

Instructions for Using the MASIC-3

Amy Holtzworth-Munroe (holtzwor@indiana.edu), Connie J. A Beck (beck@u.arizona.edu), and Amy G. Applegate (aga@indiana.edu)

Updated as of July 2014

1. Before administering the MASIC-3:

- a. Read Holtzworth-Munroe, Beck, & Applegate, *The Mediator's Assessment of Safety Issues and Concerns (MASIC): A Screening Interview for Intimate Partner Violence and Abuse Available in the Public Domain*, Family Court Review, Vol. 48 No. 4, October 2010, 646-662. This article explains how and why the MASIC was developed and gives some basic information about the MASIC and its administration.
- b. Read over the MASIC-3 and familiarize yourself with it.
- c. Practice using the MASIC-3 before using it on mediation parties – ask the questions of colleagues, family, or friends. The key is to be conversant with the questions on the MASIC-3.

2. Administering the MASIC-3:

- a. *The MASIC-3 is designed to be given as an interview.*
 - i. Separate the parties and keep them separate throughout the MASIC-3 screening process.
 - ii. Administering the MASIC-3: Verbally administer the MASIC-3 to each party individually, in person, before bringing the parties together during the mediation. Be sure to read the introductory paragraph before asking the questions. Based on the screening, you may conclude that it is not appropriate to mediate with the parties in the same room or even to mediate the case at all.
 - iii. Complete a separate copy of the MASIC-3 for each party. Do not share one party's MASIC-3 answers with the other party.
 - iv. The MASIC-3 assesses each parent's report of victimization. The MASIC-3 specifically does not ask questions about the parties' perpetration of these behaviors. This is to avoid asking parties to provide self-incriminating information.
- b. *The MASIC-3 assesses multiple types of IPV/A.*
 - i. psychological abuse;
 - ii. coercive control;
 - iii. threats of severe violence;
 - iv. physical violence and severe physical violence;
 - v. sexual violence;
 - vi. stalking; and
 - vii. fear

- c. *The MASIC-3 includes questions that are relevant for determining levels of IPV/A and potential danger.*
 - i. Section 1 questions (background and assessment of lethality)
 - ii. Section 2 questions (behaviorally specific IPV/A)
 - iii. Section 3 questions (other matters not specifically asked in 1 and 2)

- d. *The MASIC-3 asks a series of behaviorally specific questions about IPV/A and assesses whether or not each of the listed IPV/A behaviors has occurred over two time periods: 1) ever and 2) in the past 12 months.*

When you get to the list of behaviorally specific questions in Section 2:

- i. Make sure the parent understands that the first question is: "Did [the other party] EVER [read the conduct in items 1-45]?" This is a YES or NO question, and it refers to conduct that happened whether or not the parties were living together when it happened.
 - ii. If the answer to the first question is NO, then move on to the next question.
 - iii. If the answer to the first question is YES, then the follow-up question is, "Did that happen in the last 12 months?" Again, this refers to the same kind of conduct, and regardless of whether the parties have been living together. The party should respond using YES or NO.
 - iv. If the answer is YES, then ask, "How many times did it happen in the last 12 months?" Some people will know *exactly* how many times something happened in the last 12 months while others will have a more *general sense* of how many times it happened. Clarify that you are looking for the actual number of times it happened or the party's best estimate of how many times it happened in the last year. If the party is unable to answer, use the Answer Key to help prompt a response – there are 6 options provided (A-F) and the party should select the one that seems correct. You may record the number of times or use one of the letters (A-F) in the space provided.
 - v. Question 39 in Section 2 and Questions 1 through 6 in Section 3 also examine fear, and severe and/or escalating violence.
-
- e. *The MASIC-3 also includes a Mediator Case Evaluation (in a separate document).*

Private instructions are designed to assist the mediator –

- i. Recognize:
 - i. the type(s) of IPV/A that may be present;
 - ii. the presence of lethality factors; and
 - iii. who should be identified as victim(s) and the primary victim
- ii. Consider, in light of safety, fear, and/or balance of power concerns in the particular case:
 - i. the appropriateness of mediation, and/or
 - ii. possible accommodation(s) to mediation procedures

Case Number _____ Research Number: _____ Name of interviewer _____
Circle party being interviewed: Male / Female or Male 1/ Male 2 or Female 1 / Female 2 Date of interview: _____

