



# Vulnerability & Attachment

## Have They Really Separated?

This tool is designed as a guide for social work professionals who attend DV-ACT vulnerability and attachment training.

The presence of any of these 7 factors suggests that the couple may not have separated and increases vulnerability for the mother.

01



### Minimising

She has started to minimise or justify his behaviour.

02



### Warmth

She speaks warmly of him, is more animated and her eyes light up.

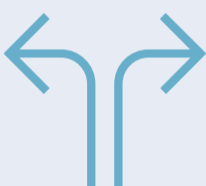
03



### Contact

There are allegations of contact between the parents from any source.

04



### Disengagement

She starts to disengage from services.

05



### Changes

She changes her account of what happened or withdraws her statement.

06



### Children

There are changes in the children's behaviour.

07



### Injuries

There are unexplained injuries to her and/or the children.

**Attachment is likely to be stronger if there is a history of:**

Drug/alcohol abuse; physical/mental health issues; immigration status issues; cultural factors; strong links within the extended families; financial struggles.



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