

Appendix 1: CAADA-DASH Risk Identification Checklist (RIC)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Aim of the form:

- To help front line practitioners identify high-risk cases of domestic abuse, stalking and 'honour'-based violence.
- To decide which cases should be referred to MARAC and what other support might be required. A completed form becomes an active record that can be referred to in future for case management.
- To offer a common tool to agencies that are part of the MARAC¹ process and provide a shared understanding of risk in relation to domestic abuse, stalking and 'honour'-based violence.
- To enable agencies to make defensible decisions based on the evidence from extensive research of cases, including domestic homicides and 'near misses', which underpins most recognised models of risk assessment.

How to use the form:

Before completing the form for the first time we recommend that you read the full practice guidance and Frequently Asked Questions and Answers². These can be downloaded from www.caada.org.uk/marac.html

Risk is dynamic and can change very quickly. It is good practice to review the checklist after a new incident.

Recommended Referral Criteria to MARAC

1. **Professional judgement:** if a professional has serious concerns about a victim's situation, they should refer the case to MARAC. There will be occasions where the particular context of a case gives rise to serious concerns even if the victim has been unable to disclose the information that might highlight their risk more clearly. ***This could reflect extreme levels of fear, cultural barriers to disclosure, immigration issues or language barriers particularly in cases of 'honour'-based violence.*** This judgement would be based on the professional's experience and/or the victim's perception of their risk even if they do not meet criteria 2 and/or 3 below.
2. **'Visible High Risk':** the number of 'ticks' on this checklist. If you have ticked 14 or more 'yes' boxes the case would normally meet the MARAC referral criteria.
3. **Potential Escalation:** the number of police callouts to the victim as a result of domestic violence in the past 12 months. This criterion can be used to identify cases where there is not a positive identification of a majority of the risk factors on the list, but where abuse appears to be escalating and where it is appropriate to assess the situation more fully by sharing information at MARAC. It is common practice to start with 3 or more police callouts in a 12 month period but this will need to be reviewed depending on your local volume and your level of police reporting.

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 MARAC or in another way.

The responsibility for identifying your local referral threshold rests with your local MARAC.

What this form is not:

This form will provide valuable information about the risks that children are living with but it is not a full risk assessment for children. The presence of children increases the wider risks of domestic violence and stepchildren are particularly at risk. If risk towards children is highlighted you should consider what referral you need to make to obtain a full assessment of the children's situation.

¹ For further information about MARAC please refer to the CAADA MARAC Implementation Guide www.caada.org.uk.

² For enquiries about training in the use of the form, please email training@caada.org.uk or call 0117 317 8750.

Please explain that the purpose of asking these questions is for the safety and protection of the individual concerned.

Put a cross [x] in the box if the factor is present.

Please add comments where indicated. It is assumed that your main source of information is the victim. If this is not the case please add this to your comment.

The boxes will expand as you type text into them.

There is space at the end of the form for additional information where appropriate.

		YES	NO	REFUSED
CURRENT SITUATION				
1.	Has the current incident resulted in injury? (Please state what and whether this is the first injury) Comment:			
2.	Are you very frightened? Comment:			
3.	What are you afraid of? Is it further injury or violence? (Please give an indication of what you think the abuser might do and to whom, including children). KILL (specify self, children or other) FURTHER INJURY AND VIOLENCE (specify self, children or other) OTHER (please clarify and specify self, children or other) Comment:			

4.	<p>Do you feel isolated from family/friends i.e. does the abuser try to stop you from seeing friends/family/doctor or others?</p> <p>Comment:</p>			
5.	<p>Are you feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts?</p> <p>Comment:</p>			
6.	<p>Have you separated or tried to separate from the abuser within the past year?</p> <p>Comment:</p>			
7.	<p>Is there conflict over child contact? (Please state the nature of the conflict)</p> <p>Comment:</p>			
8.	<p>Does the abuser constantly text, call, contact, follow, stalk or harass you? (Please expand to identify what and whether you believe that this is done deliberately to intimidate you? Consider the context and behaviour of what is being done. This question is relevant even if the parties are living together. Ask 11 additional stalking questions*)</p> <p>Comment:</p>			

CHILDREN/DEPENDANTS

9.	<p>Are you currently pregnant or have you recently had a baby (within the last 18 months)?</p> <p>Comment:</p>			
10.	<p>Are there any children, step-children that aren't the abusers in the household? Or are there other dependants in the household (i.e. older relative)?</p> <p>Comment:</p>			
11.	<p>Has the abuser ever hurt the children/dependants?</p> <p>Comment:</p>			

12.	<p>Has the abuser ever threatened to hurt or kill the children/dependants?</p> <p>Comment:</p>			
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HISTORY				
13.	<p>Is the abuse happening more often?</p> <p>Comment:</p>			
14.	<p>Is the abuse getting worse?</p> <p>Comment:</p>			
15.	<p>Does the abuser try to control everything you do and/or is he/she excessively jealous? (in terms of relationships, who you see, being 'policed at home', telling you what to wear for example. Consider honour based violence and stalking and specify the behaviour)</p> <p>Comment:</p>			
16.	<p>Has the abuser ever used weapons or objects to hurt you?</p> <p>Comment:</p>			
17.	<p>Has the abuser ever threatened to kill you or someone else and you believed them?</p> <p>Comment:</p>			
18.	<p>Has the abuser ever attempted to strangle/choke/suffocate/drown you?</p> <p>Comment:</p>			
19.	<p>Does the abuser do or say things of a sexual nature that make you feel bad or that physically hurt you or someone else?</p> <p>(Please specify who and what)</p> <p>Comment:</p>			

