

State of Illinois
Department of Children and Family Services

Domestic Violence Screen

Case Name:	Report Date:	Date Screen Completed:
SCR/CYCIS Number:	Agency Name:	
Worker Name:	RTO/RSF:	Worker ID:

I. WHEN TO USE THE SCREEN

The **Domestic Violence Screen** has been developed to assist in the identification of domestic violence in the home and associated risk and safety issues. *A Domestic Violence Screen must be completed for all family reports.*

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICE WORKERS shall complete the Domestic Violence Screen at the following case milestones:

- Within the first seven days of the initial investigation (Interviews should only be conducted when it is safe to do so and workers should follow the guidelines for conducting domestic violence interviews, which are included in the Domestic Violence Practice Guide.);
- Prior to the case handoff staffing;
- Whenever domestic violence is suspected or identified; and
- At the close of the investigation.

Workers may re-certify the initial **Domestic Violence Screen** prior to the case handoff or at the close of investigation when case circumstances have not changed and the worker has consulted with, and received approval from his or her supervisor to re-certify the screen.

CHILD WELFARE SPECIALIST/INTACT FAMILY SERVICES WORKERS shall complete the Domestic Violence Screen at the following case milestones:

- Within five days of the initial case assignment;

Note: When case circumstances have not changed and the worker has consulted with his or her supervisor, the worker may re-certify the **Domestic Violence Screen** completed by the CPSW.

- As part of the 45 day assessment;

- Prior to transferring the case to a new worker;

Note: When a **Domestic Violence Screen** has been completed within 30 days of the case transfer and the case circumstances have not changed, the worker may re-certify the screen after consultation with his or her supervisor.

- Every six months as part of the ongoing assessment;
- Whenever domestic violence is suspected or identified;
- Whenever considering screening the case with the State's Attorney; and
- When assessing whether to close the case and immediately prior to staffing the case for closure with the intact family supervisor, a new screen must be completed in addition to the requirements of **Rules 315, Section 315.310, Termination of Services and Planning for Aftercare.**

PERMANENCY WORKERS shall complete the Domestic Violence Screen for placement cases at the following case milestones.

- Within 45 working days after initial case assignment and upon transfer of the case when there are *other children still in the home* as part of an open family case assigned to the worker. Assess safety in the child's return home environment and document the conditions or behavior that continues to prevent the child from being returned home. The continued safety of every child still in the home must also be documented.
- When considering the commencement of unsupervised visits in the home of the parent or guardian.
- Before an administrative case review when the child in care has a return home goal *and there are other children still in the home* as part of an open family case assigned to the worker.
- Within 24 hours prior to returning a child home. The **Domestic Violence Screen** must be completed on the child's return home environment.
- Within five working days after a child is returned home and every month thereafter until the family case is closed.
- When considering whether to close a reunification service case, the **Domestic Violence Screen** must be completed immediately prior to staffing the case for closure with the permanency supervisor.
- Whenever evidence or circumstances suggests the presence of domestic violence poses a risk or safety concern for the child whether in the home of a foster parent, relative caregiver or pre-adoptive parent.

Note: Upon transfer and assignment of a case where domestic violence or severe controlling behaviors are alleged, suspected or known that may pose a risk of harm or immediate threat to the safety of the children, the workers must discuss the domestic violence case issues and a summary of the discussion documented in the case file.

II. Identifying Domestic Violence

Significant Indicators

Significant indicators of domestic violence are the physical signs and/or verifiable reports to consider during the assessment. **The screen is complete after this section if no evidence of significant indicators exists. Complete the *Verbal Indicators* section if any of the significant indicators have been identified.**

- | Yes | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Third party reports of domestic violence. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Criminal history of assault or damage to property that has been verified through LEADS. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Physical injuries to an adult (e.g., bruises, cuts, black eyes, marks on neck). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | One partner seems to control everything (e.g., answers questions for the other partner). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Observed damage to home (e.g., phone ripped from wall, holes in wall, broken doors or furniture). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Self-reported incident or incidents of domestic violence. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | One partner uses children to control what the other partner says, does or thinks. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prior or current police involvement for domestic violence. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | An existing order of protection. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | A history of receiving domestic violence services. |

Note: If there is current police involvement, summarize the extent of the involvement. Whenever a worker learns of an existing order of protection, the worker must include a copy of the order in the case file. If the client is unsure of the existence of an order of protection, the worker shall utilize LEADS to determine if there is such an order. Include the report number, date and time of occurrence.

Verbal Indicators

Complete the assessment section if significant or verbal indicators are present.

- | Yes | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Has your partner ever tried to keep you away from your family, friends, work or neighbors? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Has your partner ever threatened you or done something else that frightened you? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Has your partner ever pushed, slapped, punched, kicked or hurt you in other ways? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Has your partner ever threatened to use the children to control you in any way? |

III. ASSESSMENT (Level of Risk and Safety)

Assess the risk and safety in cases where domestic violence has been identified or suspected by using the interview tools in the Domestic Violence Practice Guide. With the information gathered, answer the following five questions: (Carter and Schechter, 1997)

Was or is there physical danger posed to the child from the batterer?

Does the physical, developmental, or emotional impact of the domestic violence on the children rise to the level of suspected abuse or neglect?

Are there strategies the adult victim has used in the past that can be supported or strengthened to protect the children?

Has the batterer ever used or threatened to use weapons of *any* kind?

In consultation with the supervisor, what if any action is required to address safety and/or risk?

Comments

Worker's Signature:

Date:

Supervisor's Signature:

Date:
