



Respect adaptation of the CAADA Risk Identification Checklist (RIC) for gathering and analysing information from and about perpetrators

Guidance for work with survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse in domestic violence perpetrator programmes (September 2010)

This document is an adaptation of the most recent (2009) version of the [CAADA Risk Identification Checklist \(RIC\)](#) (©CAADA, 2009), which was developed for professionals working with victims of domestic abuse, stalking and so-called 'honour'-based violence.

Domestic violence perpetrator programmes work with both victims and perpetrators this allows for the consideration of risk levels to be informed by multiple sources, including information from the perpetrator. Some Respect members are already using the RIC and adapting it for documenting information about perpetrators. In consultation with CAADA, Respect has now created, in this document, a fully adapted version of the RIC for use in DVPPs or other settings where information from and about the perpetrator may be considered with information from or about the victim.

Scope of the guidance and risk identification checklist

As evidence from rigorous research is currently only available for domestic abuse where the perpetrator is male and the victim female we urge practitioners using this tool to exercise caution about extending the use to other settings. Some risk factors do not simply translate across to other relationships. This is due in part to the unequal access to resources and assumptions about the roles of men, women, heterosexuals and gay people etc.

This version of the RIC and the guidance with it are therefore only intended to be used to gather information about the risk factors relating to a particular pair of people where the suspected perpetrator is male and their suspected, known or potential victim is female.

1. Background to the Risk Identification Checklist (RIC) and this version

This tool was developed by CAADA (Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse) for use within the MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) structure locally, to identify victims at high or medium risk from domestic violence and to coordinate safety interventions between agencies. It has been developed particularly for IDVAs (Independent Domestic Violence Advocates) to use in their work with victims of domestic violence who come to the attention of criminal justice agencies. The current version of the tool and the guidance for its use with survivors/victims is available from [this link](#).

The questions are based on the evidence from research and practice of which factors increase the risk of domestic violence incidents taking place or getting more dangerous.

The tool has been adopted in various local MARAC and other settings. There is a benefit from all agencies using the same tool consistently, incorporating all relevant variations. This allows meaningful comparisons of the results of different MARACS, between different assessments on the same client, allowing for rigorous monitoring of the effects of interventions to promote the safety of victims. This guidance is therefore partly intended to help practitioners to use the same tool as well as to provide an evidence based risk identification tool to support their work with people using domestic violence and with their partners and ex-partners in domestic violence intervention programmes.

This guidance is a supplement to the CAADA guidance, not a replacement. It is intended to help practitioners and managers of domestic violence intervention programmes working with people using violence and their partners and ex-partners.

2. Purpose of this version of the Risk Identification Checklist

Organisations may wish to use the tool for various purposes. CAADA guidance states that:

This form is designed for agencies who are part of the MARAC process and who do not have their own assessment tool or who would like a supplementary form for identifying domestic violence risk. The primary purpose of the form is to identify risk to the adult victim and to be able to offer appropriate resources/support in the form of the MARAC for the most serious cases. Furthermore, the information from the checklist will support agencies to make defensible decisions based on the evidence from extensive research of cases, including domestic homicides and 'near misses' which forms the basis of the most recognised models of risk assessment.

Domestic violence perpetrator programmes (DVPPs) will also want to use the RIC for these purposes:

1. To identify, monitor and respond to risk within the intervention project, via case management and in work with individual men and women.
2. To inform the development of safety plans with victims of domestic violence.
3. To identify the extent to which people using domestic violence acknowledge what they have been doing, identify it as harmful and understand the risks of their behaviour. This can then help to plan interventions, set goals with clients for changing their behaviour, identify what steps they need to take to be safer immediately and in the long term.
4. To inform reports for social workers, courts and others about the levels of risk posed by an individual with a particular victim.
5. To alert other specific agencies to risk and continued danger in a formal way.

6. To make referrals to MARAC or other inter agency structures or to a specific agency such as the police or social services.
7. To use as a systematic way of reviewing risk during case management.
8. To fulfil the requirements of the Respect Accreditation Standard (listed in brackets after each heading below) on case and risk assessment and management.

