



Escalating Family Risk and Older Adults

D04 · Domestic abuse-related death review learning

EVIDENCE

A completed review highlighted the importance of recognising escalating risk within families involving older adults, including dependency, changing care needs and risk to identifiable others.

LEARNING FOR PRACTICE

- 01** Familial domestic abuse should be recognised alongside adult safeguarding concerns.
- 02** Age, illness or caring relationships must not normalise controlling, threatening or harmful behaviour.
- 03** Risk assessments should consider the safety of every person affected by the family situation.
- 04** Changes in behaviour, stress, dependency or access to the home may require timely multi-agency review.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

- Are we recognising familial domestic abuse?
- Whose safety and voice may be missing?
- Has increasing dependency changed the risk?
- Do agencies share the same understanding of escalation?

PRACTICE ACTIONS

Name familial abuse.

Assess identifiable others.

Review risk when caring arrangements change.

Publication note: This briefing presents generalised, transferable learning. Names, locations, exact dates and distinctive personal details have been removed. It does not replace statutory guidance, organisational procedures or case-specific professional judgement.