

PRACTICE TOOL 5: DFV INDICATORS

The list of possible indicators of DFV in adults are provided for the purpose of forming judgements about when to undertake DFV screening. It is essential that workers initiate a conversation about DFV if a number of indicators or a pattern of recurring indicators are present. This process should be guided by the screening tool or other similar prompting questions.

Area	Indicator
Physical	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bruising, cuts and scars;• Fractures;• Terminations of pregnancy;• Complications during pregnancy;• Sexually transmitted infections;• Strangulation - neurological and physical signs such as visual changes, movement disorders, bruising around the neck;• Head, eye, jaw, neck and facial injuries;• Injuries to unexposed parts of the body;• Injuries that do not match explanations;• Delayed presentation between time of injury and treatment; and• Memory loss.
Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unconvincing explanations of any injuries;• Describe a partner as controlling or prone to anger;• Partner speaks for client and/or insists on remaining with client;• Anxiety in the presence of a partner; and• Needing to be back home by a certain time and becoming stressed about this.

Area	Indicator
Psychological and Emotional	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ongoing emotional health issues, such as stress, anxiety, panic attacks, depression or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD);• Self-harming behaviour and suicide thoughts, plans or attempts;• Phobias;• Sleep problems;• Impaired concentration;• Harmful alcohol and other drug use (including prescribed medications);• Physical exhaustion;• Eating disorders;• Withdrawal from physical contact;• Fear, shame or anger;• Feelings of worthlessness and hopelessness; and• Feeling disassociated and emotionally numb.
Social/ financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homelessness;• Isolation from family and social supports;• Unemployment;• Financial debt;• Recent separation or divorce; and• Parenting difficulties.