20.	<p>Is there any other person who has threatened you or of whom you are afraid?</p> <p>(Consider extended family if honour based violence and please specify who. Ask 10 additional HBV questions)</p> <p>Comment:</p>			
21.	<p>Do you know if the abuser has hurt anybody else?</p> <p>(Children, siblings, elderly relative, stranger, other partners – consider honour based violence and please specify who)</p> <p>Comment:</p>			
22.	<p>Has the abuser ever mistreated an animal or the family pet?</p> <p>Comment:</p>			

ABUSER

23.	<p>Are there any financial issues? For example, are you dependent on the abuser for money? Has the abuser recently lost his/her job? Are there any other financial issues?</p> <p>(Please specify what)</p> <p>Comment:</p>			
24.	<p>Has the abuser had problems in the past year with drugs (prescription or other), alcohol or mental health issues that has created problems in leading a normal life?</p> <p>Drugs <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Comment:</p>			
25.	<p>Has the abuser ever threatened or attempted suicide?</p> <p>Comment:</p>			

26.	<p>Has the abuser ever breached bail/an injunction and/or any agreement for when they can see you and/or the children?</p> <p>(Please specify what)</p> <p>Bail Conditions <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Non molestation/civil order <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Child contact arrangements <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Forced Marriage Protection Order <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Comment:</p>			
27.	<p>Do you know if the abuser has ever been in trouble with the police or has a criminal history?</p> <p>(If yes, please specify – domestic violence, sexual violence, other violence, other offences)</p> <p>Comment:</p>			
PLEASE CALCULATE THE NUMBER OF “YES” RESPONSES and enter in the box to the right				

For consideration by professional:

Is there any other relevant information (from a victim or professional), which may increase risk levels? Consider victim’s situation in relation to vulnerability, disability, substance misuse, mental health issues, cultural/language barriers, ‘honour’-based systems and minimisation. Are they willing to engage with your service?

Describe:

Consider abuser’s occupation/interests – could this give them unique access to weapons? E.g. ex-military, police, pest control etc.

Describe:

Is there anything else you would like to add to this? E.g. if the victim has refused to answer any questions.

Comment:

Your name:

Date:

DASH (2009) Additional Stalking and Harassment Risk Questions

Q8. Does (.....) constantly text, call, contact, follow, stalk or harass you?* (Please expand to identify what and whether you believe that this is done deliberately to intimidate you? Consider the context and behaviour of what is being done)

PRACTICE POINTS: If the victim answers 'yes' to this question then you must ask the following as they are risk factors for future violence:

- ✓ Is the victim very frightened?
.....
- ✓ Is there previous domestic abuse and harassment history?
.....
- ✓ Has (insert name of the abuser....) vandalised or destroyed property?
.....
- ✓ Has (insert name of the abuser....) turned up unannounced more than three times a week?
.....
- ✓ Is (insert name of the abuser....) following the victim or loitering near the victim?
.....
- ✓ Has (insert name of the abuser....) threatened physical or sexual violence?
.....
- ✓ Has (insert name of the abuser....) been harassing any third party since the harassment began (i.e. family, children, friends, neighbours, colleagues)?
.....
- ✓ Has (insert name of the abuser....) acted violently to anyone else during the stalking incident?
.....
- ✓ Has (insert name of the abuser....) engaged others to help (wittingly or unwittingly)?
.....
- ✓ Is (insert name of the abuser....) been abusing alcohol/drugs?
.....
- ✓ Has (insert name of the abuser....) been violent in past? (Physical and psychological. Intelligence or reported)
.....

DASH (2009) Additional HBV Risk Questions

Q20. Is there any other person who has threatened you or who you are afraid of?* (If yes, please specify who and why. Consider extended family if HBV)

Practice Point: If the victim is subject to HBV and answers 'yes' to this question, ask the following questions:

- ✓ Truancy – if under 18 years old is the victim truanting?
.....
- ✓ Self-harm – is there evidence of self-harm?
.....
- ✓ House arrest and being 'policed at home' – is the victim being kept at home or their behaviour activity being policed(describe the behaviours)?
.....
- ✓ Fear of being forced into an engagement/marriage – is the victim worried that they will be forced to marry against their will?
.....
- ✓ Pressure to go abroad – is the victim fearful of being taken abroad?
.....
- ✓ Isolation – is the victim very isolated?
.....
- ✓ A pre-marital relationship or extra marital affairs – is the victim believed to be in a relationship that is not approved of?
.....
- ✓ Attempts to separate or divorce (child contact issues) –is the victim attempting to leave the relationship?
.....
- ✓ Threats that they will never see the children again – are there threats that the child(ren) will be taken away?
.....
- ✓ Threats to hurt/kill – are there threats to hurt or kill the victim?
.....