

4XXXXX

Recognise and respond to family violence risk and refer to appropriate services

Kaupae Level	4
Whiwhinga Credit	10
Whāinga Purpose	<p>This skill standard is for people working or volunteering in people facing roles or in the community to develop knowledge and skills to respond safely to family violence risk.</p> <p>A person credited with this skill standard can recognise signs, dynamics and indicators of risks associated with family violence and can respond safely and appropriately to general, immediate and escalating risks and concerns.</p> <p>This skill standard can be used for assessment within programmes across a variety of sectors.</p> <p>This skill standard is intended for use within the Family Violence Risk and Safety Practice (Level 4) xxxx Micro-credential.</p>

Hua o te ako me Paearu aromatawai | Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

Hua o te ako Learning outcomes	Paearu aromatawai Assessment criteria
1. Recognise signs, dynamics, and risks associated with family violence.	a. Describe signs and dynamics that indicate family violence, including immediate safety risk.
	b. Identify when violence is being minimised or blamed on something or someone else.
	c. Identify how signs of family violence and risk can present differently for tangata whenua, children, young people and people from marginalised communities.
2. Demonstrate safe and culturally appropriate responses to family violence risk.	a. Reflect on own biases that can increase risk of family violence.
	b. Describe urgent actions to address immediate safety and risk to an adult or child victim-survivor.
	c. Use safe and reassuring communication skills to respond to a victim-survivor.
	d. Use calm, professional and non-collusive communication skills to respond to a person using violence.
	e. Outline a safe and appropriate response for a person who discloses sexual violence.

	f. Explain how and where to seek assistance and guidance about people's specific needs.
4. Demonstrate safe, respectful, and culturally appropriate ways to refer and record responses to family violence risk.	a. Explain how to gain consent to share information for a warm referral and how to share information without consent.
	b. Make a warm referral to support safety.
	c. Provide safe interim support to a person during a referral being actioned.
	d. Record and safely share relevant information.

Pārongo aromatawai me te taumata paearu | Assessment information and grade criteria

Assessment specifications:

- Assessment may be undertaken in a simulated environment.
- Assessment should be informed by the 'Essential Level' Family Violence Risk and Safety Practice Framework.

Evidence provided for assessment against the skill standard must:

- Be acquired in accordance with workplace or organisational policies and procedures.
- Be acquired within the boundaries of the learner's role.

Definitions:

- *Collusion* is any response that inadvertently or deliberately indicates agreement with, or minimises, violence-supportive beliefs.
- *Culturally appropriate responses* require workers to reflect on their own views and biases and develop knowledge of and respect for cultural difference and diversity.
- *Dynamics of family violence* refers to how people use tactics and threats to abuse and control a person and deprive them of their freedom, including coercive control which leads to entrapment.
- *Family Violence* is defined as when someone chooses to use violence and abuse to maintain power and control over someone, they are close to.
- *Family violence risk* is the risk of further violence, including homicide, suicide, serious injury trauma, and hardship caused by the person using violence and by harmful system responses.
- *Warm referral* is the process of providing a supported, assisted referral rather than simply giving someone a phone number.
- *Safe interim support* refers to strategies used to support someone during the period until the referral is accepted.
- *Immediate and escalating risk* is when there is imminent and serious family violence risk or a risk of suicide, an escalating response is when factors are identified that could mean there is an increased risk of family violence which may result in serious harm and situations which may trigger an immediate response.

Ngā momo whiwhinga | Grades available

Achieved

Ihirangi waitohu | Indicative content

Recognise family violence signs, dynamics and risk

- Dynamics of family violence: The gendered nature of family violence, the history and impacts. How dynamics can vary for different age groups, ethnicities, genders, disabilities, sexualities and gender identities.
- The pattern of abuse. Family violence is not isolated incidents, it is a pattern of behaviour used, by the person using violence, to maintain power and control over someone they are close to.
- The range of abusive tactics, including coercive control, entrapment, resistance to violence, intimidating, minimising, stalking, obsessive, blaming, jealous behaviours, verbal abuse, financial abuse, threats, social responses, using the system to continue to abuse, structural inequity, colonisation.
- Signs that indicate someone may be a victim-survivor of family violence including, social, emotional, physical, spiritual and environmental.
- Signs that indicate someone may be using violence.
- Signs of family violence for tangata whenua and whānau Māori.
- Signs of family violence for children and young people and marginalised communities.
- Signs of immediate and escalating risk.

