

**Moderate – Scale 1**

Child/ren & 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 seek medical treatment			
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 & 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			
Intense verbal abuse-consistent use of derogatory language			
Risk of isolation -Abuser attempts to control victims' activities, movements & contact with others			
Risk factors/Potential vulnerabilities	Y	N	S
Child/ren were present in the home during an incident but did not directly witness			
Potential likelihood of emotional abuse of child/ren			
<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. Can raise threshold to scale 3			
Disability issues within family – positive support networks			
Mental health issues – abuser & or victim seeking appropriate help			
Age of abuser and /or victim – resourceful not isolated			
Protective factors	Y	N	S
Child/mother relationship is nurturing, protective & 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			

Practitioners be aware of the abuser's threat/use of retaliation at each level

**Serious – Scale 3** Child/ren in Need -Children's Service may 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 & psychological abuse)			
Recent separation – repeated separation/reconciliation/ongoing couple conflict			
Stalking/harassment of mother/child/ren			
Abuser breaching bail conditions/civil protective orders /non- contact orders			
Victim required medical treatment but not sought/ or explanation for injuries implausible			
Recurring or frequent 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/ Financial difficulties-serious			
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 child/ren –may display behavioural problems			
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			
Adolescent – increased risk of intervening in abuse and emerging concerns re self harm			
Abuser suspected of using physical discipline towards 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 & 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 increases risk level to children			
Victim fears statutory services –avoidance & resistance to engage increases risk to children			
Family/Relatives/neighbours reports concerns re victim/children			
Victim has experienced domestic violence in previous relationships			
<b>Cultural issues-</b> possible language barriers/ new immigrant/minimisation due to fear of racism and: 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 threat's of such forms of punishment			
Disability issues within family – isolation			
Age disparities or Abuser/Victim–under 25 with limited support – personal vulnerabilities			
History of childhood abuse/disruptive childhood experiences -abuser and/or victim			
Collusion issues present in extended families/ friends –not supportive for victim and children			
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 & 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			
Limited protective factors are present – serious level of violence and psychological abuse of victim, emotional abuse of child/ren and DV risk factors predict recidivism			
Use of kinship placements as a protective factor – 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 Section 47 enquiry and core assessment intervention are 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 Attention to the <i>duration</i> and <i>severity</i> of violent behaviour children exposed to			
Use/assault with weapons			
Abuser's violation of protective orders and/or child contact and non-contact orders			
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 treatment for injuries sustained- Medical attention required but not sought /or injuries explanation is implausible			
Threats to kill or seriously injure victim and/or child/ren			
Victim is <b>very</b> 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 & occurred in presence of child/ren – distressed			
Child/ren have directly intervened in incidences / child/ren summons help			
Child/ren have been physically assaulted/abused			
Confirmed emotional abuse of child/ren			
Suspected/confirmed sexual abuse of child/ren			
<b>Cultural issues</b> – possible language barriers/immigration constraints/fear of racism and: House arrest and or 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			
Children exhibit sexualised behaviour and/or sexually harmful behaviour			
Adolescent – increased risk of intervening in abuse and self harm-emerging concerns re mental health issues			
Physical discipline of child/ren by abuser			
Victim uses physical discipline on children as an alternative to harsher physical abuse by abuser			
Recent suicidal or homicidal idealization/intent by abuser			
Victim suicidal/ attempted suicide/self harming- especially BMER victims			
Victim minimising risks to children/remains in abusive relationship, 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 supportive professionals			
Social Services/supportive agencies unable to work constructively with family -social work paralysis			
Disability issues within family – raises significant concern			
Age disparities - Abuser and/or victim under 25 with limited support- personal vulnerabilities			
Collusion issues present in extended families/ friends –not supportive for victim and children			
History of childhood abuse/disruptive childhood experiences abuser and/or victim			
Protective factors	Y	N	S
Limited protective factors are present – severe level of violence and psychological abuse of mother and child/ren. DV high risk factors predict recidivism			
Use of kinship placements as a protective factor – be alert to domestic abuse having occurred or occurring in extended families			