3. Who should use this version of the RIC

1. Integrated Support Service (ISS) workers working with victims of domestic violence, including partners and ex-partners of people on group work programmes will need to gather information and use these records regularly (See below).
2. Domestic Violence Prevention Programme (DVPP) workers working with perpetrators of domestic violence will need to gather information and use these records regularly (see below).
3. Anyone involved in case management will need to read and refer to these records.
4. Managers responsible for ensuring that risk is identified and responded to adequately will need to check that records of these processes are kept and referred to in case management.

4. When to use this version of the RIC

1. During initial assessments with all clients, both those using or suspected of using violence, and those experiencing or suspected of experiencing violence. Women's support workers may find that they need to gather information informally over a few initial sessions before they can complete the form.
2. Whenever risk changes the information should be updated and recorded with a new record.
3. As part of case management, to review risk routinely and to review intervention and safety planning.
4. At the end of any group work with the person using violence, to assess changes in risk levels.
5. Before MARAC meetings, review records of risk identification and identify if there are any clients who need to be referred to MARAC, or if they are already referred, use the records as part of the MARAC review.

5. How to use the RIC and this version in particular

The [CAADA guidance on using the RIC](#) provides detailed information on how to gather and interpret information about and from clients who are victims of domestic violence. Everyone using the tool should read and become thoroughly familiar with the content of that guidance as well as this document.

In organisations running domestic violence intervention programmes, the tool can be used in the following ways:

- By asking all clients, both those using violence and those experiencing it, about all the items in the tool or some, either formally checking through each item on a paper or computer version of the form or through taking notes during an individual session and writing these up on the risk identification form afterwards.
- By noting information provided by clients, in, for example, support sessions with survivors or group work with perpetrators and creating a new risk identification record with the amended information.
- By noting information provided by third parties and creating an amended record.
- BY reviewing what is known about both clients and any relevant children during case management.

6. ISS workers working with survivors/ victims of domestic violence (Respect Accreditation Standards B1.1 and B2.1)

During initial and subsequent contact with partners and ex-partners, ISS workers will gather information about any changes in risk factors or abusive behaviour. This will reflect the focus in their work on the safety and well being of victims of domestic violence, to alerting them to risk if they are not already aware of it and to working with them to reduce risk as far as possible.

ISS workers should use this tool (or an equivalent) with anyone experiencing or likely to be at risk of domestic violence. This includes partners and ex-partners of people being assessed for programmes, other victims referred for risk assessments or other reasons depending on the services offered by the organisation.

During initial assessments or meetings practitioners collect information about a client's level of safety and risk, through discussions around their history of using or experiencing domestic violence. This maybe enough information to complete the RIC, however most practitioners will find that there are area of the clients experience or behaviour covered in the RIC for which they have no information and these should be covered in the subsequent sessions. **If the victim does not engage with the service it can still**

be possible to complete the form by using referral information and information gathered from the perpetrator.

7. DVPP workers (Respect Accreditation Standards B1.2 and B2.2)

DVPP workers should gather as much information from people being assessed for the programme or otherwise in contact with the service, in initial assessments about the risk factors identified in the RIC. You can use the specific version in this document for gathering information from the perpetrator. You may use the paper form and guidance as a prompt or use other interviewing techniques and approaches as suits the organisational model of work.

DVPP workers may also wish to use this process as a way of starting to alert the individual to the dangerousness of their behaviour and to the need for change. This will reflect the focus of the work with those using domestic violence on reducing or ending their abusive and dangerous behaviour and to working with them to support those changes.

Please note that information about the client's criminal record would not necessarily include records of police call outs or police referrals but you may consider that these indicate significant risks or changes in risk to include them. This may help you to present this information formally to other agencies such as Children's Services or police in order to highlight the need for them to take action. It may also result in an identification of the case as high risk. See below (section 10) for further guidance on whether and when to refer to MARAC.

If the person using violence does not engage with the service but the victim is in touch with the ISS, a risk assessment should still be carried out, using information from the referral, from the victim if possible, from the perpetrator's lack of engagement etc.

8. Communicating with clients in risk assessments (B1.2, B1.2, D1.5)

Clients can be involved in the assessment in various ways. You can use the form and work through each question with the client and record the answers they give. You can use the usual structures of initial assessment sessions you already have and transfer information to the risk assessment form afterwards.

