

Phase I Report IA
*Assessing Domestic Violence under the Family Violence Option:
Detailed Review of State FVO Practices*

Report Prepared for:
The New Jersey Division of Family Development

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Family Violence Option

As part of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits were established. Recognizing that survivors of domestic violence may experience challenges in meeting the requirements associated with TANF, Senators Wellstone (Democrat, MN) and Patty Murray (Democrat, WA) crafted the Wellstone/Murray Amendment. As part of this amendment, states would be required to screen welfare applicants and recipients for domestic violence and refer individuals who screen positively for services. Further, certain TANF benefit requirements could be exempt for these individuals as well under a good cause waiver.

Before the final passage of the 1996 PROWRA, the Amendment was converted to a state “option,” meaning that states could choose whether or not to adopt the policy. Thus, the Amendment became known as the Family Violence Option (FVO). According to the policy:

At the option of the State, a certification by the chief executive officer of the State that the State has established and is enforcing standards and procedures to: (i) screen and identify individuals receiving assistance under this part with a history of domestic violence while maintaining the confidentiality of such individuals; (ii) refer such individuals: to counseling and supportive services; and (iii) waive, pursuant to a determination of good cause, other program requirements such as: time limits (for so long as necessary) for individuals receiving assistance, residency requirements, child support cooperation requirements, and family cap provisions, in cases where compliance with such requirements would make it more difficult for individuals receiving assistance under this part to escape domestic violence or unfairly penalize such individuals who are or have been victimized by such violence, or individuals who are at risk of further domestic violence. (P.L. 104-109. 402(a)(7))

Project Background

This report is the first in a series of reports resulting from a multi-phase study, sponsored by the New Jersey Division of Family Development. The goal of this project is to identify best practices and policies in order to create and validate a risk assessment tool to be used with domestic violence survivors receiving Work First New Jersey services. Phase I of the project focused on reporting on best practices and policies on how domestic violence is identified and how risk is assessed by other welfare departments across the U.S. This was achieved through a review of academic literature and policy reports as well as directly contacting states for their policies and procedures regarding domestic violence and the implementation of the FVO. Results of Phase I are presented in two complementary reports.

The current report, Report IA, provides a detailed overview of implementation and practices at the state level. Report IB, issued simultaneously with this report, focuses on a summary of these approaches, integrates a literature review of best practices and evaluation research on the FVO, and concludes with recommendations.

State FVO Implementation and Practices

The following chart provides a brief description of FVO practices broken down by state. The information was collected through a variety of sources including states' TANF websites, employee manuals, state reports, and phone contact when necessary. While the report has complete information on the factors we researched for every state, some states provided more concrete, thorough information than others. For example, some states link all of their TANF documents to their website, allowing anyone to see their brochures and manuals, but others only refer to such documents in their publicly released reports. Information is as current as possible for every state. Some states' most recent publications regarding the FVO were in 2008, but nearly two-thirds provided information as of 2014. It is important to note that when necessary, researchers' best judgment was used to determine the correct information. In cases where states' documents contradicted one another, the most recent information was used.

The chart is presented in alphabetical order for all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The first column lists the state name and the second lists whether or not the state has formally adopted the FVO. In certain cases, this column will list that the state has not adopted the FVO, but does have similar practices of their own in place. The third column provides the state definition of family violence. In many cases, this definition is taken from the Federal legislation, as listed at the bottom of the chart. However, other states chose to include their own definition of this term as provided in other relevant statutes.

The next four columns report various steps in the waiver granting process. First, notification and screening reports how states initially informs clients of the FVO, and how they screen clients during the application process and throughout benefit receipt. The following column, referrals, indicates who is responsible for referring clients to the appropriate services once they have been identified as a survivor of domestic violence. In many cases, this is done by the case worker. However, in some cases it is completed by a third party, such as a state domestic violence coalition. The next column, risk assessment, lists who performs the risk assessment. Some states perform these assessments in house, while others refer these out to local domestic violence organizations or an independent liaison. Next is the waiver granting column, which lists who has the final approval on providing waivers to clients. Again, this is most frequently the case worker but certain states listed a specific person or agency. The second to last column lists the types of waivers available to survivors of domestic violence. Case workers or agency staff determine, based on the clients specific needs and circumstances, which waivers are necessary.

