



Identification of Adults using Family Violence (AuFV)

Observed narratives or behaviours indicating use of family violence

The identification and observation of these common narratives and behaviours, including denial, minimisation, justification and externalisation of responsibility for violence, may indicate that the adult person is likely to be using family violence.

Family violence risk may be to an adult victim survivor (partner, ex-partner, person in care, or family member) or child/young person victim survivor.

Observed narratives: Beliefs or attitudes:

- **Makes statements that indicate** sexist, misogynistic, homophobic, biphobic, transphobic, ableist, ageist or racist beliefs (denigrating person or group based on identity)
- Makes statements that indicate **gendered entitlement to power**, control and decision making
- Makes statements that indicate belief in **ownership over victim survivor**
- **Comments negatively** on victim survivor's decisions and actions
- **Pathologises** victim survivor (describing their behaviour or presentation as behavioural disorder, known mental illness or addiction)
- **Displays limited empathy** or desire to understand experiences of victim survivor
- Complains that victim survivor **does not show them 'respect'**
- Openly **dismisses victim survivor's viewpoints** and/or needs, particularly if it conflicts with their own
- [Adult victim survivor only] Makes decisions for adult victim survivor
- Displays indicators of **ownership and entitlement**, in relation to children and rights to access and/or custody
- **Threatens to report** partner/ex-partner to authorities about their 'poor parenting'
- **Criticises ex/partner's** parenting (put downs, devaluing worth)

Observed narratives or behaviours: Practitioner experience

- Tries to get you to agree with their negative views about partner or family member [**invitation to collude**] through- out service engagement, over time
- Practitioner observes or **feels intimidated, manipulated and/or controlled** during interactions.

Observed behaviours: Physical / verbal behaviours:

- Displays **controlling behaviour**
- Displays indicators of **jealousy and/or possessiveness**
- Displays indicators of fixation with victim survivor's actions and whereabouts (**monitoring**, rumination and intent focus)
- **Controls** adult victim survivor's finances and/or access to employment
- Demonstrates **threatening** non-verbal behaviour (physical standover, intrusion into personal space)
- Talks about victim survivor in **emotionally abusive or degrading** ways
- **Interrupts, corrects and/or dominates** victim survivor in conversation
- Insists on **sitting in on appointments** with victim survivor
- **Discloses any harm or threat to harm animals or pets**
- Physical signs of **violent altercation** (on victim survivor or person suspected of using violence)
- Expresses feelings of excessive anger that is **'outside their control'**
- Discloses that they have targeted and/or **damaged victim survivor's property**

Observed narratives: Minimising or justifying

- **Minimising** physical harm and/or neglectful behaviour
- Presents or talks about themselves as **the real victim** (victim stance)
- Presents as having **difficulty with emotional and/or behavioural regulation**
- Uses **impulsivity as a justification** of violent and abusive behaviours (may relate to presenting needs such as mental health, use of alcohol/drugs)

