



ENGAGE Case study for exercises for frontline professionals interacting with male perpetrator of domestic violence and abuse to ensure a coordinated multi-agency response to perpetrators

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Contributors: Alessandra Pauncz, Giacomo Grifoni, CAM



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CASE STUDY FOR EXERCISES

Richard, 35, father of Robert and Elisabeth, 6 and 3 years old, introduces himself to the Social worker to ask if Social Services can do something to help him because of the bad situation he is living in his family, since he feels like the victim of a plot. He is friendly with the service provider, saying he is very worried. During the interview, he complains of having a precarious job as a call center operator and also of being the only one to work, since his wife, Emily has only been taking care of the children since they were born. ("As a good father, I've always worked hard"). He criticizes his wife and is angry with her because she is inadequate with the children, she is too permissive, she neglects herself and the house, she does not set rules and she also "seem in no hurry" to find a job because she has always been lazy and passive. Richard would like Emily to leave the children more often with his mother, described as much more able than her Emily's mother, from which he would like Emily to distance herself (Richard says to the professional: "You are expert and you know, she is the only daughter. The princess of the house. Some things are repeated from mother to daughter "). Even if Richard loves his wife, they often end up arguing for this reason. After one of these discussions, a few months ago Emily has even arrived to press charges against him, after receiving just a small shove and having gone to the hospital ("she always exaggerates and dramatizes"). Richard would also agree to separate as Emily lately asked through a letter from her lawyer, but he does not want to agree for the good of the family, because he is afraid that if he goes away, the children will end badly because of her poor parenting skills. On the other hand, he is the man of the house and has certain responsibilities. In what hands would Robert and Elisabeth go if he did not put order and rules? What if this were all an excuse? What if she has another man? This would explain many of her behaviors. To resolve the situation, Richard is willing to go to couple counselling. Emily has to take her responsibilities, just as he has always done, although nobody seems to be able to recognize his efforts.

1st STEP EXERCISE

- Read through the case that you were assigned
- Please discuss with a partner which indicators you have found that point to the fact that the man you are reading about might be a perpetrator
- Please circle all indicators you have found

2nd STEP EXERCISE

Explore violence through the described method (roleplay)

3rd STEP EXERCISE

Review and discuss the case briefly in plenary. A participant will play the role of the man, and in turn everyone interviews him trying to work on his motivation. After the man answers the next participants tries to ask a question. Then participants discuss in plenary. (Man can also be played by trainer)

4th STEP EXERCISE

In little groups make a plan to refer Richard to a specialized service. Discussion in plenary.