

Appendix 2: Clarification questions for a child

In order to obtain accurate and reliable information from a child regarding a domestic abuse situation, it is critical that the language and questions are appropriate for the child's age and developmental stage.

1. Types and frequency of exposure to domestic abuse

- What kinds of things do mum and dad (or their girlfriend or boyfriend) fight about?
- What happens when they argue?
- Do they shout at each other or call each other bad names?
- Does anyone break or smash things when they get angry? Who?
- Do they hit one another? What do they hit with?
- How does the hitting usually start?
- How often do your mum and dad argue or hit?
- Have the police ever come to your home? Why?
- Have you ever seen your mum or dad get hurt? What happened?

2. Risks posed by the domestic abuse

- Have you ever been hit or hurt when mum and dad (or their girlfriend or boyfriend) are fighting?
- Has your brother or sister ever been hit or hurt during a fight?
- What do you do when they start arguing or when someone starts hitting?
- Has either your mum or dad hurt your pet?

3. Impact of exposure to domestic abuse

- Do you think about mum and dad (or their girlfriend or boyfriend) fighting a lot?
- Do you think about it when you are at school, while you're playing, when you're by yourself?
- How does the fighting make you feel?
- Do you ever have trouble sleeping at night? Why? Do you have nightmares? If so, what are they about?
- Why do you think they fight?
- What would you like them to do to make it better?
- Are you afraid to be at home? To leave home?
- What or who makes you afraid?
- Do you think it's okay to hit when you're angry? When is it okay to hit someone?
- How would you describe your mum? How would you describe your dad? (or their girlfriend or boyfriend)

4. Protective factors

- What do you do when mum and dad (or their girlfriend or boyfriend) are fighting?
- If the child has difficulty responding to an open-ended question, the worker can ask if the child has:
 - Stayed in the room
 - Left or hidden his/herself
 - Gone for help
 - Gone to an older sibling
 - Asked their parents / the girlfriend or boyfriend to stop
 - Tried to stop the fighting
- Have you ever called the police when your parents (or their girlfriend or boyfriend) are fighting?
- Have you ever talked to anyone about your parents (or their girlfriend or boyfriend) fighting?
- Is there an adult you can talk to about what's happening at home?
- What makes you feel better when you think about your parents (or their girlfriend or boyfriend) fighting?
- Does anybody else know about the fighting?

- Do you have a mobile telephone that you could use in an emergency?