

KIDshine

Woman's Advocate Report Form

Date of Visit:			
Woman's Advocate:			
Child Advocate:			
Mother's Name: (or non offending parent)			
Ethnicity:			
Child/ren's Name:			
Address:			
Phone:			
Cell Phone:			
Father's Name: (or offender)			
Parenting Order:		Date:	
Protection Order:		Date:	
		Location:	

Introduction: (Background information e.g.: Whether the mother and father are living together, history, present situation etc.)

Start with questions on the history and level of abuse that the children have been exposed to:

Has your partner:

- Called your child degrading names (like 'stupid')?
- Threatened to take the child from your care?
- Called, or threatened to call CYFs?
- Accused you of being an unfit parent?
- Threatened to hurt or kill your child?
- Hurt you in front of the children?
- Hit your child with belts, straps or other objects?
- Ever hurt your child so bad that he/she had to have medical attention?
- Touched your child in a way that made you feel uncomfortable?
- Assaulted you while you were holding your child?
- Asked your child to tell him what you do during the day?
- Treated your (or one) child significantly differently from another?
- Forced your child to participate in, or watch his abuse of you?

Comments:

Has your child:

- Overheard the verbal abuse? Or overheard/witnessed any abuse/violence?
- Behaved in ways that remind you of your partner?
- Physically hurt you or other family members?
- Tried to protect you? Or tried to stop the violence?
- Hurt him/herself?
- Hurt pets?
- Been fearful of leaving you alone?
- Exhibited physical/behavioural problems at home/school/day care?
- Does he/she wet the bed, have difficulty sleeping, have nightmares?

Comments:

The Children's Perspective:

Have a discussion with the mother about what she thinks the children understand about what is happening.

- What do you think the children understand about what is happening?
- Have the children tried to talk to you or anyone else? What have they said?
- Do they ever say anything about their father/ abuser and the violence?
- Have they ever said anything to their father/abuser about his behaviour/violence?
- Have they expressed any fears or concerns to you or any one else?
- Do you think they are worried about you? Or themselves?
- Have you noticed a change in the way the children relate to you? (attachment, not affectionate, decrease in respect, don't listen etc)

Comments:**The Mother:**

Go over the brochure about how witnessing/hearing violence affects children.

- Do you have any concerns about the children? Do you have any fears for their safety?
- How do you feel about your relationship with your child/ren? Do you find one child easier to parent than another?
- What are your children's relationships like with each other? Do they interact well with each other or not?
- Who is supporting you? Who can you rely on? Go to?
- Is there anything from your past or childhood that makes you anxious about parenting?
- Are you having difficulty parenting? Would you like to complete a Parenting Programme?

Comments:

Check List:

- The effects brochure has been discussed and given to the victim.
- You have discussed how the child advocate will include her in the children's safety planning and this will happen in subsequent visits.
- You have an idea of whether the abuser/offender is coming back to the house
- Parenting issues / behaviour of the children and ways to deal with it have been discussed
- You have reassured the mother that given the exposure to the violence and what they have witnessed/experienced, her children are behaving in what would be the expected norm etc.
- You have looked at any other referrals needed
- You have shared information and de briefed with the child advocate after the session.
- **Is Safe @ Home (Locks, doors and windows) appropriate for this client?**

Caseworker follow up & what tasks need to be completed:

Referrals made for client:

KIDshine

Child Advocate Assessment

Report Date:			
Child Advocate:			
Women's Advocate:			
Mother's Name: (or non offending parent)			
Ethnicity:			
Child/ren's Name:	DOB:		
1.		DOB:	
2.		DOB:	
3.		DOB:	
4.		DOB:	
5.		DOB:	
6.		DOB:	
Address:			
Phone:			
Cell Phone:			
Parenting Order:		Date:	
Protection Order:		Date:	Location: <input type="text"/>
Other Agencies Involved:			

Details of Contact with Family			
Date:		Nature of contact:	
Date:		Nature of contact:	
Date:		Nature of contact:	

Current Situation

Background information e.g: Whether the mother and father are living together, history, present situation, including access etc.

Child's Account of What they saw

Sometimes when parents fight they get angry ... maybe too angry and they may start to yell at each other, or even hit each other. We know this is scary for children. I want to ask you a few questions about when your parents fight and what you think about it.

A few days ago there was a big fight, tell me about what happened then.

What kinds of things do Mum and Dad (boyfriend, partner) fight about? Do they fight very often?

What usually happens when there is fighting? Do they yell at each other? How does the hitting usually start?