Bring together the information from men and from women can help to provide a more complete picture as well as an initial assessment of different levels of understanding or acknowledgement of abusive behaviour, by comparing the two assessments and combining these.

Clients should be informed of the result of your assessment of risk unless this is unsafe. They should also be offered the chance to comment on the assessment. There is a space on REDAMOS for you to add this information.

Revealing the results of the RIC to the perpetrator: wherever possible the perpetrator should be informed about the conclusions you have reached as a result of the RIC as this can help to ensure he understands the reasons for your actions and that there are consequences for being abusive. However, this may sometimes be threatening for the abuser or may feel dangerous to you as a practitioner, you should not refer to information that has solely come from the partner. If you are acting primarily or solely on information he has provided you may also want to take into account the impact of your actions on future disclosures in the group – however, this is a constant struggle for DVPPs and should not deter you from taking action when you are alerted to changes in risk.

9. Case management and review (Standards B1.1, B1.2, D1.2, D1.4)

Case management should include a review of risk for clients. It may be that there are no changes in risk, in which case the records do not need to be amended. It is not necessary to ask the client or partner again about every single question in the tool each week. ISS and DVPP workers will use information given to them in support sessions or group work or other contact with or about clients and identify if any of this has resulted in a change in risk. If there is a change in risk, a new record should be made (see below) and a plan of action identified. This could include:

- Referring a case to MARAC
- Referring a case to child protection proceedings
- ISS making contact with the victim to review and update safety plans
- DVPP considering bringing up relevant specific topics in group or individual work without revealing that this has come about as a result of this specific change in risk.
- DVPP considering bringing up changes in risk directly with the person using violence.
- DVPP considering suspending the perpetrator from group work if it is identified that their presence on the group is being used to undermine the women's safety, by for example, acting as sufficient evidence of change to other agencies or courts, without any real evidence of reductions in abusive behaviour.
- Programmes working to the Respect Service Standard will carry out a case management process, which include a regular, minuted review of the progress of a particular client or clients. Incorporating a review of risk factors into the case management process is a part of this activity and some programmes will already be doing this.
- Women's support workers (ISS) and men's workers (DVPP) should share information from the perpetrator and relevant partner/ex-partner/other family member, depending on who they are a risk to. This may take place formally, for example in written feedback from DVPP workers to

ISS workers after a group work session, or informally through adhoc case discussions. However, significant information should be formally reviewed and recorded in case management and the CAADA/DVPP RIC updated at regular intervals or when significant changes in risk occur.

10. When to refer a case to another agency (Standard section F)

To the police: if there is evidence of a crime and the workers and ideally also the victim identifies the need for the police to act in the interests of the safety of the woman and/or children.

To CAFCASS: if there is an implication for child contact proceedings, for example if a recent incident has happened during contact handover or if there have been threats of child abduction.

To IDVA: where the level of risk is high and/or where the victim wishes to pursue criminal action against their abuser.

To MARAC: the following boxed text is an extract from the RIC

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.

If the victim is identified as at high risk or if there are other significant concerns about danger, then referral to the MARAC can be discussed with the MARAC co-ordinator. Practitioners may first want or need to consult practice managers and colleagues in ISS about the benefits of making a MARAC referral in cases which identify as medium or in some circumstances high risk. For example, if the man is engaging with the programme, the woman is engaging with the ISS and the children are receiving good support from an appropriate source and there is no new physical violence, it may be that the risk is identified as medium or high but there would be no benefit to referring to a MARAC. If in doubt, discuss the findings with the MARAC coordinator.



To child protection: if the information indicates a risk of harm to children, then follow your safeguarding procedures. It maybe useful to complete a Common Assessment Framework form, as the domestic violence risk identification tool does not cover all relevant aspects of a child’s life. Where possible, the victim’s consent and active participation should be sought in all actions to safeguard their children. ISS workers will want to work with the victim to identify possible benefits, understand the processes and have their views made known.

11. Recording information from the RIC (Standard A1.1E, A1.10, A5.3, A6.1)

When you are keeping information on the risk levels posed by or to individual clients you will need to exercise caution about which information is placed in which file, as this may have implications for risk and data management. For example, if there has been a significant change in the identification of risk, based on information provided by the woman only, recording the details of this in the copy to be placed in the perpetrator’s file may cause a risk to her if he asks to see his file. You will need to consult your data protection policy and confidentiality policy to ensure that the relevant information is filed but without exposing the woman to potential threats or retribution if her partner sees his file.

