



RISK ASSESSMENTS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN CHILD CONTACT DISPUTES:

Information for Self-Representing Men

Why has a Risk Assessment been ordered?

Risk assessment may be ordered by the courts in any case where domestic violence has been established, which may pose a risk to child contact. The domestic violence may have been established through your admissions, previous criminal convictions, or a finding of fact by the court.

DVIP always requires a welfare report (Section 7) in order to make our assessment.

What does a Risk Assessment involve?

This is an assessment of the risk posed by the yourself towards the resident parent and child(ren).

DVIP will require between 4 and 6 hours interview time with you and between 2 and 6 hours with the resident parent. We will also consider all relevant documentation which you will need to send us (see covering letter for details of the required documents).

You will also need to meet the cost of the preparation of this assessment report. In order for us to calculate what your contribution will be we ask that you forward us your last two pay slips, or if you are on benefits then you will need to provide us with a letter of proof. If your earnings are less than £40,000 a year, a charge of £1000 will be made to cover the cost of the assessment; for those earning £40,000 or more, the full amount of £3150 will be required, which we would ask that you send to us in the form of a cheque, made payable to DVIP.

We require the above payment in full prior to commencing any work on this assessment, and would therefore ask that you send a cheque for this amount, payable to DVIP, along with the other necessary documents.

It takes 8-10 weeks for the initial full risk assessment report to be prepared from receipt of all the paperwork.

The report will consider the wishes and needs of the children via the welfare report.

Victim Support Services

Support Services will be offered to your (ex-) partner. Services on offer include counselling, support and safety planning work, parenting work (on a limited basis), anger management and an ongoing support group.

All DVIP's support services offer confidentiality to **victims** of domestic violence within the bounds of our child protection policy.

Parenting Work

DVIP offers a range of parenting work aimed at improving the quality of parent-child relationships following domestic violence. This includes work on managing children's behaviour, dealing with conflict in the parenting relationship, rebuilding parenting relationships following family breakdown, helping resident parents to facilitate safe contact and supporting the development of fathering skills.

DVIP's Perpetrator Programme

Amongst the possible risk management measures which can be recommended, the Court may be asked to consider future contact as conditional on the participant making satisfactory progress through a perpetrator programme.

DVIP's perpetrator programme takes a total of 32 sessions to complete. It is delivered mainly in small groups, meeting weekly for three hours. Most sessions begin at 6.30pm in the evening. Modules include: stopping physical violence, emotional abuse, effects of domestic violence on partners and children, responsible parenting, harassment and stalking, sexual abuse of a partner, jealousy and tactics of isolation.

There is a fortnightly, ongoing follow up group available for all those who have completed the programme.

During the programme, the courts may order risk assessment reviews, providing **interim and completion reports** to the courts as to the progress to date. At any such point contact may be recommended or restrictions removed as appropriate. In that case, assessment for contact by the relevant contact centre may begin.

The above parenting and perpetrator services, including the financial costs of these payable by you, may be discussed with you and your partner during your respective interviews.