Finally, the last column lists the year in which the most recent information used in this chart was released.

State by State Review of the Implementation of the Family Violence Option

State	FVO	Definition	Notification/ Screening	Referrals	Risk Assessment	Waiver Granting	Types of Waivers	As of
Alabama	Yes	Any incident resulting in the abuse, assault, harassment, or the attempt or threats thereof, between family, household, or dating or engagement relationship members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Questionnaire or Screening Tool Screening: Eligibility workers initially screen; JOBS Case Managers also screen 	Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Performed by S.A.I.L. Specialists at Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Case Manager following ACAD assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirements 	2014
Alaska	Yes	(A) a crime against the person under AS 11.41; (B) burglary; (C) criminal trespass; (D) arson; (E) criminal mischief; (F) terrorist threatening; (H) harassment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Informed orally and through brochures/posters Screening: Case Worker during intake interview 	Case Workers refer to specialized community-based services	Initially completed by case worker, but if necessary client may be referred to local service provider for assessment	Case Worker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirements 	2015
Arizona	Yes	Federal Definition*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Informed orally Screening: JOBS Program contractors during initial interview 	Case Workers refer to local services	JOBS Program contactor during employability screening; May also refer out to local agency if needed	Case Worker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirement Residency Requirements Family Cap 	2011

State	FVO	Definition	Notification/ Screening	Referrals	Risk Assessment	Waiver Granting	Types of Waivers	As of
Arkansas	Yes	Physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, or assault between family or household members; or (B) Any sexual conduct between family or household members, whether minors or adults, that constitutes a crime under the laws of this state.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification: Questionnaire • Screening: Questionnaire later reviewed with TEA Case Manager 	Case Managers refer to local services	TEA Case Manager completes employability assessment used to complete Employment Plan	Case Managers, approved by supervisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time Limits • Child Support • Work Requirements 	2014
California	Yes	Federal Definition*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification: Informed orally and through brochures/posters • Screening: County welfare workers inform all applicants and provide opportunities for self-disclosure 	Case Workers refer to local domestic violence resources	Case Workers refer to staff member trained in DV to perform assessment	County welfare staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time Limits • Child Support • Work Requirements • Educational Requirements • Family Cap • Other program requirements as needed 	2009

State	FVO	Definition	Notification/ Screening	Referrals	Risk Assessment	Waiver Granting	Types of Waivers	As of
Colorado	Yes	An act of violence or a threatened act of violence upon a person with whom the actor is or has been involved in an intimate relationship, and may include any act or threatened act against a person or against property, including an animal, when used as a method of coercion, control, punishment, intimidation, or revenge directed against a person with whom the actor is or has been involved in an intimate relationship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification: Questionnaire and brochure/ poster • Screening: Screening tool completed during initial intake interview 	Case Workers refer to local resources	Case Workers	County Case Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time Limits • Child Support • Work Requirements 	2015
Conn.	No, but has similar policies	Federal Definition*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification: Informed orally and through brochures/ posters • Screening: Case Worker during employment assessment 	CHRHEALTH	Case Workers	Case Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time Limits • Child Support • Work Requirements • Residency Requirements 	2014

