

CAADA-DASH Risk Identification Checklist (RIC)

Aim of the form:

- To help front line practitioners identify high risk cases of domestic abuse, stalking and 'honour'-based violence.
- To decide which cases should be referred to MARAC and what other support might be required. A completed form becomes an active record that can be referred to in future for case management.
- To offer a common tool to agencies that are part of the MARAC¹ process and provide a shared understanding of risk in relation to domestic abuse, stalking and 'honour'-based violence.
- To enable agencies to make defensible decisions based on the evidence from extensive research of cases, including domestic homicides and 'near misses', which underpins most recognised models of risk assessment.

How to use the form:

Before completing the form for the first time we recommend that you read the full practice guidance and Frequently Asked Questions and Answers². These can be downloaded from www.caada.org.uk.

Risk is dynamic and can change very quickly. It is good practice to review the checklist after a new incident.

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.

Please pay particular attention to a practitioner's professional judgement in all cases. The results from a checklist are not a definitive assessment of risk. They should provide you with a structure to inform your judgement and act as prompts to further questioning, analysis and risk management whether via a MARAC or in another way.

¹ For further information about MARAC please refer to the CAADA MARAC Implementation Guide www.caada.org.uk and the adva website MARAC page: http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/childrenfamilies/domestic_violence/adva-professionals/marac.htm.

² For enquiries about training in the use of the form, please go to the adva website for details about our local half day course http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/childrenfamilies/domestic_violence/adva-professionals/adva-training/marac-process.htm.

CAADA offer full day multi agency risk training. Please check the CAADA website for details

What this form is not:

This form will provide valuable information about the risks that children are living with **but it is not a full risk assessment for children**. The presence of children increases the wider risks of domestic violence and step children are particularly at risk. **If risk towards children is highlighted you should consider what referral you need to make to obtain a full assessment of the children's situation.**

Devon's current (September 2010) local CAADA-DASH RIC Risk Thresholds:

'Standard Risk': Professional judgement and / or the number of 'ticks' on this checklist. If you have ticked **0 – 5** 'yes' boxes the case would currently meet the 'Standard Risk' criteria.

'Medium Risk': Professional judgement and / or the number of ticks' on this checklist. If you have ticked **6 – 13** 'yes' boxes the case would currently meet the 'Medium Risk' criteria.

'High Risk': Professional judgement and / or the number of 'ticks' on this checklist. If you have ticked **14 or more** 'yes' boxes the case would currently meet the MARAC referral criteria.

Devon's local Risk Management Pathways for each level of risk (risk threshold):

'Standard Risk': While risk indicators may be present, it is deemed neither imminent, nor serious. Explain that nobody needs to live with domestic violence and abuse and that there is support out there. It is important to remember that risk is dynamic and should be monitored. It is also important to stress that the police can and should be contacted in an emergency. Hand out the adva 'Home is Where the Hurt is' domestic abuse services leaflet: <http://www.devon.gov.uk/adva-hiwthi-leaflet-august10.pdf> with appropriate contact numbers for your area and ask the person to keep you informed about their safety.

'Medium Risk': There are identifiable features of risk or serious harm. This level of risk should be referred to the local specialist domestic violence and abuse 'Outreach' service in Devon (but this can only be done with **signed consent** on the completed RIC). Make the referral to 'Outreach' services once you have obtained the necessary signed consent on the RIC. Explain that nobody needs to live with domestic violence and abuse and that there is support out there. It is important to remember that risk is dynamic and should be monitored. It is also important to stress that the police can and should be contacted in an emergency. Hand out the adva 'Home is Where the Hurt is' domestic abuse services leaflet: <http://www.devon.gov.uk/adva-hiwthi-leaflet-august10.pdf> with appropriate contact numbers for your area and ask the person to keep you informed about their safety, especially if they haven't given their consent for a referral. Encourage them to make a self-referral in this instance.

'High Risk': There is imminent risk of serious harm. The potential event is more likely than not to happen imminently and the impact could be serious. There may be need for immediate intervention. After discussion with your line manager/colleague, it may be necessary to notify the Police and / or Children and Young People's Services immediately, without the consent of the victim. **Where any agency assesses risk as 'High' an immediate referral to MARAC is normally required, with or without consent.** Whilst it is best practice wherever possible to obtain the victim's consent to make a referral to MARAC, it is not always safe or possible to do so. It is important to remember to complete the **Information Sharing without Consent Form**, along with the **MARAC Referral Form**, if you are sharing information without consent. It is also important to stress that the police can and should be contacted in an emergency. Hand out the adva 'Home is Where the Hurt is' domestic abuse services leaflet: <http://www.devon.gov.uk/adva-hiwthi-leaflet-august10.pdf> with appropriate contact numbers for your area and ask the person to keep you informed about their safety.

