

Working with the identified perpetrator

Do:

Identify when you are invited to collude, whether that be a verbal or situational invitation.

Use language that focusses the perpetrator on their use of violence as a choice.

Bring the perpetrator back to their choices and behaviours when they invite collusion.

Invite the perpetrator to reflect on their behaviour and the impact of their violence on their (ex)partner and children.

When appropriate, provide information about services that can assist the perpetrator to take responsibility for his behaviour.

Examples:

- “Mr Smith, I’d like to invite you to reflect on your choice to use violence.”
- “Mr Smith, the impact of your choice to be violent has been significant. This is an opportunity for you to think about the type of father or partner you want to be.”
- “Mr Smith, I’d like you to contact Men’s Referral Service. They will be able to work with you on addressing your use of violence.”

Don’t:

Diminish the victim’s experience in any way or place negative values on her choices or responses. The perpetrator will pick up on this.

Make statements that will be easily interpreted as supportive of the identified perpetrator.

Examples:

- “Mr Smith, I acknowledge that you have been violent to your partner, but you seem like a very good father.”
- “Mr Smith, your partner’s behaviour may have been erratic, but your response is not appropriate.”