

Instructions for Using the MASIC-2P

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1. Before administering the MASIC-2P:

- 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-2P and familiarize yourself with it.
- c. Practice using the MASIC-2P 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-2P.

2. Administering the MASIC-2P:

- a. *The MASIC-2P is designed to be given as an interview.*
 - i. Separate the parents and keep them separate throughout the MASIC-2P screening process.
 - ii. Administering the MASIC-2P: Verbally administer the MASIC-2P to each parent individually, in person, before bringing the parents 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 parents in the same room or even to mediate the case at all.
 - iii. Complete a separate copy of the MASIC-2P for each parent. Do not share one parent's MASIC-2P answers with the other parent.
 - iv. The MASIC-2P assesses each parent's report of victimization. The MASIC-2P specifically does not ask questions about the parents' perpetration of these behaviors. This is to avoid asking parents to provide self-incriminating information.
- b. *The MASIC-2P 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-2P 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-2P 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, which start on page 4 of the MASIC-2P:

- i. Make sure the parent understands that the first question is: "Did [the other parent] 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 parents 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 parents have been living together. The parent should respond using YES or NO.
 - iv. Questions 39 in Section 2 and Questions 1 and 2 in Section 3 also examine fear, and severe and/or escalating violence.
- e. *The MASIC-2P 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 the victim(s)
- 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