



Tool 1.8: Elder abuse risk factor assessment checklist

This risk factor assessment checklist can indicate known risk factors for abuse.¹⁰

Notes:

- Answers to the questions may result in disclosure of abuse or information that requires additional intervention initiated by your agency and/or NSW Police.
- The level of risk increases with each YES answer.

The client	Yes	No	Comment
Does the person live alone or appear to be socially isolated?			
Does the person have insecure or inadequate housing arrangements?			
Is the person in poor health, frail, or have ongoing health issues?			
Does the person lack mental competency or show signs of dementia?			
Is there a lack of services involved in the client's care?			
Is the client's personal hygiene or home cleanliness poor?			
Does the person appear to have financial difficulties (lack of food; unpaid bills)?			
Does the person have addiction or gambling issues?			
Does the person have drug or alcohol misuse issues?			
Are there signs of family dysfunction or dysfunctional relationships?			
Is there a history of domestic and family violence from a partner or carer?			
Is the person reluctant to talk about their carer/s?			
Does the person appear to be psychologically or physically dependent on their carer?			
Does the person appear to be overly anxious about their safety, or is depressed or fearful?			
Does the person show signs of abuse?			
Has the person said anything that makes you suspect abuse may be occurring?			

¹⁰ Modified from Eastern Community Legal Centre, *Elder abuse toolkit*, 2012.