

## SafeLives Dash risk checklist for use by Idvas and other non-police agencies<sup>1</sup> for identification of risks when domestic abuse, 'honour'- based violence and/or stalking are disclosed

<p>Please explain that the purpose of asking these questions is for the safety and protection of the individual concerned.</p> <p>Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.</p> <p>It is assumed that your main source of information is the victim. If this is <b>not</b> the case, please indicate in the right hand column</p>	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	State source of info if not the victim (eg police officer)
<p><b>1. Has the current incident resulted in injury?</b> Please state what and whether this is the first injury.</p> <p><i>No current injuries – previous bruise to ears and eye in 1976</i></p>		X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>2. Are you very frightened?</b> Comment: <i>Sometimes – he takes me by surprise sometimes. I can't always tell what will upset him now he has dementia.</i></p>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>3. What are you afraid of? Is it further injury or violence?</b> Please give an indication of what you think [name of abuser(s)] might do and to whom, including children.</p> <p>Comment: <i>Yes as the dementia means I can't predict when he is going to lash out. I am scared of falling as I am not as strong as I used to be. I don't want to have a broken hip.</i></p> <p><i>Also – "Failing to see this through and be "a good wife"/Godfrey having to go into a home".</i></p>	X	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>4. Do you feel isolated from family/friends?</b> ie, does [name of abuser(s)] try to stop you from seeing friends/ family/ doctor or others?</p> <p>Comment: <i>I Skype with children and grandchildren in USA and Angela is just around the corner. I have good friends</i></p>		X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>5. Are you feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts?</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>6. Have you separated or tried to separate from Godfrey within the past year?</b></p>		X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>7. Is there conflict over child contact?</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>8. Does Godfrey constantly text, call, contact, follow, stalk or harass you?</b> 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.</p> <p><i>He follows me around in the evenings once we have gone upstairs and tries to come into my bedroom. I can't always get him to stay in his own room. Some nights he just keeps wandering up and down the landing and I can't sleep.</i></p>	X		<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>9. Are you pregnant or have you recently had a baby (within the last 18 months)?</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>10. Is the abuse happening more often? since Godfrey has dementia</b></p>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<sup>1</sup> Note: This checklist is consistent with the ACPO endorsed risk assessment model DASH 2009 for the police service.

11. Is the abuse getting worse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
12. Does [ Godfrey ] try to control everything you do and/or are they excessively jealous? <i>For example: in terms of relationships; who you see; being 'policed' at home; telling you what to wear. Consider 'honour'-based violence (HBV) and specify behaviour.</i>  <i>He controls what we eat, the colour of sheets, type of soap we use, what I wear.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
13. Has [ Godfrey ] ever used weapons or objects to hurt you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14. Has [ Godfrey ] ever threatened to kill you or someone else and you believed him? If yes, tick who: You Children <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/>  <i>Maybe – I can't remember</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>State source of info</b>
Has [ Godfrey ] ever attempted to strangle / choke / suffocate / drown you? <i>Don't want to answer</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
15. Does [ Godfrey ] do or say things of a sexual nature that make you feel bad or that physically hurt you or someone else? <i>If someone else, specify who.</i>  <i>Don't want to answer</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
16. Is there any other person who has threatened you or who you are afraid of? If yes, please specify whom and why. Consider extended family if HBV.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
17. Do you know if [ Godfrey ] has hurt anyone else? Consider HBV. Please specify whom, including the children, siblings or elderly relatives: Children <input type="checkbox"/> Another family member <input type="checkbox"/> Someone from a previous relationship <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
18. Has [ Godfrey ] ever mistreated an animal or the family pet?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
19. Are there any financial issues? For example, are you dependent on [name of abuser(s)] for money/have they recently lost their job/other financial issues?  <i>Godfrey reluctant to spend money on his own care expecting Betty to do everything - may have changed now at day centre</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<p><b>20. Has [Godfrey] had problems in the past year with drugs (prescription or other), alcohol or mental health leading to problems in leading a normal life?</b>          If yes, please specify which and give relevant details if known.          Drugs          Alcohol          Mental health <span style="float: right;">x dementia</span></p>	X			
<p><b>21. Has Godfrey ever threatened or attempted suicide?</b></p>			X	
<p><b>22. Has [Godfrey] ever broken bail/an injunction and/or formal agreement for when they can see you and/or the children?</b>          You may wish to consider this in relation to an ex-partner of the perpetrator if relevant.          Bail conditions          Non Molestation/Occupation Order <input type="checkbox"/>          Child contact arrangements <input type="checkbox"/>          Forced Marriage Protection Order <input type="checkbox"/>          Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>			X	
<p><b>23. Do you know if [name of abuser(s)] has ever been in trouble with the police or has a criminal history?</b>          If yes, please specify:          Domestic abuse          Sexual violence <input type="checkbox"/>          Other violence          Other <span style="float: right;">x</span></p> <p><i>He was stopped and searched lots of times – but he was never involved in anything bad</i></p>		X		
<p><b>Total 'yes' responses</b></p>	7			

