Possible questions to ask to determine physical violence/abuse. This kind of abuse should be deemed the most high risk/severe as it can easily escalate to murder. Severity rating for all would be between 8 and 10.

Examples include:

* Are you physically hurt?
* Are you feeling any soreness, tenderness, or pain anywhere on your body (visible or covered areas)?
* Has your life or the life of any around you been threatened in any way?
* Have there been situations in your relationship where you have felt afraid?
* Have you been physically hurt or threatened by your partner?
* Over the past week have you been hit, slapped or hurt in other ways by your partner or ex partner?
* Has your partner/ex partner ever used or threatened to use a weapon on you or anyone around you? (If the answer is yes, this should be treated as particularly imminent are perpetrators who have access to weapons such as guns are much more likely to seriously injure or kill a victim than perpetrators without access to weapons)
* Are you frightened of your partner or ex-partner?
* Are you safe to go home or be around your partner?
* Would you like some help with creating a safety plan if violence escalates or you feel you may be in grave immediate danger?

If the woman answers NO to the questions, give the victim information regarding appropriate support services they can reach out to or get more information. If the woman answers YES to any of the questions above, the level of threat ascertained by questions regarding being physically hurt or having their life threatened should be treated as the most severe/urgent. However any response that indicates physical violence should refer the victim to contact the police or nearest crisis centre.

Possible questions to ask to determine whether someone is being **sexually abused**. This form of abuse should be classified as high risk as it can involve physical violence and can result in serious complications for the victim (e.g., health problems, STDs, unwanted pregnancy).

**Severity rating** for all would be **between 6 and 10**

- Have you been sexually abused?

- Have you been touched without consent?

- Are you still being sexually abused?

- Have you been sexually abused by someone in your household?

- Is the person abusing you still in the household?

- Was there violence with the sexual abuse?

- Are you physically hurt or have injuries?

- Do you need medical help?

- Is your home unsafe for you to stay in?

**If the victim answers:**

**NO-** Information on domestic violence support services should be provided and further questions asked.

**YES-** Victim should be advised to contact police or emergency services (ambulance if required) and go to a domestic violence shelter if their home is not safe.

Possible questions to ask to determine whether someone is being subject to **financial abuse.** Financial abuse should be classified as a moderate to high risk category as individuals may be restricted from accessing their finances, resulting in shortage of money, unpaid bills and difficulties affording essential items such as food and clothes.

The severity rating for all would be between 2 and 10.

- Do you have full knowledge of the yours and your partners/families’ financial activities and status, including what tax filings have been made?

- Are you able to choose/decide whether you are able to work outside the home?

- Do you have the ability to spend money without partners approval?

- Have you ever been coerced to contribute in fraudulent acts such as (providing false information for public benefits, signing false tax filings etc)?

- Does your partner hide, control or withhold resources?

- Do you have a joint account with your partner that you are not able to fully access?

- Does your partner have the ability to see your activities in regard to spending through online monitoring?

- Do you feel like you are not able to freely spend your own earnings?

- Does your partner deny you money by not providing or sharing?

- Does your partner take out loans under your name for things like a car that only he alone uses?

- Do you feel scared to spend your money on essential expenses?

- Are you questioned when spending money on everyday necessities on the home/children/yourself?

If answered YES:

- Matters should be looked into, consider linking victim to attorney for legal advice (in the most severe cases)

- Brainstorm ways survivor can uncover family assets

- Plan for safe alternatives on how victim can start to secure her own finances

- If no income exists for the victim, help victim with social security, food stamps, employment options etc

- In relations to fraudulent acts, victim should be referred to the police or an attorney.

Answered NO:

- Victim should be provided with essential information on financial abuse and be educated further on the matter. More questions should be asked at this point to ensure the victim is being supported completely.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is another term for psychological abuse. It can include intimidation, belittling, humiliation, coercive control and the effects of financial, social and other non-physical forms of abuse. The types of violence described here are not an exhaustive list of all possible acts and behaviours that can be classified under the umbrella term of ‘family, domestic and sexual violence’. The word violence also includes the attempt or threat of violence. Emotional abuse has been categorised on a scale of 1-10 with keywords predicting the average severity of the rating. Ratings of 0 indicate no risk of emotional abuse, whereas ratings of 1-3 indicate a low possibility that emotional abuse is occurring. Ratings from 4-6 indicate that the individual is emotionally at risk and may need access to resources or suggestions that will aid them to cope with their circumstances before they escalate. These can include apps such as The Lookout, Relationships, dating & when love hurts, the Arc app to record feelings of being safe and unsafe, Whats OK at home? Or Partners in prevention.

In addition, ratings between 7-8 and 9-10 mean emotional abuse is frequently occurring and can escalate to self-harm or suicidal tendencies if it has not already. Extra care should be taken in these cases as the victim’s mental health will likely be in a fragile state. Victims should be referred to counselling or a psychologist if willing and be given access to organisations such as 1800 RESPECT, Australian Childhood Foundation, LifeLine, Mensline, No to Violence the Police or ambulance, Relationships Australia, Translating and Interpreting Service (TiS) or WESNET depending on any other mitigating factors they might be experiencing alongside emotional violence.

Questions and Ratings

(rating is based on scale of 1-10)

0 – none / 1-3 low/ 4-6 moderate/ 7-8 high /9-10 imminent

Are you intimidated by your partner?

Yes – 6 / No- 0

Are you feeling threatened by what your partner might do next?

Yes – 8 / No- 1

Has your partner ever used fear to control you?

Yes – 7 no - 0

Are you being isolated from your family and friends?

Yes – 8 / no - 0

Do you have control over your daily routine?

Yes – 2 / no -8

Do you feel in control of your life at this moment in time?

Yes – 1 / no - 7

On a scale of 1-10 how often do you feel sad or depressed?

0 – no threat / 1-3 low / 4-6 moderate /7-8 high/ 9-10 imminent

Does being at home give you anxiety?

Yes – 6 no - 0

Do you feel guilty if your partner is unsatisfied?

Yes – 8 no - 2

Are you scared for your safety?

Yes – 9 no -1

Is your partner threatening your children or pets to control you?

Yes – 8 no- 2

Are you fearful of what your partner might do next?

Yes – 7 no - 0

Do you feel humiliated?

Yes – 5 no - 0

Are you being coerced into doing things you are not comfortable with doing?

Yes – 8 no - 1

Do you feel belittled?

Yes – 6 no - 1

Are you scared of what your partner might do if you seek help?

Yes – 8 no - 0

Are you afraid to leave your relationship?

Yes – 7 no – 0

Has your partner ever made you feel guilty for spending time with your family or friends?

Yes – 7 no -1

Is your partner weary of you being around individuals of the opposite sex?

Yes – 7 no -0

Is your partner prone to jealousy?

Yes – 6 no – 1

Does your partner ever shame you for the way you present yourself or dress?

Yes – 7 no – 1

Does your partner try to control the way you behave in front of others?

Yes – 8 no -0