

Sample Comments and Questions for Domestic Violence Assessment

Framing the conversation:

- Because of how common the problem of domestic violence is, I have started asking everyone questions about their relationships.
- From past experience, I'm seeing some signs that you may be in an abusive relationship.
- I don't know if this is a problem for you, but many people I have talked with are in abusive relationships. Some are too afraid to bring it up so I've started asking some routine questions.
- Violence at home affects many families and can cause physical, emotional, and spiritual issues. I like to offer resources and information to everyone I meet in case they need them, or in case they know someone who does.

Assessment Questions:

- How are things going at home?
- What is your stress level like at home?
- How do you feel about your relationship?
- How does your partner treat you?
- Are you having any problems with your partner?
- Are you afraid of your partner?
- Do you feel in danger?
- Has your partner ever threatened to hurt you?
- Every couple fights sometimes, what are your fights like? Do they every become physical?
- Has your partner hit you or tried to injure you in any way?
- What kinds of experience with violence have you had in your life?
- Do you feel controlled or isolated by your partner?
- Does your partner ever try to control you by threatening to hurt you or your family?
- Has anyone close to you ever threatened to hurt you?
- Does your partner ever hit, kick, hurt, or threaten you?
- Have you ever been slapped, pushed, or shoved by your partner?
- Have you ever been touched in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable?
- Has anyone ever made you do something sexual when you did not want to?
- Has your partner ever used NFP to coerce you into sex?
- What stresses do you experience in your relationship?
- What happens when you and your partner disagree?
- Have you ever had situations where you felt afraid in your relationship?
- Are your friends and family aware of what happens in your relationship?
- Do you have a safe place to go in an emergency?