Information can be held on paper or on computer files including the Respect client information management database REDAMOS. You can print off a copy from REDAMOS, the CAADA website or from a saved copy of the Word document from the CAADA website.

11.1 If the information is to be stored on the Respect REDAMOS client database

On the first occasion, click on “risk identification” tab and go to that page to open a new record. Follow the instructions in the REDAMOS guide to understand more about how to use the system.

You do not need to re-enter every detail which has not changed – simply copy the previous record, amend those details which have changed and re-save it as a new record. On Redamos, a new risk identification assessment can be opened for each client, linking the two particular people involved through a contact connection (see database training manual). Whenever there is a change in risk, Redamos allows you to create a new complete risk identification record in a short time, by cloning the previous record and then allowing you to update only that information which has changed. Each risk identification review will then be stored as a separate document, linked to both parties’ client records. If information is gathered on paper, the organisation will have to decide whether or not to keep the paper copy once it is entered into Redamos.

The Respect Standard recommends that wherever possible information is stored in only one location and copies taken only for specific purposes. This prevents unnecessary duplication of records, reduces the likelihood of information being missed in one storage location and reduces the risk to the security of that piece of information, provided an adequate computer back up is being regularly made of all information held on Redamos.

11.2 If the information is to be stored only on paper

Each client file should have a copy of the record of the risk identification forms collected about them.

Information gathered from the victim should only be stored in that file, it must not be stored in the perpetrators' file unless there are secure processes for ensuring that it would be removed if the perpetrator wished to see the contents of his file. Ideally, there will be a note indicating that there is a risk identification report in the partner's file.

Information from the perpetrator can be stored in their file and a combined risk identification record could be stored in the victim's file as well. There should be a note indicating that there is a separate report in the partner's file.

11.3 If the information is to be stored on another computer system

If the document is completed manually on paper, the organisation could scan the report and attach that pdf to the client file, or complete a form in a word processing document, convert it to pdf and attach it. The most recent risk identification report could be stored in the client's back up paper file, if this is to be kept.

12. When to create an updated risk identification record

You should usually consider reviewing or carrying out a new RIC assessment in these circumstances:

- Birth of child/pregnancy
- New incident of physical or sexual abuse revealed in group work or support for victims
- Separation
- Child contact dispute
- Increase in misuse of substance
- Threats to kill or new access to weapon
- New assault
- Victim's fear or depression, perpetrator's depression or other mental health problem
- Worker's perception of changes in risk

13. Using the tool to write reports for other agencies

You can use this tool to collect information in a clear, methodical way to prepare a report for another agency about risk of future violence to the victim and also the likelihood of violence which can have an impact on children. This may be useful for reporting to Cafcass about disputed child contact cases or to child protection/safeguarding proceedings.

CAADA-DASH Risk Identification Checklist for use by practitioners working with perpetrators

There are three checklists on the following pages.

The [first checklist](#) is the **Perpetrator version of the RIC** and is to gather information from known or suspected perpetrators. You can then combine this with information from or about victims or use alone if there is no information from victims, in order to assess levels of risk to specific victim(s) from a specific perpetrator. There is a separate, shorter version of this checklist to use to combine the information from both in paper form. If you are using REDAMOS, you can also combine the information from both online reports to make one combined one, whilst still retaining the separate ones for clarification.

Those working with victims should continue to use exactly the same CAADA-DASH checklist for work with victims. Practitioners can then combine the information from/about perpetrator and victim into the [third person version](#) provided in this document on page 14.

The 24 questions (presented in the first table below) correspond to the questions for the victim in the CAADA RIC, re-phrased for asking the perpetrator. This is not simply to find out if the perpetrator is minimising or denying violence or to get two versions of the history, although both of these are useful contributions to the risk assessment process. They are also to find out or review information directly from or about the perpetrator, which can include from the perpetrator during group work. There is a second set of questions, these are supplementary questions which you can ask or record information about, which apply or are relevant to perpetrators only, particularly if your service is not yet working with the victim.

