

## DOMESTIC ABUSE SEVERITY LEVEL GUIDELINES

SEVERITY OF ABUSE	OPTIONS FOR COMMAND INTERVENTION	REHABILITATION CONSIDERATIONS	INTENT OF COMMAND ACTION AND REHABILITATION
<p><b>1. <u>LEVEL I Consider one or more of the following:</u></b></p> <p><b>Physical Abuse:</b> Minimal use of non-accidental physical force: pushing, shoving, grabbing, blocking exit, restraining, etc., that results in minimal victim impact as indicated below.</p> <p><b>Non-physical Emotional Abuse:</b> *No pattern of ongoing attempts by offender to control a partner through emotional abuse through force, coercion, or intimidation such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isolating tactics</li> <li>• Economic control</li> <li>• Other restrictions on the victim's autonomy</li> </ul> <p><b>Victim Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No or inconsequential fear of recurring abuse</li> <li>• No visible or internal physical injury</li> <li>• No or inconsequential psychological distress as a result of the incident</li> </ul>	<p>Consider one or more of the following:</p> <p>*Informal command counseling</p> <p>*Non career-threatening corrective measures</p>	<p>*Level I incidents may qualify for Low-Level/Low-Risk designation and may not go to the CRC if the incident meets the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No previously substantiated incidents involving SM or family members and,</li> <li>• Command, FAPM, and Case Manager concur, and</li> <li>• SM amenable to prevention or intervention services</li> </ul> <p>*Based on client need, may include one or more of the following:</p> <p>*Individual, family or marital counseling.</p> <p>*Preventive classes/services (e.g., life skills training: anger management, stress management, communication workshops, financial management, etc.)</p>	<p>*Focus should be on maximizing the SM and family's strengths</p> <p>*The intent is to provide counseling and educational services to restore the SM and his/her family to a healthy state, free of violence.</p>

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<p><b>2. <u>LEVEL II Consider one or more of the following:</u></b></p> <p><b>Physical Abuse:</b>                      Minor use of non-accidental physical force: pushing, shoving, grabbing, blocking exit, restraining, hitting, slapping, kicking, etc., that results in minor victim impact as described below.</p> <p><b>Non-physical Emotional Abuse:</b>                      Emerging pattern of power and control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verbal intimidation (instilling fear)</li> <li>• Isolation and economic restrictions</li> <li>• Emotional and psychological put-downs and insults</li> </ul> <p><b>Victim Impact:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Injury not lasting more than 24 hours, minor redness, swelling, soreness</li> <li>• Low-level of fear of recurring abuse</li> <li>• Low-level psychological distress resulting from the incident</li> </ul>	<p>Consider one or more of the following:</p> <p>*Responses parallel to Level I but with increased attention to safety for the victim and monitoring of the offender</p> <p>*Command supports and monitors service member participation in the rehabilitation process</p>	<p>*Level II incidents may qualify for Low-Level/Low-Risk designation and may not go to the CRC if the incident meets the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No previously substantiated incidents involving SM or family members and, Command, FAPM and Case Manager concur and</li> <li>• SM amenable to prevention or intervention services</li> </ul> <p>*Based on the offender's needs, may include one or more of the following:</p> <p>*Individual, family, or marital counseling.</p> <p>*Prevention classes/services (e.g., life skills training: anger management, stress management, communication workshops, financial management, etc.)</p>	<p>*The intent at this level is to stop an emerging pattern of abuse and to restore the family to a healthy state, free of violence.</p> <p>*At this level, the violence could escalate if the offender does not make an honest effort in a rehabilitation program.</p>