**MEDIATOR'S ASSESSMENT OF SAFETY ISSUES AND CONCERNS (MASIC-3)
as of July 2014ⁱ**

**(ADMINISTERED VERBALLY BY THE MEDIATOR
IN FAMILY LAW CASES WITH OR WITHOUT CHILDREN)**

The authors of this instrument recommend that the mediator should (a) if possible, obtain any court or police records that might address parties' violent or abusive conduct before completing this Assessment, (b) complete this Assessment in intake session(s) separate from negotiation session(s), and (c) complete this Assessment with each party privately (i.e., separately from the other party).ⁱⁱ

[Read introduction and questions to each party:] In mediation, parties work together to try to make good decisions for themselves [and, if applicable, for their children] outside of court. Mediators do not take sides and do not decide for the parties how to settle their case. Rather, mediators assist both parties in exploring ways to resolve any disagreements in this confidential settlement process. Before the parties start negotiations, we do an intake where we explain the mediation process and ask the parties to give us some background information and complete a confidential intake form.ⁱⁱⁱ You may wonder about some of the questions, but it is helpful to think of this like a visit to the doctor's office. There, you are often asked questions that may not seem important to you, but are important to the doctor. The questions we ask are important to us in deciding what would work best for you and the other party. So please answer the following questions to the best of your ability, knowing that we will keep your answers to these questions private and confidential from the court and the other party.

Additional instructions for mediator: It is generally preferable, when conducting the interview, to refer to the other party by name in each of the questions below (rather than saying "the other party" in each question). However, do not type in any party names when entering responses into the computer.

ⁱ Amy Holtzworth-Munroe, Connie J.A. Beck, and Amy G. Applegate, Mediator's Assessment of Safety Issues and Concerns Demonstration Version (MASIC-3 Demonstration Version) (2014). The MASIC-3 Demonstration Version may be reproduced, distributed, and displayed freely for non-commercial purposes. Any use of the MASIC-3 Demonstration Version that (a) is for commercial purposes; (b) does not acknowledge the authors; and/or (c) modifies the MASIC-3 Demonstration Version without the authors' consent, including the preparation of derivative works, is strictly prohibited. The first version of the MASIC appeared in Amy Holtzworth-Munroe, Connie J. A Beck and Amy G. Applegate, "The Mediator's Assessment of Safety Issues and Concerns (MASIC): A Screening Interview for Intimate Partner Violence and Abuse Available in the Public Domain," Family Court Review, Vol. 48, No. 4, 646-662 (October 2010). The authors acknowledge the Family Court Review, which is a journal of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, and their publisher Blackwell Publishing, Inc. The questions in Section 2 of this assessment have been adapted from Marshall L.L., Development of the Severity of Violence Against Women Scale; Sullivan CM, Parisian JA, Davidson WS, Index of Psychological Abuse; and Tjaden P, Thoennes N, National Violence Against Women Survey. The Marshall, Sullivan, and Tjaden screens, in their entirety, have been validated. In addition, initial reliability and validity data for Section 2 of the MASIC are available and can be obtained from the authors upon request (Holtzworth-Munroe, Pokman, Rossi, Beck, and Applegate, June 2012, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts conference). The authors wish to acknowledge their law and psychology students who assisted, directly and indirectly, in the development of this Assessment.

ⁱⁱ The MASIC (including the current version and any and all prior, future, and derivative versions) is intended for screening purposes only and does not provide any formal diagnosis of anyone screened or discussed in screening. The MASIC authors have no legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy and/or completeness of information obtained through screening done with the MASIC, or for evaluations and/or recommendations made based upon information obtained through MASIC screening. Users of the MASIC, or information obtained through MASIC screening, are deemed to have accepted the conditions set forth in this disclaimer.

ⁱⁱⁱ To obtain a copy of the Confidential Intake Form used by mediators in the Viola J. Taliaferro Family and Children Mediation Clinic at the IU Maurer School of Law, contact Professor Amy G. Applegate at aga@indiana.edu.

Case Number _____ Research Number: _____ Name of interviewer _____
Circle party being interviewed: Male / Female or Male 1/ Male 2 or Female 1 / Female 2 Date of interview: _____

Section 1

1. 1a. What is your age: _____
1b. What is the other party's age: _____

2. 2a. Which describes your main daily activities and/or responsibilities?
 Working: Full-Time or Part-Time
 Retired
 Unemployed or laid off or looking for work
 Disabled or unable to work due to health issues
 Full time home/family responsibilities
(raising children, caring for family member, keeping house)
 Student: Full-Time or Part-Time
2b. Is the other party employed? Yes No

3. 3a. Has the relationship between you and the other party ended?
 Yes, how long ago did it end? In years ___ or months ___
 No
 We never had a relationship
3b. If yes, which party left the relationship?
 You The other party Both parties decided to end relationship
3c. Why did [you/the other party] leave the relationship/or if both parties decided to end the relationship, why did the relationship end?

3d. Did you leave the relationship for another relationship? Yes No (If the party already answered that s/he left the relationship for another relationship, just mark yes here)
3e. Does [the other party] believe you left the relationship for another relationship? Yes No

4. 4a. Have you and the other party ever lived together?
 Yes, total amount of time in: years ___ or months ___ OR No
4b. If yes, are you and the other party still living together?
 Yes OR No, how long ago did you separate in: years ___ or months ___

5. 5a. How long ago was it that you and the other party last stayed together or spent time together, e.g., have dinner, go to a party or movie, spend the night together? [If parties lived together, clarify you are asking about AFTER they stopped living together.]
_____ Answer should be a number measured in one of the following:
days ___ or weeks ___ or months ___ or years ___
5b. What did you do together? _____

6. 6a. Do you and the other party have any children together? Yes No

Case Number _____ Research Number: _____ Name of interviewer _____
Circle party being interviewed: Male / Female or Male 1/ Male 2 or Female 1 / Female 2 Date of interview: _____

6b. If yes, please list them below:

| Boy or Girl? | Age? | Arrangements for this child to be discussed in mediation: Yes/No? |
|--------------|-------|---|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

7. Do you have any children from another marriage or relationship who live with you? Yes No

8. If yes, how does the other party get along with your other child or children? _____

9. Are you comfortable mediating with the other party? Yes No [If yes, go to question 12.]

10. [If answer to question 9 is NO] What makes you uncomfortable? _____

11. [If answer to question 9 is NO] What, if anything, would make you feel more comfortable? _____

12. Do you think there is any reason why you should not participate in this mediation? Yes No

13. If yes, please explain: _____

14. Everyone fights or argues with family members and friends now and then. What happened when you fought or argued with the other party involved in this mediation?

15. Which of the following statements most correctly describes how you and the other party have made decisions in the past twelve (12) months?

If the parties are parents and the mediation involves arrangements for their child/ren, ask instead: Which of the following statements most correctly describes how you and the other party have made decisions about the child/ren in the past twelve (12) months? [If the parties ask what kind of decisions, break out question into children's care / finances / other kinds of decisions affecting the child/ren.]

- ___ You have made almost all decisions
- ___ You have made the majority of the decisions
- ___ You and the other party have shared equally in making decisions
- ___ The other party has made the majority of the decisions

Case Number _____ Research Number: _____ Name of interviewer _____
Circle party being interviewed: Male / Female or Male 1/ Male 2 or Female 1 / Female 2 Date of interview: _____

___ The other party has made almost all of the decisions

16. How satisfied are you with your role in influencing and making decisions?

If the parties are parents and the mediation involves arrangements for their child/ren, ask instead: How satisfied are you with your role in influencing and making decisions about your child/ren's care?

- ___ Very satisfied
- ___ Satisfied
- ___ Neutral / it varies
- ___ Unsatisfied
- ___ Very unsatisfied

17. Do you have any of the following concerns about the other party?

- ___ Overuse of alcohol or prescription medications
- ___ Illegal drug use
- ___ Mental health problems
- ___ Child abuse and/or neglect concerns
- ___ Any criminal history

If yes, please tell me about your concerns: _____

18. Do you think the other party will say that s/he has any of the following concerns about you?

- ___ Overuse of alcohol or prescription medications
- ___ Illegal drug use
- ___ Mental health problems
- ___ Child abuse and/or neglect concerns
- ___ Any criminal history

If yes, what will the other party say? _____

19. Have either you or the other party ever been involved with the Department of Child Services (Child Protective Services)? Yes No

20. If yes, please explain: _____

21. During the mediation, would you prefer to sit in the same room with the other party or in a different room?
 Same room Different room No preference

22. If in a different room, why? _____

23. If in the same room, why? _____

24. Are there any current or past protective orders, restraining orders, or orders of protection issued against the other party in this case? Yes No

Case Number _____ Research Number: _____ Name of interviewer _____
 Circle party being interviewed: Male / Female or Male 1/ Male 2 or Female 1 / Female 2 Date of interview: _____

25. If yes, please explain: _____

26. Does the other party own or have access to any weapons? Yes No

27. If yes, what kind(s) of weapons? _____

28. Do you own or have access to any weapons? Yes No

29. If yes, what kind(s) of weapons? _____

30. 30a. Are you in mediation because:
 you and the other party decided on your own to mediate, or
 the Court referred you and the other party to mediation?

30b. If the Court referred this case to mediation, why do you believe that the Court did that?

31. [If the parties are parents and the mediation involves arrangements for their child/ren, ask:]
 What parenting plan or arrangements do you think would work best for your family? If no children, N/A:

Section 2

Now, I am going to ask you a series of questions about your relationship with NAME [the other party]. I am interested in things that [NAME] may have done during a conflict, disagreement, fight, or in anger, or to scare you or hurt you. [Reminder to mediator: Do not type in party names.]

First, I will ask if something ever happened, and you should answer yes or no.

Second, if you answer yes, then I will ask if it happened within the past 12 months. If so, I will ask you how many times it happened in the past 12 months. Some people will know *exactly* how many times something happened in the last 12 months while others will have a more *general sense* of how many times it happened. We are asking you to think about it and **give us the actual number of times it happened if you know it, or give us your best estimate of how many times it happened in the last year.** [Refer back to the bolded language if the party being interviewed needs a prompt in answering how many times in the past 12 months – if the party is unable to answer, use the attached Answer Key to help prompt a response.]

| A. Did the other party [NAME] ever (whether living together or not) | | B. Did that happen in the past 12 months? | | C. How many times in the past 12 months? |
|---|---|---|----|--|
| 1. | Call you names? | Yes | No | |
| 2. | Insult you or make you feel bad in front of others? | Yes | No | |
| 3. | Yell or scream at you? | Yes | No | |

Case Number _____ Research Number: _____ Name of interviewer _____
 Circle party being interviewed: Male / Female or Male 1/ Male 2 or Female 1 / Female 2 Date of interview: _____

| | | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|----|-----|----|--|
| 4. | Forbid you to go out without him/her? | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| 5. | Try to control how much money you had or spent? | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| 6. | Try to control your activities in or outside the home? | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| 7. | Try to control your contact with family and friends? | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| 8. | Act extremely jealous, or frequently check up on where you've been or who you've been with? | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| 9. | Demand that you obey him/her? | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| 10. | Physically abuse or threaten to abuse pets to scare or hurt you, or when angry at you? | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| 11. | Punish or deprive the children because he/she was angry at you? [If no children, N/A: <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| 12. | Make threatening gestures or faces at you or shake a fist at you? | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| 13. | Threaten to take or have the children taken away from you? [If no children, N/A: <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| 14. | Destroy property, for example, hit or kick a wall, door, or furniture or throw, smash, or break an object? | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| 15. | Drive dangerously to scare you, or when angry at you? | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| 16. | Throw an object at you to scare or hurt you, or when angry at you? | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| 17. | Destroy or harm something you care about? | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| 18. | Threaten to hurt someone you care about? (If yes, ask for details and write them here) | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| 19. | Threaten to hurt you? (If yes, ask for details and write them here) | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| 20. | Threaten to kill him/herself? (If yes, ask for details and write them here) | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| 21. | Threaten to kill you? (If yes, ask for details and write them here) | Yes | No | Yes | No | |

Case Number _____ Research Number: _____ Name of interviewer _____
 Circle party being interviewed: Male / Female or Male 1/ Male 2 or Female 1 / Female 2 Date of interview: _____

| | | | | |
|-----|--|--------|--------|--|
| 22. | Threaten you with a weapon or something like a weapon? (If yes, ask for details, including, what kind(s) of weapon(s) or object(s); write details here) | Yes No | Yes No | |
|-----|--|--------|--------|--|

I want to remind you that all my questions concern things that [NAME] may have done during a conflict, disagreement, or fight, or in anger, or to scare or hurt you.

| | | | | |
|-----|--|--------|--------|--|
| 23. | Hold you down, pinning you in place? | Yes No | Yes No | |
| 24. | Push, shove, shake or grab you? | Yes No | Yes No | |
| 25. | Scratch you, or pull your hair, or twist your arm, or bite you? | Yes No | Yes No | |
| 26. | Slap you? | Yes No | Yes No | |
| 27. | Hit or punch you? | Yes No | Yes No | |
| 28. | Kick or stomp on you? | Yes No | Yes No | |
| 29. | Choke or strangle you? | Yes No | Yes No | |
| 30. | Burn you with something? | Yes No | Yes No | |
| 31. | Use a weapon or something like a weapon against you? If yes, what kind(s) of weapon(s) or object(s)? | Yes No | Yes No | |
| 32. | Demand or insist that you engage in sexual activities against your will? | Yes No | Yes No | |
| 33. | Physically force you to engage in sexual activities against your will? | Yes No | Yes No | |
| 34. | Follow or spy on you in a way that made you feel frightened or harassed? | Yes No | Yes No | |
| 35. | Try to contact you against your will or in a way that made you feel frightened or harassed, for example, by unwanted phone calls, mail, text messages, or Facebook contacts? | Yes No | Yes No | |
| 36. | Stand outside your home, school, workplace, or other places where he/she had no business being, and in a way that made you feel frightened or harassed? | Yes No | Yes No | |
| 37. | Leave items for you to find in a way that made you feel frightened or harassed? | Yes No | Yes No | |
| 38. | Do anything else similar to the kinds of behaviors we've been discussing? If yes, what kind(s) of behavior(s)? | Yes No | Yes No | |

Now consider the things we've been discussing or similar kinds of things:

Case Number _____ Research Number: _____ Name of interviewer _____
 Circle party being interviewed: Male / Female or Male 1/ Male 2 or Female 1 / Female 2 Date of interview: _____

| | | | | |
|---|--|--------|--------|--|
| 39. | As a result of the other party's behaviors, did you ever feel fearful, scared or afraid of physical harm to yourself or to others? | Yes No | Yes No | |
| <i>As a result of the other party's behaviors, have you ever received any of the following types of physical injury?</i> | | | | |
| 40. | Scratch, small bruise, swelling, or other mild injury? Optional notes: | Yes No | Yes No | |
| 41. | Fracture, small burn, cut, large bruise, or other moderate injury? Optional notes: | Yes No | Yes No | |
| 42. | Major wound, severe bleeding or burn, being knocked out, or other severe injury? Optional notes: | Yes No | Yes No | |
| 43. | Blindness, loss of hearing, disfigurement, chronic pain, or other permanent damage? Optional notes: | Yes No | Yes No | |
| 44. | Did you seek, or should you have sought medical attention for any injury caused by the other party? Optional notes: | Yes No | Yes No | |
| 45. | As a result of the other party's behaviors, did you or someone else ever call the police? Who called the police? When and what specifically prompted the call? | Yes No | Yes No | |

Section 3

1. ***[If the party endorsed any of items 22-31 and 33 above]:*** You said that [NAME] [*insert applicable behaviors, e.g., has slapped you and choked you*] in the past 12 months. Have these types of behaviors been happening more often recently? Yes No

Case Number _____ Research Number: _____ Name of interviewer _____
Circle party being interviewed: Male / Female or Male 1/ Male 2 or Female 1 / Female 2 Date of interview: _____

2. *[If the party endorsed any of items 22-31 and 33 above]*: Have these types of behaviors been getting worse or more serious recently? Yes No

For ALL parties, regardless of whether or not they endorsed items 22-31 and 33, ask the following questions:

3. Are you afraid that the other party will harm you during the mediation or after you leave because of what you say or do in mediation? Yes No

4. If yes, please explain: _____

5. Do you believe that you are in danger at this time? Yes No

6. If yes, please explain: _____

7. Is there anything else you would like to share with me/us [the mediator(s)]? _____

8. Is there anything else you think I/we [the mediator(s)] should know? _____

Section 4 – Optional Demographic Information

1. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- 8th grade or lower
- Some/most of high school
- High school degree or GED
- Attended some college
- Two year college degree (Associates)
- Four year college degree (BA/BS)
- Some/most graduate school
- Master's Degree (MA, MS, MBA, MSW)
- Doctoral or Professional Degree (PhD, JD, MD)

2. What is your ethnicity?

- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic/Latino
- Party declined to answer

3. Which of the following best describes your race?

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- White
- Biracial or Multiracial, please explain: _____
- Other, please explain: _____
- Party declined to answer

4. Approximately, what is your **own** yearly income that you are paid personally (from all sources), not including the other party's income?

- Less than \$10,000
- Between \$10,000 – \$19,999

Case Number _____ Research Number: _____ Name of interviewer _____
Circle party being interviewed: Male / Female or Male 1/ Male 2 or Female 1 / Female 2 Date of interview: _____

- Between \$20,000 – \$29,999
- Between \$30,000 – \$39,999
- Between \$40,000 – \$49,999
- Between \$50,000 – \$69,999
- Between \$70,000 – \$89,999
- Over \$90,000

5. Is this mediation:
- the first time you and the other party are mediating these issues or
 - a return to mediation?

6. 6a. Were you and the other party ever married?
- Yes No If no, interview is over.

6b. If yes, how long have you and the other party been married in:
measured in years _____ and or months _____

- 6c. Is this is a divorce case?
- Yes No

If yes, what type of divorce?

- Original divorce
- Modification to a prior divorce [from the other party]

6d. If No, what kind of case is this?

- Abuse or neglect
- Guardianship
- Paternity
- Termination of parental rights

BACK UP ANSWER KEY

In the event that a party has difficulty estimating how many times in the PAST 12 MONTHS, use this Answer Key:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Never | A |
| Once or twice | B |
| 3 – 6 times (approximately once every few months) | C |
| 7 – 12 times (approximately every month or two) | D |
| Once per week | E |
| Daily | F |

Case Number _____ Research Number: _____ Name of interviewer _____
 If parties are the same gender, correct labels below to: Male 1/ Male 2 or Female 1 / Female 2 Date form completed: _____

MASIC-3 MEDIATOR CASE EVALUATION as of July 2014

Review the information obtained from each party (with your supervisor, if applicable) to consider whether this case is appropriate for mediation, and if so, whether any accommodations should be made to the process.

| <i>Consider (and check) the different types of intimate partner abuse or violence that may be present:</i> | Male's report of Female's behavior | Female's report of Male's behavior |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| psychological abuse (e.g., Items 1-3 in Section 2) | | |
| coercive control (e.g., Items 4-17 in Section 2) | | |
| threats of severe violence (e.g., Items 18-22 in Section 2) | | |
| physical violence (e.g. Items 23-27 in Section 2) | | |
| severe physical violence (e.g., Items 28-31 and 40-44 in Section 2) | | |
| sexual violence (e.g., Items 32-33 in Section 2) | | |
| stalking (e.g., Items 34-37 in Section 2) | | |

In some relationships one partner commits all or most of the abuse or violence; in other relationships the abuse or violence may be committed by both partners. Based on the MASICs:

Identify the victim(s): Male Female Both Neither
Do you as the mediator identify one of the parties as the primary victim? Yes No
If Yes, who: Male Female

There are also differing degrees of abuse and violence, and differing degrees of risk from abuse or violence. Some family situations pose serious safety risks to a parent, child, or others, regardless of whether the person at risk recognizes the risk. Although as mediators we need to maintain our impartiality, in order to consider the risk in a given situation, it may be helpful to identify the apparent "victim" and "abuser" in a relationship. The research tells us that a victim of intimate partner abuse or violence is at risk of serious injury or death when some or all of the risk factors below are present.

| <i>Check all risk factors that apply:</i> | Male's report of Female's behavior | Female's report of Male's behavior |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| victim expresses fear of abuser (Questions 9-13 in Section 1; Item 39 in Section 2; and Items 3-6 in Section 3)** | | |
| abuser is highly controlling (Question 15 in Section 1; and Items 4-17 in Section 2) | | |
| abuser uses drugs and/or alcohol (Questions 17-18 in Section 1) | | |
| abuser has access to guns or other weapons (note that guns are of particular concern) (Question 26-29 in Section 1; and Items 22, and 31 in Section 2) | | |
| abuser stalks victim (Items 34-37 in Section 2) | | |
| abuser threatens violence (Items 18-22 in Section 2) (note that threats of violence involving detailed plans are of particular concern) | | |
| abuser is physically violent towards victim, and the violence has been escalating in frequency and/or severity over the past 12 months (Items 22-31, 33, in Section 2; and Items 1 and 2 in Section 3) | | |

IF THE VICTIM IS A FEMALE, check the following additional risk factors which increase the risk to female victims:

- ___ **victim is a woman of child-bearing age** (up to age 50) (Question 1 in Section 1)
- ___ **victim has children from another partner/spouse living with her** (Questions 7-8 in Section 1)
- ___ **victim is leaving her abuser for a new relationship** (Question 3 in Section 1)
- ___ **abuser is currently unemployed** (Question 2 in Section 1)
- ___ **victim and the other party are still living or staying together** (Questions 3-5 in Section 1)

**As mediators, we should always accommodate someone who expresses *fear* of the other party (Questions 9-13 in Section 1, Item 39 in Section 2, Items 3-6 in Section 3). Accommodation will vary depending on the circumstances, but a mediator should *not* insist that a party start or continue mediating when that party says that s/he does not want to mediate because of fear of the other party.

Some victims of intimate partner abuse or violence may not believe that they are at risk. Although we generally want to empower a victim of intimate partner abuse or violence who affirmatively wants to mediate, in making the decision whether or not to mediate we must also consider (a) the risks involved and (b) what accommodations to provide if we decide to mediate. In addition to safety risks, be sure to consider, among any other concerns presented in the specific situation, including balance of power issues, the possibility of coercion, the mediator's ethical duty not to facilitate involuntary and/or unconscionable agreements, and the mediator's ethical duty to remain impartial.

In considering the existence and effect of intimate partner abuse or violence in this case, please consider the questions below:

- 1) Do you believe the case is appropriate for mediation? Yes No
- 2) If you think the case is **not** appropriate for mediation, what are your concerns?
- 3) If you determine not to mediate or to terminate mediation¹ because of concerns about intimate partner abuse or violence, are there any ethical constraints and/or any safety concerns in how you should communicate this decision with the parties and/or the court?
- 4) If you think the case may be mediated, should any of the following accommodations be implemented (check the ones you think should be implemented and indicate why)?
 - ___ **parties to be in separate rooms at all times (shuttle mediation)**
 - ___ **parties to be in separate rooms if mediator not present (joint sessions possible, but only if the mediator is present with the parties)**
 - ___ **staggered arrival and departure times for parties**
 - ___ **support person necessary (for which party(ies)?)**
 - ___ **attorney necessary (for which party(ies)?)**
 - ___ **referral to DV program or shelter (e.g., Middle Way House in Bloomington, IN)**
 - ___ **mediation at secure facility, passing through security, presence of armed guards (e.g., Justice Center in Bloomington, IN)**
 - ___ **party needs escort to/from car**

-list continued on the next page-

¹ Even with screening, there may be times when a mediator learns belatedly of intimate partner abuse or violence. If during the mediation, you become concerned about the possibility of intimate partner abuse or violence, take a break to consider how to proceed. Be sure to keep the parties separate while you determine the appropriate action to take.

Date: Case or Research Number: _____ Name of individual completing this form _____
If parties are the same gender, correct labels below to: Male 1/ Male 2 or Female 1 / Female 2 Date form completed: _____

- _____ **party needs way to leave the building without being seen by the other party**
- _____ **parties to appear for mediation on separate days**
- _____ **telephone or on-line mediation**
- _____ **other accommodation?**

Disclaimer: The MASIC (including the current version and any and all prior, future, and derivative versions) is intended for screening purposes only and does not provide any formal diagnosis of anyone screened or discussed in screening. The MASIC authors have no legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy and/or completeness of information obtained through screening done with the MASIC, or for evaluations and/or recommendations made based upon information obtained through MASIC screening. Users of the MASIC, or information obtained through MASIC screening, are deemed to have accepted the conditions set forth in this disclaimer.