State	FVO	Definition	Notification/ Screening	Referrals	Risk Assessment	Waiver Granting	Types of Waivers	As of
Delaware	Yes	Abuse perpetrated by one member against another member of the following protected classes: a. Family; or b. Former spouses; persons cohabitating together who are holding themselves out as a couple, with or without a child in common; persons living separate and apart with a child in common; or persons in a current or former substantive dating relationship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification: Questionnaire • Screening: DSS Staff screen through Family Development Profile 	Trained DV workers in each office help to refer survivors to local services	Case Workers verify requirements but they do not have a full assessment	Case Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time Limits • Child Support • Work Requirements 	2005; call with Janeen Boyd in 2015
DC	Yes	The condition of being subject to physical acts that result in or threaten to result in physical harm, forced engagement in non-consensual sexual activity, threats of physical or sexual abuse, emotional abuse, or neglect or deprivation of medical care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification: Informed orally and through brochures/posters • Screening: Case Workers use TANF Comprehensive Assessment (TCA) with all applicants during initial application interview 	Case Workers refer to local services	A domestic violence provider in the District, trained in the prevention and treatment of victims of domestic violence completes the risk assessment	Case Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time Limits • Child Support • Work Requirements 	2014

State	FVO	Definition	Notification/ Screening	Referrals	Risk Assessment	Waiver Granting	Types of Waivers	As of
Florida	Yes	Any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense that results in the physical injury or death of one family or household member by another.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Individuals informed orally and through introduction video Screening: Regional Workforce Board service provider 	Regional Workforce Board	Regional Workforce Board	Regional Workforce Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirements 	2014
Georgia	Yes	The commission of the offenses of battery, simple battery, simple assault, assault, stalking, criminal damage to property, or criminal trespass between family or household members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Informed orally and through brochures/posters Screening: Case Managers 	Case Managers refer to local counseling and supportive services	Domestic Violence Assessor or local agency performs risk assessment	Case Manager, following DVA report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirements (not exempt from work but temporary waivers provided as needed) Residency Requirements Family Cap 	2015
Hawaii	Yes	Federal Definition*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Informed orally and through brochures/posters Screening: Case Workers 	Case Workers refer to local domestic violence agency or domestic violence advocate	DV Agency or DV Advocate	Case Worker at rec. of local agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Work Requirements 	2015

State	FVO	Definition	Notification/ Screening	Referrals	Risk Assessment	Waiver Granting	Types of Waivers	As of
Idaho	No, but has similar policies	Federal Definition*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification: Informed orally • Screening: Case Workers 	Case Workers refer to local DV agencies	Case Workers	DHW Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time Limits • Family Caps • Residency Requirements • Other requirements where compliance would unfairly penalize or endanger recipient 	2013
Illinois	Yes	Federal Definition*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification: Case worker informs applicant after identifying signs of DV • Screening: Case Workers 	Case Workers refer to local DV agencies	Case Workers	Case Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time Limits • Child Support • Work Requirements 	2010

State	FVO	Definition	Notification/ Screening	Referrals	Risk Assessment	Waiver Granting	Types of Waivers	As of
Indiana	Yes	The occurrence of at least one of the following acts committed by a family or household member: (1) Attempting to cause, threatening to cause, or causing physical harm to another family or household member. (2) Placing a family or household member in fear of physical harm. (3) Causing a family or household member to involuntarily engage in sexual activity by force, threat of force, or duress. (4) Beating, mutilating, or killing a vertebrate animal without justification with the intent to threaten, intimidate, coerce, harass, or terrorize a family or household member. For purposes of IC 34-26-5, domestic and family violence also includes stalking or a sex offense whether or not the stalking or sex offense is committed by a family or household member.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification: Informed orally and through brochures/posters • Screening: Case Workers 	Case Workers refer to counseling and local DV support services	Case Workers	Case Workers make rec., director approves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time Limits • Child Support • Work Requirements • Residency Requirements • Family Cap 	2012
Iowa	Yes	Federal Definition*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification: Individuals informed orally • Screening: Family Investment Program (FIP) 	FIP Staff refers to local services	Income Maintenance Staff	FIP Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time Limits • Child Support • Work Requirements • Residency Requirements 	2014

State	FVO	Definition	Notification/ Screening	Referrals	Risk Assessment	Waiver Granting	Types of Waivers	As of
Kansas	Yes	Federal Definition*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Informed orally and through brochures/posters Screening: DCF Staff 	DCF Staff refers to local DV agency	Local DV/SA Agency or DSA Advocate	EES Case Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Work Requirements 	2013
Kentucky	Yes	Physical injury, serious physical injury, sexual abuse, assault, or the infliction of fear of imminent physical injury, serious physical injury, sexual abuse, or assault between family members or members of an unmarried couple.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Informed through brochure or posters Screening: Case Workers 	Targeted Assessment Program (TAP) Staff	Targeted Assessment Program Staff	Case Managers with TAP rec.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirements Residency Requirements 	2013
Louisiana	Yes	Physical or sexual abuse and any offense against the person as defined in the Criminal Code of Louisiana, committed by one parent against the other parent or against any of the children. Family violence does not include reasonable acts of self-defense utilized by one parent to protect himself or herself or a child in the family from the family violence of the other parent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Informed orally and through brochures/posters Screening: Case worker Family Success Form 	Case Workers refer to local DV service providers	Case Workers	Secretary of the Dept. of Children and Family Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirements Residency Requirements Education Requirements STEP Program 	2014

State	FVO	Definition	Notification/ Screening	Referrals	Risk Assessment	Waiver Granting	Types of Waivers	As of
Maine	No, but has similar policies	i. Physical acts/ threats of physical injury; ii. Sexual abuse of a child or caretaker of a child; iii. Psychological effects of the abuse. The full definition of domestic violence for the purpose of good cause is the inability to participate due to domestic violence when the individual is unable to participate because of physical injuries or the psychological effects of activities related to abuse; because the abuser actively interferes with the individual's participation; because the location puts the individual at risk; or for other good cause related to domestic violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Informed orally and through brochures/posters Screening: TANF/Aspire Worker 	TANF/Aspire Workers refer to local DV support agencies	TANF/Aspire Workers	TANF/Aspire Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirements 	2015
Maryland	Yes	Any physical or mental abuse to a spouse, ex-spouse, or intimate partner or to another member of the family that results or threatens to result in injury to the individual. This includes sexual abuse, sexual activity involving a dependent child, nonconsensual sexual acts or activities, neglect or deprivation of medical care, or false imprisonment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Informed orally and through questionnaire/screening tool Screening: A screener, who cannot be the same Family Investment case manager 	Case Managers refer to local support services	FVO experts within local departments perform risk assessment	LDSS Case Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirements 	2012

State	FVO	Definition	Notification/ Screening	Referrals	Risk Assessment	Waiver Granting	Types of Waivers	As of
Mass.	Yes	Federal Definition*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Informed orally and through brochure or poster Screening: DV Specialist 	Domestic Violence Specialist	Domestic Violence Specialist	Case Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirements Education Requirements Family Cap 	2011
Michigan	No, but has similar policies	The occurrence of any of the following acts by a person that is not an act of self-defense: (i) Causing or attempting to cause physical or mental harm to a family or household member. (ii) Placing a family or household member in fear of physical or mental harm. (iii) Causing or attempting to cause a family or household member to engage in involuntary sexual activity by force, threat of force, or duress. (iv) Engaging in activity toward a family or household member that would cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed, or molested.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Informed through brochure or poster Screening: Case Worker 	Case Worker	Case Worker	Case Worker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirements 	2014

State	FVO	Definition	Notification/ Screening	Referrals	Risk Assessment	Waiver Granting	Types of Waivers	As of
Minn.	Yes	(1) Physical harm, bodily injury, or assault; (2) the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, or assault; or (3) terroristic threats; criminal sexual conduct; or interference with an emergency call.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Informed through self-disclosed assessment tool, and brochures or posters Screening: County staff trained in DV, advocate 	DV Specialist in office refers to local DV services providers	DV Specialist	DV Specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirements 	2015
Miss.	No, but has similar policies	Federal Definition*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Individuals informed through brochures or posters Screening: Case Worker/JAWS Program staff 	Case Worker/JAWS Program staff	Case Worker/JAWS Program staff	Case Worker/JAWS Program staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Work Requirements 	2014
Missouri	No, but has similar policies	Abuse or stalking committed by a family or household member, as such terms are defined in Missouri Statute 455.010.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Informed through questionnaire or screening tool Screening: Income Maintenance (IM) Eligibility Specialist 	Income Maintenance Eligibility Specialist refers to local DV service providers	Income Maintenance Eligibility Specialist	IM Eligibility Specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirements 	2015

State	FVO	Definition	Notification/ Screening	Referrals	Risk Assessment	Waiver Granting	Types of Waivers	As of
Montana	Yes	Physical, sexual, and/or mental or emotional abuse of a member of the assistance unit by a person with whom that member lives or with whom that member has recently lived which is sufficiently severe to interfere with the TANF participant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Informed through a self-administered screening tool Screening: Case Worker 	Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence or appropriate counselor/entity	Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence or other appropriate counselor/entity dealing with DV	Case Worker after assessment from Coalition or other agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirements 	2012
Nebraska	Yes	Federal Definition*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Informed through a self-administered screening tool Screening: Employment First Case Manager-through initial assessment and self-administered screening tool 	Employment First Case Managers refer to counseling and appropriate services	Domestic violence/sexual assault program representative or a medical professional perform risk assessment	Case Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirements Residency Requirements 	2013

State	FVO	Definition	Notification/ Screening	Referrals	Risk Assessment	Waiver Granting	Types of Waivers	As of
Nevada	Yes	When a person commits one of the following acts (a) A battery. (b) An assault. (c) Compelling the other person by force or threat of force to perform an act from which the other person has the right to refrain or to refrain from an act which the other person has the right to perform. (d) A sexual assault; (e) A knowing, purposeful or reckless course of conduct intended to harass the other person. (f) A false imprisonment. (g) Unlawful entry of the other person's residence, or forcible entry against the other person's will.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification: Informed through brochures or posters • Screening: Case Manager, employment and training worker, or social worker 	Case Manager refers to local DV service providers	Social Worker within division performs risk assessment	Case Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time Limits • Child Support • Work Requirements 	2012
N.H.	Yes	Federal Definition*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification: Informed through brochures or posters • Screening: Family Services Specialist (FSS) or NHEP Employment Counselor Specialist (ECS) 	FSS refers to local service provider	Assessment and Intervention Unit (AIU)	Family Service Specialist following assessment from AIU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time Limits • Child Support • Work Requirements 	2014

State	FVO	Definition	Notification/ Screening	Referrals	Risk Assessment	Waiver Granting	Types of Waivers	As of
New Jersey	Yes	Federal Definition*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Informed orally, through questionnaire and via brochures and posters Screening: CWA/MWA Staff 	CWA/MWA Staff	NJ Coalition for Battered Women	CWA/MWA following the DV agency assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirements Residency Family Cap Emergency Assistance Requirements 	2015
New Mexico	Yes	Any incident by a household member against another household member resulting in: a) Physical harm; b) Severe emotional issues; c) Bodily injury or assault; d) A threat causing imminent fear of bodily injury by any household member; e) Criminal trespass; f) Criminal damage to property; g) Repeatedly driving by a residence or work place; h) Telephone harassment; i) Stalking; j) Harassment; or k) Harm or threatened harm to children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Informed orally and through brochures or posters Screening: Case Worker and work program contractor screen for DV 	Trained DV counselor refers to local services	In collaboration with the DV shelter, Income Support Division, CYFD, and ISD work program contractor and other relevant entities, a determination will be made as to the eligibility of a family	Dept. staff following DV counselor assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirements 	2015