Safe and culturally appropriate responses.

- Identify own harmful attitudes and beliefs that lead to discrimination, stigma and harmful responses to family violence.
- History of colonisation and Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- Societal norms, inequity, discrimination and stigma that increase risk and create barriers to safety.
- Barriers to seeking help, reasons why people choose not to seek help, including fear of retaliation, losing custody of children, residency concerns, care concerns.
- Immediate and urgent actions needed when concerned for someone's immediate safety, including child safety and adults at risk.
- Ways violence can be minimised.
- Responses that can collude with the violent behaviour.
- Safe responses to disclosure of sexual violence, knowledge of sexual violence services.
- Assistance for people who need interpreters or other communication supports, including how to identify when external expertise is needed (e.g., disability support, cultural advisors) and the process to access external expertise.

Warm referral and recording of information.

- Sharing relevant information about risk, including information about child protection.
- Gaining consent to make a referral and/or share their information. When to share information without consent.
- Warm referrals, benefits, why early referrals are important, impacts and follow through responsibilities.
- Timely referrals to Police when immediate risk is identified, and/or specialist services, including kaupapa Māori, tauwi and child and young people specialist family violence services and specialist services supporting people from marginalised communities.
- Interim support: what can be done to support someone while they are waiting for specialist help.
- Recording relevant information: how to ensure it is professional and factual.
- Professional boundaries and supports knowing limits, accessing colleague/workplace support.

- Identifying a range of specialist services (for victim-survivors, for people using violence, for sexual violence, kaupapa Māori services, child-specific services, and services for marginalised communities).

Rauemi | Resources

- Carrington, H. & Thornburn, N. (2025). Evidence-Based RED FLAGS for Intimate Partner Homicide. In *Womens Refuge*. Retrieved September 23, 2025 from <https://womensrefuge.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Red-Flags-IPH-June2025.pdf>
- Information Sharing Guidance | New Zealand Ministry of Justice. (2020). Govt.nz. Available at <https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/key-initiatives/addressing-family-violence-and-sexual-violence/a-new-family-violence-act/information-sharing-guidance>
- New Zealand Legislation. (2018). *Family Violence Act 2018*. Available at <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2018/0046/latest/DLM7159322.html>
- New Zealand Legislation. (1989). *Oranga Tamariki Act 1989*. Available at <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1989/0024/latest/DLM147088.html>
- New Zealand Legislation. (1961). *Crimes Act 1961*. Available at <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1961/0043/latest/dlm327382.html>
- New Zealand Legislation. (2020). *Privacy Act 2020*. Available at <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2020/0031/latest/LMS23223.html>
- New Zealand Legislation. (2022). *Conversion Practices Prohibition Legislation Act*. Available at <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2022/0001/whole.html>
- Oranga Tamariki. (2025). Information Sharing. Available at <https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/working-with-children/information-sharing>.
- The Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention (2025). *Family Violence Risk and Safety Practice Framework*. Available at <https://preventfvsv.govt.nz/assets/Workforce-Frameworks/Risk-and-Safety-Practice-Framework-Web-Version.pdf>

Pārongo Whakaū Kouna | Quality assurance information

Ngā rōpū whakatau-paerewa Standard Setting Body	Toitū te Waiora Community, Health, Education, and Social Services Workforce Development Council
Whakaritenga Rārangi Paetae Aromatawai DASS classification	Field > Subfield > Domain
Ko te tohutoro ki ngā Whakaritenga i te Whakamanatanga me te Whakaōritenga CMR	<nnnn>

Hātepe Process	Putanga Version	Rā whakaputa Review Date	Rā whakamutunga mō te aromatawai Last date for assessment
Rēhitatanga Registration	1	[dd mm yyyy]	[dd mm yyyy]
Arotakenga Review	<type here>	[dd mm yyyy]	[dd mm yyyy]

Kōrero whakakapinga Replacement information	<type here>
Rā arotake Planned review date	[dd mm yyyy]

Please contact Toitū te Waiora Community, Health, Education, and Social Services Workforce Development Council at qualifications@toitutewaiora.nz to suggest changes to the content of this skill standard.

DRAFT