

Policy Analysis Checklist

[excerpted from Planning and Conducting A Best-Practice Assessment of Community Response to Domestic Violence Criminal Justice System Response: Police Follow-up Investigations & Prosecution Charging Decisions, a full version of which can be found at: www.praxisinternational.org]

Instructions

1. Read the policy and highlight all of the items related to the section of the checklist that has been assigned:
 - a. Principles
 - b. Procedures
 - c. Linkages and monitoring
2. Check off all elements that are found in the existing policy and note how the policy ensures that response. Cite specific policy sections and language that support the response.
3. Use the checklist to identify policy gaps when preparing section two of the findings template.

Prosecution Charging Decisions – Policy Analysis

Policy title:

A. Principles	
Does the policy ensure a response that:	How does this happen?
<input type="checkbox"/> Adheres to an interagency approach and collective intervention goals?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Builds attention to the context and severity of abuse?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Recognizes that most domestic violence is a patterned crime requiring continuing engagement with victims and offenders?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Seeks sure and swift consequences for continued abuse?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Messages of help and accountability?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduces unintended consequences and the disparity of impact on victims and offenders?	

B. Procedures	
Does the policy ensure a response that:	How does this happen?
<input type="checkbox"/> References applicable laws, definitions, and authority?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Provides criteria and procedures for sorting cases into appropriate levels of response according to context and severity of abuse (i.e., different levels of response for different levels of dangerousness and risk)?	

B. Procedures	
Does the policy ensure a response that:	How does this happen?
<input type="checkbox"/> Guides practitioners in documenting actions and information about the case in ways that decrease reliance on memory and improve the thoroughness of case information?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Accounts for how victims use violence in response to battering by an abuser?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Recognizes and guards against increasing victim vulnerability to consequences and retaliation if they participate in confronting and holding offenders accountable?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Recognizes an offender’s likelihood of battering in future relationships?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Provides mechanisms for documenting the pattern and history of abuse when and wherever possible?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reinforces a swift, timely response focused on victim safety?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Recognizes the ways in which abusers used children to control adult victims of abuse?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Understands that protection of the adult victim parent is critical to the welfare of children?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Provides effective mechanisms to ensure victim notification, access to advocacy and victim services, and safety planning?	

C. Monitoring	
Does the policy ensure a response that:	How does this happen?
<input type="checkbox"/> Links practitioners to those who intervene at the next points of intervention?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Specifies how and within what time frame case information is shared, and with whom?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Includes mechanisms for tracking practitioner compliance with policy and for recording exceptions to the policy?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Includes steps to ensure compliance and address non-compliance?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Provides continuing education and training for practitioners on an on-going basis?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Establishes a process of record sharing and external monitoring?	