

Sample Violence Risk Factors Checklist and Worker Survey -Generic

Use this checklist to assist in identifying risk factors that affect the workplace. This process takes into consideration job characteristics, environmental conditions, client characteristics and situational risk.

Characteristics of the worker's occupation that might increase risk:

The risk of violence is generally higher when the worker occupation involves physical contact with clients, particularly if the contact is one where the job involves regulation enforcement. List any job characteristic that potentially can contribute to placing the worker at an increased risk of violence, such as:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> dealing with the public | <input type="checkbox"/> changing of services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> child apprehension | <input type="checkbox"/> organization of work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> delivering social services | <input type="checkbox"/> violence considered to be part of the job |
| <input type="checkbox"/> working alone | <input type="checkbox"/> public perception that Ministry does not do enough to protect workers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> working at night | <input type="checkbox"/> denial of services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> performing security functions | |

Client characteristics that might be risk factors:

What are the risk factors related to the client that may create a risk of violence. The idea is to list any characteristics that could have caused the incident to occur. Examples could include the following characteristics:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> chronically disgruntled | <input type="checkbox"/> abuse of alcohol or drugs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> history of violence | <input type="checkbox"/> destroys property |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pushes limits of normal conduct | <input type="checkbox"/> mental or physical injury or illness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> unresolved psychological problems | <input type="checkbox"/> medication or substance abuse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> domestic abuser | <input type="checkbox"/> gang activity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> financial distress | <input type="checkbox"/> client access to weapons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> verbal abuse or threats | |

Environmental conditions that might increase the risk of incidents of violence:

Consider the time of day, location of the worksite, time of year and any other contributing environmental factors such as the following:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> workers who work alone or who work in high crime neighbourhoods | <input type="checkbox"/> poor lighting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> workers who work in remote or isolated areas | <input type="checkbox"/> physical design and worksite layout |
| <input type="checkbox"/> workers who travel by car | <input type="checkbox"/> low counters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> nightshift | <input type="checkbox"/> having devices that can be used as weapons in proximity of clients |
| <input type="checkbox"/> correctional settings with increased inmate population | <input type="checkbox"/> obscured windows |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public areas such as lobbies, or waiting rooms with crowded conditions can contribute to increased risk | <input type="checkbox"/> public accessibility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clients who can touch clients | <input type="checkbox"/> reception areas |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> interview rooms |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> parking lot |

Situational risk:

What is the nature of the interaction whether from a client or another family member. Some of the items to consider would be the prior history of the client, and violence prevention initiatives that are in place. What are the policies and procedures that might increase the risk to the worker assigned including the location where the work is being performed.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> community profile | <input type="checkbox"/> arriving and leaving court proceedings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> working at night | <input type="checkbox"/> wearing of uniform when leaving work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> working late or early | <input type="checkbox"/> unwanted public having access to building |
| <input type="checkbox"/> no check in or out procedure | <input type="checkbox"/> no evacuation plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> high crime areas | <input type="checkbox"/> having to wait for appointments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> no method of communication | <input type="checkbox"/> investigation taking place |