**For consideration by professional**

<p><b>Is there any other relevant information (from victim or professional) which may increase risk levels? Consider victim’s situation in relation to disability, substance misuse, mental health issues, cultural / language barriers, ‘honour’- based systems, geographic isolation and minimisation. Are they willing to engage with your service? Describe.</b></p>	<p>My professional view is that Betty has managed difficult and demanding behaviour from Godfrey throughout their married life. I believe that there may have been times during the marriage when she experienced physical and sexual assault.</p> <p>The risk to her appears to be increasing as Godfrey’s dementia progresses. There appears to be a particular risk at bed time with Godfrey wanting to come into Betty’s bedroom when she does not want him to.</p>
<p><b>Consider abuser’s occupation / interests. Could this give them unique access to weapons? Describe.</b></p>	
<p><b>What are the victim’s greatest priorities to address their safety?</b></p>	<p>To be able to keep caring for Godfrey For Godfrey not to hurt her or her him</p>

<p><b>Do you believe that there are reasonable grounds for referring this case to Marac?</b></p>	<p>Yes No      x</p>
<p><b>If yes, have you made a referral?</b></p>	<p>Yes No      x</p>
<p><b>Signed</b></p>	<p><i>Ruth Morgan</i></p>
<p><b>Date</b></p>	<p><i>Today</i></p>
<p><b>Do you believe that there are risks facing the children in the family?</b></p>	<p>Yes      <input type="checkbox"/> No      <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>
<p><b>If yes, please confirm if you have made a referral to safeguard the children?</b></p>	<p>Yes      <input type="checkbox"/> No      <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>Date referral made</b></p>	
<p><b>Signed</b></p>	<p><i>A Social Worker</i></p>
<p><b>Date</b></p>	
<p><b>Name</b></p>	<p><i>AS Worker</i></p>

**Practitioner’s notes**

This risk assessment forms part of a Sec 42 safeguarding adult’s enquiry. The initial concerns related to potential harm caused by Betty to Godfrey. I believe that this was a retaliatory action and it did not result in significant harm. I will be meeting with Godfrey again to ask for his views about whether he faces any risk from Betty. When I met with him last week he expressed the view that he does not.

There is a risk that as Godfrey’s dementia progresses Betty will become unable to protect herself against his behaviour. His behaviour appears to reflect past attempts to exercise coercive control over Betty within their marriage

This document reflects work undertaken by SafeLives in partnership with Laura Richards, Consultant Violence Adviser to ACPO. We would like to thank Advance, Blackburn with Darwen Women’s Aid and Berkshire East Family Safety Unit and all the partners of the Blackpool Marac for their contribution in piloting the revised checklist without which we could not have amended the original SafeLives risk identification checklist. We are very grateful to Elizabeth Hall of CAF/CASS and Neil Blacklock of Respect for their advice and encouragement and for the expert input we received from Jan Pickles, Dr Amanda Robinson and Jasvinder Sanghera.