[The second checklist](#) is to use for recording additional information from/about perpetrators, particularly to find out about other women he may be a risk to. This may then prompt you to consider if there is a need to complete a separate RIC for another pair combination – for example, if the perpetrator is a risk to his current partner and his ex-partner, you will need to complete one in relation to the risk he poses to each (see checklist 2 for additional questions to help identify if this is needed).

[The third checklist](#) is a **third person version of the main RIC**, to provide you with a paper version of the online REDAMOS version to use to combine information from and about perpetrator and victim to obtain a comprehensive enhanced picture of current risk.



[There is some guidance](#) about asking someone who may be a perpetrator questions about different forms of abuse. Usually you will have received specialist training on interviewing people who may be using abuse. This will therefore be a reminder.

Finally there is a [pro forma for you to record your decisions](#) about referral to MARAC or to safeguarding children or another agency.



1. RIC version to use directly with perpetrators

Please enter in any relevant information you have gathered from the perpetrator from his assessment, group work, individual sessions or in other ways. You should let him know that you are monitoring the level of risk you think he poses to his victim and others.	Yes	No	Source of info
1. Did the current or most recent incident result in an injury to your partner/ex?			
2. Do you think your partner/ex is frightened of you?			
3. Do you think your violence to your partner is getting worse? Do you think you are likely to use violence again?			
4. Have you ever tried to stop your partner/ex from seeing friends/family/doctor/colleagues or made life difficult if she did? Are you doing that at the moment?			
5. Do you think your partner/ex is having depressed or suicidal thoughts at the moment?			
6. Have you and your partner separated from each other or tried to separate in the last year? HAS your partner ever tried to separate from you and you haven't wanted this? [are there other women with whom you are in conflict about child contact, for example informal or formal foster carers, ex-partner mother of children]			
7. [Do you have children that you do not live with –if so do you and your ex-partner currently disagree or get into arguments about the child contact? <i>[please note that there are additional questions to help identify other potential or actual victims, which may then prompt the need for another RIC for this pairing of perpetrator-potential victim. See below]</i>			
8. How often do you text, facebook, phone, contact, follow your partner or ex or turn up at their work or friends etc when they weren't expecting you? Do you do these things a lot and is this getting worse?			
9. Is your current or most recent partner pregnant or had a baby within the last 18 months? [Are there other women you have children with are and any of these currently pregnant or recently had babies – this will alert you to possible widening of range of victims]			
10. Do you think your abuse is getting worse?			
11. Do you think you are being abusive more often than you used to be?			
12. Do you try to control what your partner does in some ways? Are you jealous – for example, do you get upset if they talk to another man or when they go out without you?			
13. Have you ever used an object, such as cutlery, a chair, something else, to hurt or threaten your partner? Have you ever used a weapon to hurt anyone? Does this include your partner? Have you ever threatened to hurt your partner with a weapon?]			
14. Have you ever threatened to kill your partner or ex, or someone else in your family? If so, do you think you might have made them believe this, at least at the time?			

Please enter in any relevant information you have gathered from the perpetrator from his assessment, group work, individual sessions or in other ways. You should let him know that you are monitoring the level of risk you think he poses to his victim and others.	Yes	No	Source of info
15. Have you ever put your hands round your partner's throat and hurt them that way? Or held them down in water?			
16. Have you touched your partner sexually in ways that you suspect, or knew made her feel uncomfortable or hurt her or someone else? (If someone else, specify who.)			
17. Have you ever involved someone else in threatening your partner/ex or other family member? E.g. friend or relative who is on your side. If so, who is this?			
18. Have you ever hurt anyone beside your partner/ex? Someone like an ex-partner, but also any other family member, friend, colleague, someone you know casually, someone you don't know well, a stranger? If so, please say who (make a list if necessary) children, another family member Someone from previous family relationship, Ex-partner's new partner; Acquaintance			
19. Have you ever mistreated the family pet or other animal, such as neighbour's dog or something like that?			
20. Do you currently have money worries or have you recently lost your job or worry about losing it? Do you feel under financial pressure? Are you currently in disagreement with your partner/ex over money problems and do these sometimes cause big arguments? [tick yes if he answers yes to any of these – they are all just different ways of asking about risks arising from finance]			
21. Are you using any drugs or have you in the last few years used drugs or alcohol to the point where people tell you it is a problem or you start to worry it is a problem or start spending money you can't afford on drugs or alcohol or pass out from drug or alcohol use? Are you currently depressed or have any other problems with your mental health? Are you taking any medication for depression or other mental illness?			
22. Have you ever thought about or threatened suicide or tried to kill yourself?			
23. Have you ever had a bail order or injunction/order telling you not to contact or hurt your partner/ex or the children? If so, have you ever ignored that order and done something it said you shouldn't do, like calling on them to give the kids presents or something else like that?			
24. Have you ever been in any trouble with the police? Do you have any criminal convictions [you can emphasise that you can ask the police to check their records but would prefer it if they were honest with you in the first place.] If so what type of criminal activity			