“That must have been really scary, you are so brave.” Tell the child that no one deserves to be hurt or frightened and what is happening is not their fault.

Impact of Exposure to Violence

Do you find that you think about your parents fighting a lot? (When do you think about it? What do you think about?)

Do these thoughts ever come in school or while you are playing?

Why do you think there is so much fighting?

Do you ever have trouble sleeping at night? Why? Do you have nightmares?

What would you like to see happen to make it better?

Child's Safety Concerns

What do you do when there is fighting in the home?

- stay in the room
- go to older sibling/relative Who?
- leave / hide
- ask parents to stop
- phone someone Who?
- run out / get someone
- other. What?

Do you ever get hit or hurt when there is fighting?

What happens when Mum or Dad get angry with you?

Who makes the rules at your house? What happens if you break the rules?

Is there anything else worrying you that you would like to talk to me about?

Support for the Child – Social Atom

Who in your family do you get along well with?

Who is the person that you talk to most?

Who are the people you know you can go to for help? (ie: Mum, Aunty, teacher, neighbour, friend or friend's Mum, big sister etc) Do you see them often?

How could they help you when you feel scared or upset?

(Does child have a social network amongst peers – at school/kindy and in the neighbourhood?)

Discussion with the Mother (in private from child)

(Note: This section may be covered by the Women's Advocate)

Discipline

When women are experiencing abuse or have experienced abuse, the constant emotional stress can affect their ability to parent their children. Also a common reaction when children know that violence is happening is that they become more difficult for their mother to parent them.

Children sometimes become more difficult to parent, are you experiencing this? Do you find the children are really naughty at times?

How do you cope with this?

Do you ever worry about your children's safety when they are with you? Do you smack them a lot?

Is there anything from your past or your childhood that makes you anxious about parenting?

How do you feel about your relationship with your child/ren?

Parenting Strategies Suggested

Have a discussion about how she parents her child/ren, what is working well for her and what doesn't.

What parenting strategies do you try to implement to get your children to behave?

Effect of Domestic Violence on child

Discussion about the effects of witnessing/hearing the d.v with mother.

What changes, if any, have you noticed with the children and what meaning have you put on it?

What does your child/ren over hear or has overheard that is/was inappropriate?

How much do you discuss your concerns/problems regarding your relationship with their father/stepfather with the child/ren? ie: as if they were mutually supportive peers, rather than parent and child.

Support for Parenting

Where do you get support for your parenting? i.e: Kindy, friends, her family etc

How do they help you? Do they know about the violence? Could they provide more support to you and the child/ren?

(Also, who is really unsupportive of her parenting, undermining her etc)

Who looks after the children when you are not at home?

How tired are you – are things getting on top of you?

Do you need a break? Who could help with this? (ie: after school activities for the children, Barnardos etc)

Creating a Safety Plan

Child safety plans should make it possible for children to know in advance what to do, rather than waiting until they are right in the middle of a terrifying incident to try and work out what to do. They need to be based on the possibility that violence may happen again and it's smart to know what to do in advance. The child should be assisted to create a plan that has a reasonable chance of working, given the limitations of their situation. **However, it is vital that they be given permission NOT to act if they decide it is too dangerous or they are too frightened – they are a child and adults always have more power to stop them. They also need to know that it is neither safe, nor their responsibility to try and protect their mother.**

Ideally, the mother should be present and assist with developing a plan. The child needs to know that their mother understands and supports whatever action they take.

Example questions for the mother:

Are there particular times or places where her child/ren are more at risk? (ie during access, the weekend)

What has she tried in the past to keep her children safe when violence is occurring?

What do you believe would help keep you and/or your children safe?

Are there any things you think you could teach your child to do, next time violence occurs?

ie:

- go to a neighbour's house
- go into a different room
- phone 111 and how to do this – does child know address, phone number?

If the mother is separated from the abusive person, the child needs to be taught what to do if the ex-partner makes contact with them unexpectedly (ie checking before opening the door; telling a teacher if they are approached at school); or takes them (ie calling 111). Other adults who care for the child (ie childcare staff, teacher, aunt, babysitter) need to be told which people have permission to pick them up.

Example Questions for child:

If it happens again, do you think you would be safest inside or outside the house?

If you stayed inside, would your room be the best place or somewhere else?

If you went outside would you try and find an adult or not?

Would it be an adult you already knew? Who?

How would you get outside?

What would you take with you?

If you wanted to use a phone, would it be best to do it at your house or somewhere else?

What is the Agreed Safety Plan?

Other Resources Required and/or follow-up for Area Advocate:

Referrals Made and/or Action Plan: