

Risk assessment: intimidation scorecard

The risk of intimidation

This scorecard is designed to help you identify witnesses who may be at risk of intimidation. Potential actions should be used as a **guide**, and should be used in combination with your own judgement of what support and protection is required in any given situation. All action taken as a result of your assessment should be discussed with the witness to ensure it meets their needs.

1. History of intimidation		
a. Does the suspect (or their associates) have a history of or reputation for intimidation or harassment?	6	Suspect or their associates are currently harassing the witness
	4	Suspect or their associates have harassed the witness in the past
	2	Suspect or their associates have not harassed the witness, but have a history or reputation for harassment or violent behaviour
	0	Suspect or their associates have no history or reputation for harassment or intimidation
b. As far as you are aware, has the witness previously been a victim of harassment or intimidation (not from the suspect or their associates), or withdrawn from a previous case?	2	Yes
	1	Unsure
	0	No
2. Witness/suspect relationship		
c. How well do the witness and the suspect know one another?	2	They know each other well
	1	They are 'known' to each other
	0	They do not know each other
d. Are the witness and suspect part of a similar community or social group?	2	They are closely linked by family or friends
	1	They are part of the same community/social group
	0	They are not part of the same community/social group
e. Does the witness live/work close to the scene of the incident?	2	The witness lives/works at the scene of the incident
	1	The witness lives/works nearby
	0	The witness does not live or work near the scene of the incident
3. Witness vulnerability		
f. Has the witness expressed any fear that they might suffer intimidation or harassment as a result of being involved in the case (by reporting the crime, giving evidence in court, etc.)?	2	Yes
	1	No, but they appear nervous about being involved in the case
	0	No, there is no indication that they fear intimidation
g. How would you describe the witness's behaviour?	2	The witness appears nervous and/or traumatised and has concerns about being involved in the case
	1	The witness appears calm but has concerns about being involved in the case
	0	The witness has few concerns about being involved in the case
h. Does the witness have a good support network to draw on (friends, family, etc.)?	2	The witness is isolated from people who can offer support
	1	The witness has a few people to draw on for support
	0	The witness has a close network of people to draw on for support
RI Score (out of 20)		

4. Other factors – use this box to describe any other factors that might make it more likely that the witness will feel intimidated (e.g. language barriers, mental health, case history, etc.).

Based on these factors and your own judgement, adjust the scoring accordingly

Final RI Score

Low 0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 High

Risk of intimidation

Potential action

Potential actions should be used as a **guide**, and should be used in combination with your own judgement of what support and protection are required in any given situation. All action taken as a result of your assessment should be discussed with the witness to ensure it meets their needs.

HIGH	20	<p>Police:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take practical steps to safeguard the witness's safety and security, referring to Housing or ASB Units where appropriate, e.g. applying for the installation of alarms, CCTV. Apply to CPS for Special Measures on the basis of potential witness intimidation (if desired by the witness).
	19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritise contact and support for this witness.
	18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider remanding the suspect in custody/arrange bail conditions – discuss with CPS.
	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider referring to specialist police witness support units.
	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer the witness to Victim Support and other support organisations where appropriate. <p>Voluntary organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritise one-to-one support for this witness. Prioritise advocacy work with Housing and ASB Unit to improve witness security.
	15	<p>Witness Care Unit (WCU):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritise meeting this witness's needs for support. Check that Special Measures have been applied for. If not, discuss with CPS. Regularly contact the witness to monitor the situation, alerting the police if you think intimidation is occurring.
	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise closely with Victim Support and Witness Service, and other voluntary support organisations.
MEDIUM	13	<p>Police:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss support options with the witness, referring the witness to Victim Support and other support organisations where appropriate.
	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take practical steps to safeguard the witness's safety and security – discuss with your supervisor and consider applying for the installation of alarms, CCTV, etc.
	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider imposing conditions on bail that will keep the suspect from approaching the witness – discuss with CPS.
	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider applying for Special Measures (if desired by the witness) – discuss with CPS. <p>Voluntary organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet the witness's needs for support. Undertake advocacy work with Housing and ASB Unit to improve witness security.
	9	<p>WCU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer standard WCU service, being conscious of any changes in circumstances that might give rise to intimidation.
	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make every effort to ensure that there is no opportunity for witness to be intimidated or harassed at the court.
	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise closely with Victim Support and Witness Service, and other voluntary support organisations. Re-contact the witness and adjust support offered if their requirements have changed (e.g. the risk of intimidation may increase).
LOW	6	<p>Police:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where necessary, refer the witness to Victim Support and other appropriate local/national support organisations.
	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take practical steps to safeguard the witness's safety and security.
	4	<p>Voluntary organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer any necessary support to witness.
	3	<p>WCU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer standard WCU service, being conscious of any changes in circumstances that might give rise to intimidation.
	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise closely with Victim Support and Witness Service, and other voluntary support organisations.
	1	
	0	