

Directions for Using the -- Domestic Violence Survivor Assessment Clinician Form

Use the usual forms and interview process for a domestic violence client. Review these questions and seek any information not usually asked. When interviewing the survivor try to be fully present and to view the situation through the survivor's eyes. After the interview take a colored highlighter and complete the ASSESSMENT FORM. Fill in one box giving HER VIEWPOINT on each issue listed on the extreme left. If you have too little information or can't decide, leave a row blank. If she is "in between" two boxes fill in from the middle to the middle.

Include these issues about the relationship:

Triggers of Abusive incidents?	What made the violence and abuse happen? When, where, under what circumstances?
Managing Partner Abuse	How do you usually manage to avoid the abuse? What works and what does not?
Seeking Legal Sanctions	Have you ever applied for a Protection Order or called the police for help when you've been hurt?
Attachment	Do you still care for your partner? How long have you been a couple? Are you married? Living together? Do you have children? Who has custody? How isolated are you as a couple? As a person?
Views Relationship and Options	What options do you see for this relationship? What has the abuser done to change? Are you or the abuser involved in domestic violence police charges?
Managing Loyalty to Norms and Own Beliefs	What do others important to you think of this relationship? Do they know about the abuse? What do you think is important about commitment to relationships?

Include these issues about the individual:

Accessing Help	Do you know about domestic violence resources? Who has helped you? Who could help you?
Self Identity	Some people in abusive relationships feel they lose their sense of who they are, do you ever feel that way? How do you feel about yourself?
Self Efficacy to be on her own	Do you think you could take care of your shelter, food, transportation, and health needs yourself? Do you have your own source of income? Have you ever lived alone? How was it?
Feelings	What feelings do you have every day? Do you feel angry? Sad? Worried? Afraid? Mixed Up? Like you might kill yourself or someone else? What do you do about your feelings?
Mental Health	How would you measure your mental health right now? What words would you use to describe it? Do you have a alcohol or substance abuse problem or are you in recovery? What about your partner? Do you feel jumpy, have trouble sleeping or thinking about other things than this problem?
Control of Money	Are you employed? Who makes the financial decisions in this relationship? Does your partner monitor your spending? Do you have personal money to spend? Do you share ownership of TV, car?