



Stay Safe East

Disability and domestic abuse risk assessment

This risk assessment has been developed by Stay Safe East from our work over the past 10 years with disabled survivors. It is not meant to replace the national DASH risk assessment but to be used alongside it. It is a tool to enable practitioners to identify the specific risks which arise from the power the abuser or abusers hold over a victim/survivors because she/he/they is a disabled person, and in most cases because of the specific nature of the relationship e.g. the abuser is also the 'carer', or claims to be a 'carer' to the disabled person. This does not mean the survivor is inherently vulnerable because they are a disabled person, but that they are in a situation where abuse, lack of power and control, and the barriers they face accessing help, put them at more risk.

Practitioners will also need to be aware of the particular forms of domestic abuse perpetrated against disabled survivors, and of the specific nature of targeted abuse and control. We have include some of these in the examples for the first two questions.

We usually only share this risk assessment with practitioners whom we have trained. However in the light of the COVID 19 crisis and the very high risks faced by disabled survivors, we have decided to share it with our partners.

If you have any questions about the risk assessment, or would like to discuss a case with us, please e-mail enquiries@staysafe-east.org.uk

We also welcome feedback about the risk assessment.

Stay Safe East May 2020

DOMESTIC ABUSE RISK ASSESSMENT

STAY SAFE EAST ADDITIONAL DISABILITY RELATED QUESTIONS

1. General information

This page is not part of the scoring risk assessment but is used to find out if the victim is a disabled person and has access or support needs which are essential to keeping them safe.

	Yes	No	N/K
Are you a disabled person? If yes, please tick the relevant box(es) <input type="checkbox"/> Physical disability <input type="checkbox"/> Sensory Impairment <input type="checkbox"/> Deaf (Sign language user) <input type="checkbox"/> Learning difficulty <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health issues <input type="checkbox"/> Autism, Asperger's or other neuro-diverse condition <input type="checkbox"/> Other long term health condition (please state)			
Are any children in the household disabled? <i>If yes, please give details</i>			
Are any other adults in the household affected by domestic violence elderly or disabled people? <i>If yes, please give details:</i>			
Access, support and communication needs Please use this box to include any information about the victim's needs – <i>for example if she/he needs personal care or other daily assistance, transport, information in large print, or a British Sign Language Interpreter. This is especially important if the victim has communication needs (e.g. does not use the phone) which impacts on the ability of professionals to contact them</i>			
If the victim says yes to any of the above questions, please go to the next page and ask the disability risk assessment questions.			

2. Disability Risk Assessment

Tick box if factor is present. Please expand on any yes answers. <i>Please note the example in brackets are not to be read out, but can be used as prompts.</i>	Yes	No	n/k	Source if not the victim
<p>D1. Do you rely on [perpetrator]..... for practical help or for communication? (<i>washing, dressing, help with eating or taking medication, help with getting out of the home or with travelling, managing money, communication the victim's speech, Sign Language etc</i>) If yes, please give details:</p>				
<p>D2. Do they use this to control you (<i>for example refusing you medication or help to eat, doing things deliberately to make your condition worse etc</i>)? If yes, please give details:</p>				
<p>D3. Is refusing to let you access support relating to your disability needs? (<i>e.g. refusing to let carers, personal assistants, GP or social workers into the home, or controlling your access to support services</i>). If yes, please give details:</p>				
<p>D4. Isabusive to you/your child directly because of your/your child's disability (<i>calling you names, mocking your disability, blaming you, etc</i>)? If yes, please give details:</p>				

<p>D5. Are there any concerns around the victim’s capacity to make her/his own decisions?</p> <p><i>Please note: if the victim is deemed not to have full capacity, or if there is any doubt, a referral <u>must</u> be made to Adult Safeguarding.</i></p>				
<p>D6. Any other factors relating to the victim’s disability or their situation which might put them at risk? Please give details:</p>				
<p>Total ‘yes’ responses out of 6 disability risk assessment questions</p>				
<p>Note: please do not add this score to the standard CAADA risk assessment. Please note the score under your reasons for referral to MARAC.</p>				
<p><i>If you have any questions about this Risk Assessment, please contact Stay Safe East</i> enquiries@staysafe-east.org.uk T: 0208 519 7241 or 07587 134 122</p>				