State	FVO	Definition	Notification/ Screening	Referrals	Risk Assessment	Waiver Granting	Types of Waivers	As of
New York	Yes	Federal Definition*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Informed orally and through brochures or posters Screening: DV Liaison (either in-house or contracted) 	Liaison refers to local resources	DV Liaison	DV Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirements Residency Requirements Alcohol and Substance Abuse Screening Learnfare 	2015
North Carolina	Yes	Verbal, sexual, emotional, psychological and/or physical abuse between or among family members or intimate partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Applicants are informed orally and must all sign an FVO notification form Screening: Case Workers do initial screening, then refer to local DV agency 	Local DV agencies	Each county must designate an individual within DSS or get assistance from an outside agency to conduct assessments	Case Worker with recommendation from assessing agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirement Family Cap 	2013
North Dakota	Yes	Physical harm, bodily injury, sexual activity compelled by physical force, assault, or the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, sexual activity compelled by physical force, or assault, not committed in self-defense, on the complaining family or household members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Informed orally, through questionnaire and via brochures and posters Screening: Case Worker 	Local DV organization for safety planning and supportive services	Client will be referred to local agency for additional assessment during employability screening if necessary	Case Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirements 	2010

State	FVO	Definition	Notification/ Screening	Referrals	Risk Assessment	Waiver Granting	Types of Waivers	As of
Ohio	Yes	Federal Definition*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Informed orally Screening: Case Workers 	Case Workers refer to local services	Case Workers	County Agency/ Case Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirements Income Verification 	2015
Okla.	No	Domestic abuse or child abuse, including physical or emotional harm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: N/A Screening: N/A 	Case Workers refer to local services	N/A	Case Worker takes DV into account during screening and notes need for services as necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DV counts as excused absence from work activity 	2014
Oregon	Yes	The occurrence of one of more of the following acts: attempting to cause or intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causing physical injury or emotional, mental or verbal abuse; intentionally, knowingly or recklessly placing another in fear of imminent serious physical injury; committing sexual abuse; OR using coercive or controlling behavior.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Informed through questionnaire or screening tool Screening: Case Workers through application 	Case Workers refer to local services	Case Workers	Case Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirements Residency Requirements Emergency Assistance Family Cap 	2013

State	FVO	Definition	Notification/ Screening	Referrals	Risk Assessment	Waiver Granting	Types of Waivers	As of
Penn.	Yes	Federal Definition*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Informed through brochures or posters Screening: County Assistance Offices 	Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV)	PCADV	CAO grants and reviews every six months in collaboration with Domestic Violence/TANF Task Force and PCADV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirements Residency Requirements 	2014
Rhode Island	Yes	Federal Definition*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Informed through brochures or posters Screening: Case Workers 	Family Violence Option Advocacy Program (FVOAP): DHS, Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence, RIWorks, and Child Care Assistance Program	FVOAP	DHS staff following FVOAP assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirements Residency Requirements 	2008

State	FVO	Definition	Notification/ Screening	Referrals	Risk Assessment	Waiver Granting	Types of Waivers	As of
South Carolina	Yes	Causing physical harm or injury to a person's household member; Offering or attempting to cause physical harm or injury to a person's own household member with apparent present ability under circumstances reasonably creating fear of imminent peril.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Individuals informed orally Screening: Family Independence (FI) Case Managers 	FI Case Managers refer to local DV agency	Jointly staffed by FI Case Managers and a local DV agency	FI Case Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirements Residency Requirements Family Cap 	2013
South Dakota	No, but has similar policies	Physical harm, bodily injury, or attempts to cause physical harm or bodily injury, or the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm or bodily injury when occurring between persons in a relationship described in § 25-10-3.1. Any violation of § 25-10-13 or chapter 22-19A or any crime of violence as defined in subdivision 22-1-2(9) constitutes domestic abuse if the underlying criminal act is committed between persons in such a relationship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Individuals informed orally Screening: DSS staff during PRP assessment 	DSS Staff	DSS Staff	DSS Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirements 	2014
Tenn.	Yes	The willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior perpetrated by an intimate partner against another.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Individuals informed orally Screening: Case Workers 	Case Workers refer to counseling and supportive services	Case Workers	Families First Supervisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirements 	2010

