

Exercise

Safety

AVERT
FAMILY VIOLENCE



**Collaborative Responses in
the Family Law System**



An Australian Government Initiative

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Safety Exercise

Purpose:

- To provide the opportunity for participants to experience and consider how:
 - circumstances affect people's safety
 - varying levels of vulnerability affect people's safety.

Materials required:

- Character cards

Process:

1. Introduce the activity by reflecting on the purpose stated above. Explain the process and add that participants will be required to make a range of assumptions in order to step forward or backward.
2. Participants are provided with a Character Card and informed that they should imagine they are that character and may assume a range of details that go along with the character.
3. Participants line up in a straight line, in the centre of the room.
4. The facilitator reads a statement from the 'Safety Scenarios', and participants take:
 - a step forward if they feel safe or not abusively controlled
 - a step backward if they feel unsafe or abusively controlled
5. Debrief the exercise. You may choose to start at one particular side of the room, or ask participants randomly. Potential questions:
 - How did it feel to end up where you are?
 - What assumptions did you draw upon to make your decisions to move forward or back?
 - What does it have you thinking about in terms of client safety?
 - What does it have you thinking about in terms of risk assessment?
 - Do you feel there are any implications for you in your work role?



Safety Scenarios:

- I don't know when a member of the household is coming home tonight
- I have been pushed by a family member
- I am not able to see my friends unless I have permission
- I am shouting at a family member and making threats of violence
- I have been told there will be 'consequences' if I continue my undesirable behaviour
- Adults in the house are drinking alcohol
- I have been strangled
- I am given spending money but don't receive or manage my income
- A member of the family has purchased a gun for recreational hunting purposes
- I am not able to see relatives who don't live with me unless I have permission
- A family member escorts me to all appointments I have
- I have moved house and no-one outside my immediate family knows my new address
- I have witnessed a family member throwing household items in aggression



Character Cards

<p>Man Successful football player</p>	<p>Man Hard-working sales rep.</p>
<p>Woman Employed in two jobs</p>	<p>Young woman Desiring her own nuclear family</p>
<p>Transgender In a stable relationship</p>	<p>Transgender Alienated from own family</p>
<p>Child Living with step-father</p>	<p>Female child Regularly attending school</p>



<p>Male teenager Respects male strength</p>	<p>Teenager Being bullied at school</p>
<p>Man Recently retrenched</p>	<p>Man Religious</p>
<p>Woman over 50 Limited life experience</p>	<p>Aboriginal woman Lives in city away from family</p>
<p>Male refugee Respected in local Australian community</p>	<p>Female refugee Lived in Australia 8 months</p>