

RISK OF ABUSE TOOL

Purpose: The Risk of Abuse Tool identifies common risk factors associated with cases of elder abuse and/or domestic violence. The Risk of Abuse Tool indicates whether the problem is likely to occur in a possible victim, a possible perpetrator, or both.

Instructions: A question intended for a possible victim is shaded in the column referring to the possible perpetrator and vice-versa. A question intended for both possible victim and possible perpetrator is identified by non-shaded columns next to the corresponding screening question. Service providers are encouraged to place a check mark in the appropriate row/question if they identify a particular problem/risk factor in either one or both columns.

RISK FACTOR SCREENING QUESTIONS	Possible Victim (check)	Possible Perpetrator (check)
Past Neglect, Abuse, or Criminal Offenses		
Is there a history of past abuse, violence (including use of guns/weapons or neglect)?		
Was the person convicted of abuse or another violent crime (including violation of a court order) in the past?		
Is there current violence toward family members or pets, or access to guns?		
Relationship Problems Between Possible Victim and Possible Perpetrator		
Is there evidence of current or past relationship problems (including abuse/violence)?		
Are there relationship problems specific to issues of power, control, dominance, coercion, and manipulation?		
Is there evidence of extreme jealousy and possessiveness?		
Do the parties have unrealistic expectations of each other?		
Physical, Emotional, or Mental Health-Related Problems		
Are there problems with anger and hostility?		
Are there problems with use of alcohol or drugs or medications?		
Are there mental health (including depression) or emotional problems?		
Is the person a “blamer”?		
Are there problems in physical health or functional activities (ADLs or IADLs)?		
Is there evidence of cognitive or memory impairment?		
Does the possible victim lack a regular doctor?		
Is the possible victim emotionally dependent?		
Is there evidence of behavior problems?		
Is there a lack of understanding of the medical condition?		
Does the possible perpetrator have problems with employment or work?		
Caregiving and Social Support		
Is there evidence of a lack of social support?		
Is there evidence of social isolation?		
Is there difficulty with or reluctance performing care-related tasks?		
Is there stress or strain or inexperience with caregiving?		
Is the possible perpetrator caring for other dependent family members?		
Is financial dependency a problem?		
Environmental and Household Characteristics		
Do the possible victim and perpetrator share a household?		
Does the house have hazardous environmental conditions?		

Bass, D. M., Anetzberger, G. J., Ejaz, F. K., Nagpaul, K. (2001). Screening tools and referral protocol for stopping abuse against older Ohioans: A guide for service providers. *Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect*, 13(2), 23-38.

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