2. Additional specific questions for perpetrators

Please enter in any relevant information you have gathered from the perpetrator from his assessment, group work, individual sessions etc.	Yes	No	Source
1) Are you/ <i>is he</i> in a new relationship since ending the one with the primary victim?			
<i>If you have answered yes to the above please complete anew RIC specifically for this relationship, ensure that relevant information is collected about additional children where they exist.</i>			
2) Is your/ <i>is his</i> ex-partner in a new relationship and are upset or angry about this?			
3) Have you/ <i>has he</i> threatened your ex-partner's new partner?			
4) Are there other women in your/ <i>his</i> life who have felt threaten by your/ <i>his</i> behaviour			
5) If you have answered yes to the above please assess the risk to this person and their needs for safety, if necessary complete a separate RIC.			
6) Has your/ <i>has his</i> partner ever used any force against you/ <i>him</i> ?			
<i>If you answered yes to the above please note that if the victim is using violence to protect themselves this can heighten the risk of serious violence as the abuser will usually increase levels of violence in return. This should be considered when thing about the overall level of risk</i>			
7) Do you keep a knife or gun at home or other sort of weapon, even if it is just for show? DO you have any hobbies which allow you contact with weapons? Does your job put you in contact with weapons? Have you been trained in combat techniques – such as in TA, martial arts etc?			
<i>If you answered yes to the above</i> <i>On its own, having a hobby like these would not necessarily mean a risk of violence; however, coupled with history of violence and other indicators of future risk, it increases the likelihood that any future violence will be dangerous</i>			

Need for a new RIC If any of these questions reveal the existence of other people the perpetrator may be a risk to, such as a carer of his child (foster parent, family member) an ex-partner, particularly if they are the mother of a child of his, a new partner, his ex-partner's new partner, this should prompt you to collect evidence you have about this pairing of perpetrator and potential victim, on a separate RIC. You will usually make proactive contact with any potential or likely victim, as part of the work of the Integrated Support Service for victims/partners/ex-partners. This will provide you with information you can combine with the information from the perpetrator.

3. Third person version to combine information from all sources

Please enter in any relevant information you have gathered from the victim, perpetrator, referring agency, any other relevant agency, policy records etc	Y	N	d.k.	Source
1. Did the current or most recent incident result in an injury to victim? (is perpetrator denying this?)				
2. Is victim frightened of perpetrator?				
3. Is violence getting worse or more frequent?				
4. Is victim being kept from seeing friends/family/doctor etc?				
5. Is victim suicidal or depressed?				
6. Is separation imminent? Has victim tried to separate before?				
7. Is there disagreement about child contact?				
8. Is perpetrator constantly checking up on victim (stalking)?				
9. Has victim recently had baby or is she pregnant?				
10. Is abuse getting worse or more controlling in effect?				
11. Is abuse more frequent than it used to be?				
12. Is perpetrator very jealous and controlling about victim's contact with men?				
13. Has perpetrator ever used weapon against this victim or previous one?				
14. Has perpetrator ever threatened to kill victim or previous partner or someone else in family in ways which made them believe it?				
15. Has perpetrator ever attempted to choke, strangle, suffocate or drown victim or someone else?				
16. Does the perpetrator denigrate their partner (ex-partner) sexually or physically abuse them (or others) sexually or coerce them into sexual behaviour that they are not comfortable with.				
17. Are other people involved in hurting or threatening or policing victim?				
18. Has perpetrator hurt others? Has perpetrator abused past partners?				
19. Has perpetrator ever abused animal, particularly family pet?				
20. Is perpetrator in financial crisis or making victim dependent on him for money, or facing unemployment?				
21. Is perpetrator using drugs or alcohol in problematic ways? Is perpetrator currently depressed or have any other problems with mental health or taking any medication for depression or other mental illness?				
22. Has perpetrator ever thought about or threatened suicide or tried to kill themselves?				
23. Has perpetrator ever broken bail order or injunction? Are they denying this?				
24. Does perpetrator have criminal record? Is any of this for domestic violence?				