CAADA-DASH Risk Identification Checklist for use by IDVAs and other non-police agencies³ for MARAC case identification 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. Tick the box if the factor is present <input type="checkbox"/>. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer. It is assumed that your main source of information is the victim. If this is <u>not the case</u> please indicate in the right hand column</p>	Yes (tick)	No	Don't Know	State source of info if not the victim e.g. police officer
1. Has the current incident resulted in injury? (Please state what and whether this is the first injury.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Are you very frightened? Comment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. What are you afraid of? Is it further injury or violence? (Please give an indication of what you think (name of abuser(s)...) might do and to whom, including children). Comment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Do you feel isolated from family/friends i.e. does (name of abuser(s)) try to stop you from seeing friends/family/doctor or others? Comment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Are you feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Have you separated or tried to separate from (name of abuser(s)....) within the past year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Is there conflict over child contact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8. Does (.....) constantly text, call, contact, follow, stalk or harass you? (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.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Are you pregnant or have you recently had a baby (within the last 18 months)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Is the abuse happening more often?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11. Is the abuse getting worse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Does (.....) try to control everything you do and/or are they excessively jealous? (In terms of relationships, who you see, being 'policed at home', telling you what to wear for example. Consider 'honour'-based violence and specify behaviour.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

³ Note: This checklist is consistent with the ACPO endorsed risk assessment model DASH 2009 for the police service.

Tick box if factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.	Yes (tick)	No	Don't Know	State source of info if not the victim
13. Has (.....) ever used weapons or objects to hurt you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14. Has (.....) ever threatened to kill you or someone else and you believed them? (If yes, tick who.) You <input type="checkbox"/> Children <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15. Has (.....) ever attempted to strangle/choke/suffocate/drown you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
16. Does (.....) do or say things of a sexual nature that make you feel bad or that physically hurt you or someone else? (If someone else, specify who.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
17. 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
18. Do you know if (.....) has hurt anyone else? (Please specify whom including the children, siblings or elderly relatives. Consider HBV.) 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
19. Has (.....) ever mistreated an animal or the family pet?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
20. Are there any financial issues? For example, are you dependent on (.....) for money/have they recently lost their job/other financial issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
21. Has (.....) had problems in the past year with drugs (prescription or other), alcohol or mental health leading to problems in leading a normal life? (If yes, please specify which and give relevant details if known.) Drugs <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
22. Has (.....) ever threatened or attempted suicide?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
23. Has (.....) ever broken bail/an injunction and/or formal agreement for when they can see you and/or the children? (You may wish to consider this in relation to an ex-partner of the perpetrator if relevant.) Bail conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Non Molestation/Occupation Order <input type="checkbox"/> Child Contact arrangements <input type="checkbox"/> Forced Marriage Protection Order <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

24. Do you know if (.....) has ever been in trouble with the police or has a criminal history? (If yes, please specify.) DV <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual violence <input type="checkbox"/> Other violence <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Total 'yes' responses				
<p>For consideration by professional: 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 and minimisation. Are they willing to engage with your service? Describe:</p> <p>Consider abuser's occupation/interests - could this give them unique access to weapons? Describe:</p>				
What are the victim's greatest priorities to address their safety?				
<p>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</p> <p>Signed: _____ Date: _____</p>				
<p>Do you believe that there are reasonable grounds for this case reaching the 'medium' risk threshold in Devon and therefore referral, with consent, to the local domestic abuse 'Outreach' service? Yes / No</p> <p>If yes, please obtain written consent from your client to pass this completed RIC plus their name and safe contact details on to the local domestic abuse 'Outreach' service:</p> <p>'I hereby openly consent to grant my permission for information relating to incidents of domestic abuse, in which I was involved, to be provided with my details and this completed RIC to the local domestic abuse 'Outreach' service':</p> <p>Signed: _____ Date: _____</p> <p>If yes, have you made a referral? Yes/No</p> <p>Signed: _____ Date: _____</p> <p>Please note this is a requirement of the Devon and Cornwall DV Information Sharing Protocol (Nov 2009) regarding 'Medium' risk referrals.</p>				
<p>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</p>				
<p>Signed: _____</p> <p>Name: _____</p>				<p>Date: _____</p>

Practitioner's Notes

REMINDER

Devon's current (September 2010) local CAADA-DASH RIC Risk Thresholds:

'Standard Risk': Professional judgement and / or the number of 'ticks' on this checklist. If you have ticked **0 – 5** 'yes' boxes the case would currently meet the 'Standard Risk' criteria.

'Medium Risk': Professional judgement and / or the number of 'ticks' on this checklist. If you have ticked **6 – 13** 'yes' boxes the case would currently meet the 'Medium Risk' criteria.

'High Risk': Professional judgement and / or the number of 'ticks' on this checklist. If you have ticked **14 or more** 'yes' boxes the case would currently meet the MARAC referral criteria.

Please also note that Devon's 'standard' and 'medium' risk thresholds have not been evidenced based or piloted by CAADA. The responsibility for identifying local referral thresholds and risk management pathways rests with local MARACs and local domestic abuse service provision. Devon has agreed to pilot these 'standard' and 'medium' risk thresholds and pathways from January 2011 – June 2011 during the implementation phase of CAADA DASH RIC for all non-police agencies.