

Guidelines for risk assessment for domestic violence and assault cases

Serious injuries? Eg. Blood, pain, ongoing pain, unconscious, needed to go to a doctor.
Children present? Including her own children and others.
Planned? Eg. Did he tell her beforehand or indicate that he was going to hurt her? Did he bring a weapon specially? Did he take her somewhere specially in order to beat her? Did he tell someone else he was going to hurt her?
History of abuse? Has he beaten her in the past? How often? For how long has he been violent to her? Can she describe previous incidents? Eg. Weapon used, planned etc. Any serious injuries in the past? Has he beaten other women in the past? Has he beaten children? Did they incur serious injuries?
Criminal record? Including all sorts of offences – violence (whether domestic or general), drugs, dishonesty etc. Even before the relationship. Also, even if he wasn't caught by the police, has he committed crimes in the past that she knows about?
History of forced sex? Does he force her to have sex when she doesn't want it? Has he done this in the past? On one occasion or more often?
Weapon used? Ie. Anything other than his hands. Please describe.
Threats (before, at time, since) Eg. Has he ever told her how he is going to hurt her? Please describe what he said, writing down his specific language.
Possessiveness, jealousy, or stalking? Does he check where she is too often? Does he distrust her unreasonably? Does he think she's having affairs when she is not? Does he restrict her movement/ tell her where she is/ is not allowed to go?
psychological or emotional abuse? Does he restrict her movement/ tell her where she is/ is not allowed to go? Does he try to isolate her from her friends/ family? Does he make you feel small or inadequate? In public or in private? Do you feel intimidated by him? How does he do this?
Pregnancy? Is she pregnant/ was she at the time of the assault?
disabled or mentally/ physically ill? You can observe this, and you can ask.

Victim's view of the future of the relationship

Discuss this with her. Does she want to continue/ leave? What does she feel about it?

Victim's view of the likelihood of further violence

Discuss this with her.

Do you consider this a high risk case? Yes/ No

Think about all of the above, and consider whether you think there is a likelihood of further serious violence. Consult the paralegal manual for an explanation of how each of the above contribute to the riskiness of the situation. Please continue over the page if necessary. Always explain your answer, whether you say yes or no.

Additional details

Witness contact details

Details of anyone who was present, including children. Include address and telephone numbers where possible.

Details of friend/ family members

Details of people who might be able to help/ support her either now or in future. You may want to take her to stay with this person. Preferably people who live nearby or in a neighbouring town. Include address and telephone numbers where possible.