State	FVO	Definition	Notification/ Screening	Referrals	Risk Assessment	Waiver Granting	Types of Waivers	As of
Texas	Yes	(1) an act by a member of a family or household against another member of the family or household that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault or that is a threat that reasonably places the member in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault, but does not include defensive measures to protect oneself; (2) abuse, as that term is defined by Sections 261.001(1)(C), (E), and (G), by a member of a family or household toward a child of the family or household; or (3) dating violence, as that term is defined by Section 71.0021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification: Informed orally and through brochures or posters • Screening: Advisors 	Case Workers refer to local services	Local Family Violence Service Providers	Case Workers- after assessment by local family violence provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time Limits • Child Support • Work Requirements • Residency Requirements 	2015
Utah	Yes	Federal Definition*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification: Individuals informed orally • Screening: Agency worker trained in domestic violence 	Case Worker	Case Worker	Dept. of Workforce Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time Limits • Work Requirements 	2014

State	FVO	Definition	Notification/ Screening	Referrals	Risk Assessment	Waiver Granting	Types of Waivers	As of
Vermont	Yes	Acts of violence between family members, including adult and adolescent partners; parents and children (including adult children); caretakers or partners of elders or people with disabilities; and siblings. Domestic Violence, a subset of family violence, is a pattern of assault or coercive behaviors that may include actual or threatened physical injury and sexual assault, psychological abuse, economic coercion and various other tactics. These behaviors are perpetuated by someone who is, was, or wishes to be involved in an intimate or dating relationship with an adult or adolescent, are aimed at establishing control by one partner over the other and result in an atmosphere of fear and/terror for the victim.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Individuals informed orally and through questionnaire or screening tool Screening: Case Managers 	Case Managers	Case Managers	Case Manager with Reach Up Team Leader approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Work Requirements 	2012
Virginia	No	An act involving violence, force, or threat including, but not limited to any forceful detention, which results in bodily injury or places one in reasonable apprehension of bodily injury which is committed by a person against such person's family or household member.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Individuals informed through questionnaire or screening tool Screening: FSS Workers 	FSS Workers refer to local DV programs	FSS Workers	FSS Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanctions can be forgiven due to DV 	2015

State	FVO	Definition	Notification/ Screening	Referrals	Risk Assessment	Waiver Granting	Types of Waivers	As of
Wash.	Yes	Federal Definition*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification: Informed orally, through questionnaire and via brochures and posters • Screening: DSHS Staff 	Case Workers refer to local DV agencies	Case Workers or local DV agency	Case Workers after community based DV agency performs assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time Limits • Child Support • Work Requirements • Residency Requirements 	2015
West Virginia	Yes	Federal Definition*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification: Informed orally, through questionnaire and via brochures and posters • Screening: DHHS Staff 	Case Workers refer to local community resources or DV program	Case Workers	DHHS Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time Limits • Child Support • Work Requirements • Residency Requirements • Family Cap 	2012

State	FVO	Definition	Notification/ Screening	Referrals	Risk Assessment	Waiver Granting	Types of Waivers	As of
Wisc.	Yes	A pattern of coercive behavior that may include physical, sexual, economic, emotional, and/or psychological abuse by an intimate or family member.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Individuals informed through questionnaire or screening tool and brochures or posters Screening: Wisconsin Works agency employee 	Wisconsin Works agency employee	A professional qualified to perform a formal assessment may include: a medical or mental health professional, social worker, psychologist, neuro-psychologist, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation counselor or similar qualified assessing agency or individual	ACF Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Child Support Some short term job search waivers may be granted 	2014
Wyoming	Yes	Federal Definition*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification: Informed orally Screening: Case Manager 	Case Managers refer to local services	Case Managers	DFS Staff following written proof	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time Limits Work Requirements 	2015

*"A person subjected to (I) physical acts that resulted in, or threatened to result in, physical injury to the individual; (II) sexual abuse; (III) sexual activity involving a dependent child; (IV) being forced as the caretaker relative of a dependent child to engage in nonconsensual sexual acts or activities; (V) threats of, or attempts at, physical or sexual abuse; (VI) mental abuse; or (VII) neglect or deprivation of medical care"