards child/ren – destruction of property			
Family / relatives / neighbours report concerns re: victim / children			
Intense verbal abuse - consistent use of derogatory language			
Abuser attempts to control victims' activities, movements, contact etc			
Risk factors / potential vulnerabilities	Y	N	S
Child/ren were present in the home during an incident but did not directly witness			
Likelihood of emotional abuse of children			
<b>Cultural issues:</b> Language barriers- Professional interpreter required New immigrant unaware of support services and official processes Victim minimising abuse due to fear of experiencing racism / discrimination in statutory services -and/or Victim unwilling to disclose abuse due to allegiance to own community/faith/family			
Disability issues within family, but access to support networks			
Mental health issues &/or substance abuse – abuser / victim seeking help			
Abuser and/or victim under 25 years, family access support			
Protective factors	Y	N	S
Child / mother relationship is nurturing, protective and stable. In spite of abuse, victim was not prevented from seeing to the needs of her child/ren			
Significant other in child's life – positive and nurturing relationship			
Older child/ren used coping / protective strategies			
Victim attempted to use protective strategies with older child/ren			
Victim is prepared to take advice on safety issues			
Victim has insight into the risks to her child/ren posed by the abuse			
Victim has positive support from family / friends and community			
Abuser willing to engage in services to address his abusive behaviour			

**Serious – Scale 3**  
 Child/ren in Need - Children's Services consider S.17 but safeguarding intervention may be necessary if threshold of significant harm is reached. Professional case planning  
 Child/ren aged under 7yrs / or child/ren with special needs can raise threshold to scale 4

Evidence of domestic violence	Y	N	S
Incident(s) of serious and/or persistent physical violence in family Increasing in severity / frequency and/or duration - history of previous assaults			
Victim and/or children indicates that they are frightened of abuser - put in fear by looks, actions, gestures and destruction of property (emotional and psychological abuse)			
Recent separation – repeated separation / reconciliation / ongoing couple conflict			
Stalking / harassment of mother / child/ren			
Abuser breaching protective legal orders			
Victim required medical treatment but not sought / or explanation for injuries implausible			
Requests for police intervention			
Incidences of violence occur in presence of child/ren – consider duration of exposure			
Threats of harm to mother and/or children			
Excessive jealousy / possessiveness of abuser -domineering in relationship			
Financial control maintained by abuser			
Abuser has history of domestic abuse in previous relationships			
Risk factors / potential vulnerabilities	Y	N	S
Mental health issues – abuser and/or victim – raises concern			
Substance abuse by abuser and/or victim - raises concern			
Strong likelihood of emotional abuse of children – may display behavioural problems / self harm			
Child/ren unable to activate safety strategies due to fear or intense control of abuser			
Lack of significant other as a positive support to child			
Child contact issues - consider risks to child			
Increased risk of intervening in abuse (particularly if adolescent)			
Abuser suspected of physically abusing child/ren			
Abuser shows lack of insight /empathy into how his abusive behaviour is affecting child / victim			
Abuser minimisation of abuse - lack of remorse / guilt			
Abuser is step-father / family unit has step-siblings			
Abuser's abuse of pets / animals			
Emerging concerns about emotional stability / care of abuser's relationship with child/ren- limited parenting capacity and no protective abilities due to his abusive behaviour			
Emerging concerns about emotional stability of child / mother relationship (parenting capacity and protective concerns)			
Abuser use of avoidance / resistance to engage in services			
Victim fears statutory services – avoidance and resistance to engage			
Victim has experienced domestic violence in previous relationships			
<b>Cultural issues</b> - possible language barriers / new immigrant /minimisation due to fear of racism & Restriction on movement - accompaniment by family members to appointments/speaking for victim Immigration constraints -no recourse to public funds / threats of deportation / no legal status Abuser's interpretation of culture/ faith used as a form of control - to curtail woman's autonomy Extended family support of abuser / and may perpetrate abuse themselves Family honour - transgression of traditional forms of acceptable female behaviour results in punishment (i.e. controlling / coercive behaviours, emotional abuse, social ostracism, harassment) Victim feel prevented from leaving abusive situation due to threats of such forms of punishment			
Disability issues within family, little or no support			
Age disparities or abuser / victim under 25 years, with limited support			
History of childhood abuse / disruptive childhood experiences - abuser and/or victim			
Recent life crisis's / stress factors – i.e unemployment, financial problems, illness, death			
Protective factors	Y	N	S
Older child/ren use protective strategies			
Victim will seek positive support from significant other			
Victim - attempted to use protective strategies but abuser's violence and control is intense			
Victim will engage with supportive services and seek safety advice – but abuser's control interferes with her level of commitment to engage			
Use of kinship placements as a protective factor – but be alert to domestic abuse having occurred or occurring in extended families			