Additional guidance for asking perpetrators about abuse

Physical abuse

Asking the perpetrator and also the victim which incidents they consider to be the worst and the most recent will often tell you a great deal.

You will often be gathering information about the range of abusive behaviour a perpetrator says he has used as part of your initial assessment. You may wish to ask supplementary direct questions according to the questions on the RIC, or record information he reveals in group work, or a combination.

Sexual abuse

You will need to be aware of the likelihood that the perpetrator will not want consider himself as having used sexual abusive behaviour.

Perpetrators, particularly at the assessment or initial stages of the group work intervention, are unlikely to recognise the sexually abusive behaviour they will have used. However, almost every perpetrator who uses physical violence or threats will have carried out some sexual behaviour which was not consensual, but he is not likely to recognise this until he has done some work in the programme. You can ask if he thinks his partner has ever gone along with sex or sexual activities “for a quiet life” or because she was scared of what he might do.

You can ask a perpetrator what effects he thinks his violence may have had on his sex life with his partner – this may reveal information about coercive sexual acts.

Coercion, threats and intimidation

Ask the perpetrator about damage they have done to property – this is particularly important for those perpetrators who have not acknowledged or recognised the full range of abusive behaviours or those who are minimising or denying physical violence.

Ask perpetrator if he has ever followed or checked up on his partner (stalking questions)

Ask perpetrator how often he usually texts or phones his partner/ex-partner

Ask of he harassed or checked up on his partner (ex-partner) at her workplace, has he waited for her to leave work and watch to see if she is with someone. (this information may be helpful for safety planning)

Ask perpetrator how the arrangements for child contact are and if he has felt he had to take action which his ex-partner did not like in order to get access to the children – this will tell you more about any possible conflict over child contact and associated risks

Economic abuse

Ask perpetrator if he is working and if his partner is working. If he is working and she is not, ask him how she gets money. Ask if he gets the child benefits or child care tax credits paid to him. Ask him how he feels about his partner working. Ask him how he feels about his current money situation.

Children and pregnancy

Perpetrators may be a risk to children from several different combinations of parents, including their own with the primary victim, a new partner's children, children of foster parents, etc.

Find out which children the perpetrator has contact with – his own, new partner's, ex-partner from previous relationship. Remain alert to information he is giving in group work about his children and other children he has contact with.

Find out if any of the relevant women are pregnant at the moment, not just the current victim.

His mental state

Ask the perpetrator if he has been feeling down or depressed. Ask if he has ever hurt himself or considered hurting or killing himself. Ask if he has ever acted on these thoughts. Ask if he has ever had medical treatment or medication for depression. Ask if he is currently having such treatment or has been told he should.

Full RIC, severity grid and guidance

Please use the RIC for victims and the guidance for assessing severity of risk created by CAADA contained in this version. You can download it from CAADA website or open it from the embedded file



Full CAADA RIC, grid
and guidance

Go to page 9 for the severity of abuse grid. Page 2 for guidance on when to refer to MARAC.



Pro forma for recording decisions about RIC results and referral

**Do you believe that there are reasonable grounds for referring this case to MARAC?
Yes/No**

If yes, have you made a referral? Yes/No

Details of the referral (who did you refer to)

Date of MARAC:

Who will attend from this agency:

**Do you think it is necessary to contact another agency, such as police or solicitor or
Cafcass: Yes/no**

If yes, which agencies? Please write names and contact details here:

Do you believe that there are risks facing the children in the family? Yes/No

If yes, please confirm if you have made a referral to safeguard the children: Yes/No Date referral
made

Safeguarding referral contact details (who did you refer to):

Signed:

Name:

Job role:

Date: