Fact Sheet 1 Forms of family and domestic violence

Family and domestic violence is pattern of behaviours intended to coerce, control and create fear within an intimate or familial relationship.

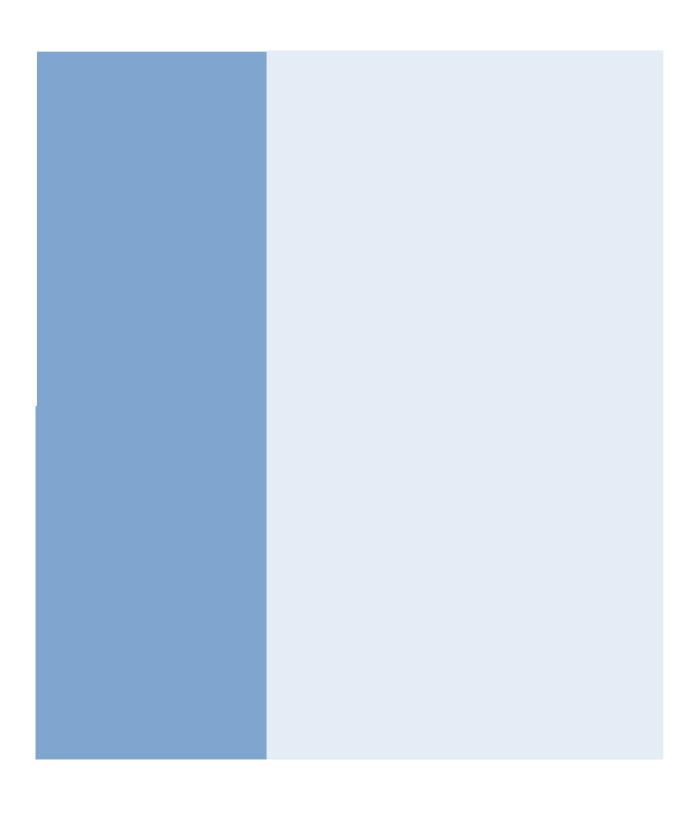
It is critical that service providers recognise that family and domestic violence can take many forms in order to identify it and respond effectively.

Many abusive tactics correspond with more than one category, for example, threats to harm can be described as emotional, verbal or physical abuse. However, all forms of family and domestic violence are implicitly emotionally violent and controlling.

The categories of family and domestic violence (Table 1) are commonly used, but should not be regarded as definitive or exclusive, and those experiencing them might see them as interchangeable or inseparable.

Table 1: Forms of family and domestic violence

Form		Examples
Emotional violence		
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Financial violence

- denying the victim access to money, including her own;
- demanding that the family live on inadequate resources;
- incurring debts in the victim's name;
- making significant financial decisions without consulting the victim;
- selling the victim's possessions; and
- stealing money.

Spiritual violence

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- ridiculing or putting down the victim's beliefs and culture;
- preventing the victim from belonging to or taking part in a group or ceremony that is important to her spiritual beliefs, or practicing her religion; and