**Severe – Scale 4** Child in need of protection – Children's Services consider if S.47 enquiry and core assessment required. Child/ren may be at risk of being 'looked after'.

Evidence of domestic violence	Y	N	S
Repeated serious and/or severe physical violence – life threatening violence. - Consider the duration and severity of violent behaviour children exposed to.			
Use / assault with weapons			
Abuser violates protective legal orders to commit acts of violence / abuse			
Criminal history of abuser – assault of ex partners / others / use of violence or suspected military / gangland connections of abuser			
Intense stalking / harassment behaviour of abuser			
Recurring or frequent requests for police intervention			
Victim requires medical treatment for significant injuries / explanation for injuries is implausible			
Threats to kill or seriously injure victim and/or child/ren			
Victim is very frightened of abuser – believes intent of threats			
Mother is intensively controlled/ compliant/ may be submissive -worn down by abuse			
Confirmed emotional / psychological abuse of mother			
Victim is pregnant / mother is abused post natal			
Sexual assault / suspected sexual abuse of victim			
Incidences of violence witnessed and occurred in presence of child/ren – distressed			
Child/ren have directly intervened in incidences			
Child/ren have been physically assaulted / abused in the course of an incident			
<b>Cultural issues</b> – possible language barriers / immigration constraints / fear of racism and: Severe restrictions on movements Substantial risk of/confirmed so called 'honour' based violence(HBV) (Perceived) transgressions results in threats of serious violence &/or acts of violence- killings Substantial risk of/confirmed forced marriage(FM)- history of forced marriage / early marriage in family,prolonged/unexplained absences from school,siblings that have runaway from home Extended&/or birth family support DV/HBV/FM-collusion/active involvement of the community			
Risk factors / potential vulnerabilities	Y	N	S
Mental health issues – abuser and/or victim - raises significant concern			
Substance abuse by abuser and/or victim - raises significant concern			
Substantial risk of serious physical violence in the family			
Threats or attempts to abduct children			
Confirmed emotional abuse of child/ren			
Suspected / confirmed sexual abuse of child/ren			
Children exhibit sexualised behaviour and/or sexually harmful behaviour			
Emerging concerns re child mental health issues			
Confirmed physical abuse of child/ren by abuser			
Victim uses physical discipline on children as an alternative to harsher physical abuse by abuser			
Recent suicidal or homicidal thoughts expressed by abuser			
Victim suicidal / attempted suicide / self harming - especially BMER victims			
Victim minimising risks to children / protection orders not sought, or activated			
Victim has poor general health			
Abuser - lack of empathy / insight into how his abusive behaviour is affecting child / victim			
Abuser minimisation of abuse - lack of remorse / guilt			
Frequent moves by family – making it difficult to engage			
Abuser / victim use of avoidance / resistance to engage in services - increases risks to children			
Abuser uses threatening aggressive behaviour towards professionals			
Agencies unable to work constructively with family - professional paralysis			
Disability issues within family – raises significant concern			
Age disparities or abuser and/or victim under 25 - personal vulnerabilities			
History of childhood abuse / disruptive childhood experiences abuser and/or victim			
Protective factors	Y	N	S
Use of kinship placements as a protective factor – be alert to domestic abuse having occurred or occurring in extended families			

