

tipSHEET

Is your client experiencing domestic or family violence?

What can I ask?

- Has there been any AVOs or police call outs?
- Do you feel safe to go home?
- Has the other person ever shoved you, broken things, punched walls or hurt you?
- Did the other person control your money or keep finances secret from you?
- Was the other person jealous or controlling?
- Or start simple ... Has there been any violence between you?

It is okay to ask. Research shows that people appreciate being asked.

Things Not To Say

















- They didn't hit you, so it's not violence
- Why did they hit you?
- Did that really happen?

Asking something is better than not.

What can I say?

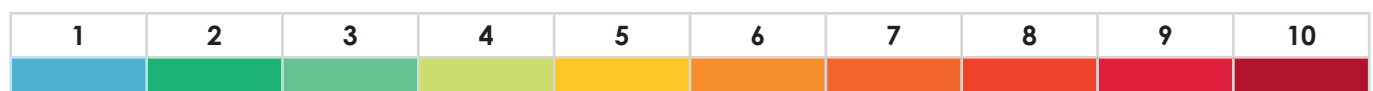
- Thank you for telling me. I realise it can be hard to talk about.
- I'm sorry you have experienced that. We may be able to help.

Is your client at high risk?

High risk factors	Threats to harm/kill victim, family, pet 	Choking 	Threats of suicide/self-harm 	Controlling/jealous behaviour 
	Access to weapons 	Past breach AVO/orders 	Stalking behaviour 	Sexual coercion/violence 
High risk times	Recent separation 	Pregnancy or new birth 	Current court matter 	Recent escalation of violence/control 
	Substance abuse 	Mental health issues 	Financial issues or unemployment 	Victim isolated 

Client's own assessment of their safety

How fearful are you of the other person on a scale of 1 to 10. 1 being not scared at all, 10 being terrified?



Your professional assessment of your client's safety

Use your knowledge, skills, experience, observations and any other information to help you in understanding your client's level of risk.