

Family Violence Evidence-based Risk Factors

Categories of risk factors under the MARAM Framework

Those in **bold** may indicate an increased risk of the victim being killed or almost killed.

Reference:

MARAM practice guidance foundation knowledge, <https://www.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-07/MARAM-practice-guides-foundation-knowledge.pdf>

Risk factors for adult or child victims caused by perpetrator behaviours

- **Controlling behaviours**
- **Access to weapons**
- **Use of weapon in most recent event**
- Has ever harmed or threatened to harm victim or family members
- **Has ever tried to strangle or choke the victim**
- **Has ever threatened to kill victim**
- **Has ever harmed or threatened to harm or kill pets or other animals**
- **Has ever threatened or tried to self-harm or commit suicide**
- **Stalking of victim**
- **Sexual assault of victim**
- Previous or current breach of court orders/Intervention Order
- History of family violence
- History of violent behaviour (not family violence)
- **Obsession/ jealous behaviour towards victim**
- **Unemployed/ disengaged from education**
- **Drug and/ or alcohol misuse/ abuse**
- Mental illness/ depression
- Isolation
- Physical harm
- Emotional abuse
- Property damage.

Risk factors specific to children caused by perpetrator behaviours

- Exposure to family violence
- Sexualised behaviours towards a child by the perpetrator
- Child intervention in violence
- Behaviour indicating non-return of child
- Undermining the child-parent relationship
- Professional and statutory intervention.

Risk factors specific to children's circumstances

- History of professional involvement and/ or statutory intervention
- Change in behaviour not explained by other causes
- Child as victim in other forms of harm.

Risk factors relevant to an adult victim's circumstances

- **Physical assault whilst pregnant/ following new birth**
- Self-assessed level of risk
- **Planning to leave or recent separation**
- **Escalation -increase in severity and/ or frequency of violence**
- Financial abuse/ difficulties
- Imminence.