Asking the difficult questions:

Asking Indirectly:

How are things going at home?

What about stress levels – how are things at work / home?

How do you feel about your relationships at home?

How does your partner treat you?

Are you having any problems with your partner?

Framing the question:

Because unfortunately abuse and violence seems to be so common now, I ask all my clients/patients about it;

From past experience with clients/patients I am concerned that some of your problems might be because someone is hurting you;

I don’t know if this is a problem for you, but many of my clients/patients are experiencing problems at home or with their partners; it’s difficult for people to mention this, so I have started to just ask everyone;”

Asking directly:

Thank you for answering that; I know it’s difficult; I need to ask you about some things so I can see how to help you or get the help you need:

Everyone argues or fights with their partner now and then. When you argue or fight at home, what happens? Do you ever change your behaviour because you are afraid of the consequences?

Do you feel your partner treats you well? Is there anything at home that

makes you feel afraid for yourself or your children?

Is there anything your partner does that makes you uncomfortable?

Has your partner ever hurt or threatened you or your children? Has your partner ever forced you to do something?-

Has your partner taken the children without permission / threatened to never let them see you again or otherwise harmed them?

Has your partner ever hurt your pets or destroyed your clothing, objects in your home or something you especially cared about?

Does your partner prevent you from eating or sleeping, or endanger your health in other ways?

Has your partner ever tried to keep you from taking medication you needed or from seeking medical help?

Has your partner ever forced you to do something you did not want to do?

Is there anything that goes on at home that makes you feel afraid?

Does your partner act jealously, for example, calling you at work or home to check up on you? Is it hard for you to maintain relationships with your friends, relatives, neighbours or co-workers because your partner disapproves of, argues with or criticises them? Does your partner accuse you unjustly of flirting with others or having affairs? Has your partner ever tried to keep you from leaving the house?

Does your partner make it hard for you to get or keep a job or go to school?

Is your partner over-controlling?

How dangerous would you say your partner is? Does your partner have a weapon? Has he ever used it or threatened to use it against you or your children?

Does your partner abuse drugs or alcohol? What happens?

Have you ever called the police about your partner? Has he ever been arrested?

Every family has their own way of handling finances. Does your partner withhold money from you when you need it? Or withhold information about finances?

Do you know where important documents like bank books, check books, financial statements, birth certificates and passports for you and members of your family are kept? If you wanted to see or use any of them, would you partner make it difficult for you to do so? Does your partner sometimes spend large sums of money and refuse to tell you why or what the money was spent on?

If your client answers yes to any of these questions you should use the following resources that are part of this toolkit:

* **DASH form –** assessing the risk for victims of domestic abuse – this is the template that all agencies should use to assess safety & risk for a client – if there are 14 or more ticks, this indicates the client is high risk and specialist help must be sought **– police or Sunflower Centre.**

[**DA toolkit single docs\DA toolkit for professionals - templates\dom\_abuse\_caada\_dash.pdf**](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CAdmin%5CDocuments%5CNADASA%20DEV%20PROJECT%5CProject%20documents%5CTOOLKIT%5CDA%20toolkit%20single%20docs%5CDA%20toolkit%20for%20professionals%20-%20templates%5Cdom_abuse_caada_dash.pdf)

* **MARAC referral form –** this is the form agencies use to refer a client to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference – this is a multi agency meeting that discusses a case in confidence and then agrees a plan to keep the client safe and provide appropriate help.

[**DA toolkit single docs\MARAC Referral tpl Oct15.doc**](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CAdmin%5CDocuments%5CNADASA%20DEV%20PROJECT%5CProject%20documents%5CTOOLKIT%5CDA%20toolkit%20single%20docs%5CMARAC%20Referral%20tpl%20Oct15.doc)

* **Victim Passport -** to make a referral – a standard referral form of information when making a referral to another service; it includes a form of consent from the client**.** [**DA toolkit single docs\Nadasa adapted Victim Passport V2 GGB.docx**](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CAdmin%5CDocuments%5CNADASA%20DEV%20PROJECT%5CProject%20documents%5CTOOLKIT%5CDA%20toolkit%20single%20docs%5CNadasa%20adapted%20Victim%20Passport%20V2%20GGB.docx)
* **Legal grounds for sharing information guidance -** if the client does not consent to sharing information use this guidance to help you decide if a disclosure should still be made.[**DA toolkit single docs\Legal Grounds for Sharing Information Guidance.pdf**](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CAdmin%5CDocuments%5CNADASA%20DEV%20PROJECT%5CProject%20documents%5CTOOLKIT%5CDA%20toolkit%20single%20docs%5CLegal%20Grounds%20for%20Sharing%20Information%20Guidance.pdf)