

41124**Recognise and respond to family violence risk**

Kaupae Level	4
Whiwhinga Credit	10
Whāinga Purpose	<p>This skill standard is for people in community or government front line roles intending 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 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 may be used in programmes of study leading to New Zealand qualifications and the <i>Family Violence Risk and Safety Practice (Essential)</i> (Micro-credential) [ID: 129697].</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 downplayed and 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.

Hua o te ako Learning outcomes	Paearu aromatawai Assessment criteria
2. Demonstrate culturally safe responses to family violence risk.	a. Reflect on own biases that can increase risk of family violence.
	a. Describe urgent actions to address immediate safety and risk to an adult or child victim-survivor.
	b. Use safe and reassuring communication skills to respond to a victim-survivor.
	c. Use calm, professional and non-collusive communication skills to respond to a person using violence.
	d. Outline a culturally safe and appropriate response for a person who discloses sexual violence.
	e. Explain how and where to seek assistance and guidance about people's specific needs.
3. 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:

- *Culturally appropriate responses* refer to workers being able to tailor their responses to ensure the person they are engaging with experience responses and actions that are safe and respectful, and meet their cultural needs. It requires 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 in legislation as a pattern of behaviour that coerces, controls, or harms another, within the context of a personal relationship. Family violence includes physical, sexual violence, financial, child abuse and/or psychological abuse, coercive control, strangulation, dowry-related violence, animal abuse, harassment, and damage to property.
- *Family violence risk* refers to the risk of further violence, including homicide, suicide, serious injury trauma, and hardship caused by the person using violence and by harmful system responses.
- *Immediate and escalating risk* refers to 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.
- *Non-collusive* responses are responses that do not, either intentionally or unintentionally, indicate agreement with or minimise violence-supportive beliefs.
- *Safe interim support* refers to strategies used to support someone during the period until the referral is accepted.
- *Warm referral* refers to the process of providing a supported, assisted referral rather than simply giving someone a phone number.

Ngā momo whiwhinga | Grades available

Achieved

Ihirangi waitohu | Indicative content

Recognise family violence signs, dynamics and risk:

- Dynamics of family violence: 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.
- The range of abusive tactics, including coercive control, entrapment, intimidating, 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, young people and marginalised communities.
- Signs of immediate and escalating risk.

Safe and culturally appropriate responses:

- 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 downplayed and 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, tauiwi 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.
- The 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

- New Zealand Legislation. (1961). *Crimes Act 1961*. Available at <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1961/0043/latest/dlm327382.html>.
- 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>.

- Te Pūkotahitanga – Tangata Whenua Advisory Group for the Minister of the Prevention of Family Violence and Sexual Violence. (2023). *Violence Within Whānau and Mahi Tūkino. A Litany of Sound revisited*. Available at <https://preventfsv.govt.nz/assets/Te-Pukotahitanga/2023-10-A-Litany-of-Sound-Revisited.pdf>.
- Te Tāhū Hauora, Health Quality and Safety Commission. (2021). *Family Violence Death Review Committee: Fifth Report*. Available at <https://www.hqsc.govt.nz/assets/Our-work/Mortality-review-committee/FVDRC/Publications-resources/FVDRC-5th-report-Feb-2016-v2.pdf>.
- The Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention. (2025). *Family Violence Risk and Safety Practice Framework*. Available at <https://www.preventfsv.govt.nz/assets/Workforce-Frameworks/Risk-and-Safety-Practice-Framework-Web-Version.pdf>.

Pārongo Whakaū Kounga | Quality assurance information

Ngā rōpū whakatau-paerewa Standard Setting Body	Education, Health and Community Industry Skills Board
Whakaritenga Rārangi Paetae Aromatawai DASS classification	Community and Social Services > Social Services > Social Service Work with Abuse, Neglect, and Violence
Ko te tohutoro ki ngā Whakaritenga i te Whakamanatanga me te Whakaōritenga CMR	0024

Hātepe Process	Putanga Version	Rā whakaputa Review Date	Rā whakamutunga mō te aromatawai Last date for assessment
Rēhitatanga Registration	1	29 January 2026	N/A
Kōrero whakakapinga Replacement information	N/A		
Rā arotake Planned review date	31 December 2030		

Please contact Education, Health and Community Industry Skills Board at qualifications@ehcisb.nz to suggest changes to the content of this skill standard.