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<p><b>3. LEVEL III Consider one or more of the following:</b></p> <p><b>Physical Abuse:</b> Use of non-accidental physical force: pushing, shoving, grabbing blocking exit, restraining, hitting, slapping, kicking, punching with a fist, strangling without loss of consciousness, physically assaulting a pregnant spouse that results in notable victim impact as described below. Although the abusive behavior, i.e. pushing may be noted under Level I or II, pushing at Level III results in more significant injury or victim impact. An example would be pushing someone with minimal force, resulting in no injury and little victim impact (possible Level I), pushing someone onto a chair resulting in minor injury not lasting more than 24 hours or minor fear of recurring abuse, (possible Level II), and pushing someone onto the floor resulting in a laceration requiring stitches and fear of future incidents (possible Level III).</p> <p><b>Non-physical Emotional Abuse:</b> Patterned use of power and control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placing victim in fear for his/her own physical safety</li> <li>• Pattern of isolating, emotionally abusing, or economically controlling the victim (e.g., limiting access to phone, transportation, child care, base services, or imposing a limited say about family economics, etc.)</li> <li>• Frequent use of put-downs, insults or criticism</li> <li>• Threats or use of reprisals for reporting or seeking help</li> <li>• Threats to harm victim or victim's family, friends, pets</li> <li>• Threats of or destruction of property</li> </ul> <p><b>Sexual Abuse:</b> Coercive unwanted sexual activity through threats and/or intimidation</p> <p><b>Victim Impact:</b> *Physical injury lasting more than 24 hours that may warrant medical attention, bruising, swelling, cuts, abrasions, lacerations, defensive injuries, etc. *Victim expresses fear of recurrent abuse *Psychological distress, may be showing signs of a stress reaction, depression, anxiety related to the incident, victim may be changing behavior as a reaction to the incident to avoid future violence.</p>	<p>Consider one or more of the following:</p> <p>*Command monitors the offender's progress on a regular basis.</p> <p>*Ensure victim has been offered the services of a Victim Advocate.</p> <p>*Issue a Military Protective Order to ensure victim safety if situation warrants.</p> <p>*Examination of all supporting FAP, MPO, MTF, SACC, and other documents as well as SRB/OQR is warranted.</p> <p>*Consider appropriate administrative or disciplinary action and determine further career potential.</p> <p>*Entry into service member's record.</p> <p>*For a second substantiated offense, mandatory processing for administrative separation is required per MCO P1700.24_ (paragraph 5003.9).</p> <p>*For a substantiated Level III offense, an entry into the FITREP under derogatory material (section 6b) is required per MCO 1610.7F (paragraph 3004 and 4003) and MCO P1700.24_ (paragraph 5003.7)</p>	<p>*Participation in a structured domestic abuse group for offender</p> <p>*May recommend other adjunct intervention services (e.g. parenting classes, mental health evaluation, substance abuse counseling, family counseling, financial management, etc.)</p>	<p>*At this level, the offender has crossed a threshold and a combination of holding the offender accountable and providing safety for victims is warranted.</p> <p>*Consider that the incident may be a red flag that the offender is a danger to his/her family</p> <p>*Monitor and reduce the risk of recurring violence</p> <p>*Ensure safety planning for victim</p>

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<p><b>4. LEVEL IV Consider one or more of the following:</b></p> <p><b>Physical Abuse:</b> Significant use of non-accidental physical force: pushing, shoving, grabbing, restraining, hitting, slapping, kicking, punching with a fist, strangling, physically assaulting a pregnant spouse, use of weapon. Again, consider the combination of abusive behaviors with the victim impact described below to determine the appropriate level of severity for behavior that are noted across levels.</p> <p><b>Non-physical Emotional Abuse:</b> Significant patterned use of power and control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placing the victim in persistent fear for his or her own physical safety through threats and/or intimidation</li> <li>• Prolonged pattern of isolating or economically controlling the victim (e.g. prolonged limiting access to phone, transportation, child care, base services, money, social support, family)</li> <li>• Consistent use of put-downs, insults, or criticism</li> <li>• Use of reprisal/punishment for reporting/seeking help</li> <li>• Threats to kill, maim, or seriously harm victim or victim's family, friends, or pets</li> <li>• Threatening suicide</li> <li>• Harming pets, destroying property</li> <li>• Stalking</li> </ul> <p><b>Sexual Abuse:</b> Coercing spouse to participate in unwanted sexual activity through threats, intimidation, or the use of force.</p> <p><b>Victim Impact:</b> *Physical injury lasting more than 24 hours indicating medical attention/treatment is warranted regardless whether the victim actually receives medical care, serious bruising, swelling lacerations, defensive injuries, internal injuries, fractures, broken or lost teeth, loss of consciousness, head injury, etc. *Persistent fear of recurring abuse to victim, victim's family loved ones, or pets *Psychological distress evident in symptoms of a stress reaction, depression, anxiety related to the abuse, behavior changes to avoid future violence, learned helplessness, hopelessness, suicidality</p>	<p>Consider one or more of the following:</p> <p>*Command monitors the offender's progress</p> <p>*Ensure victim has been offered the services of a Victim Advocate</p> <p>*Issue a MPO until risk assessment and safety planning have been accomplished</p> <p>*For a second substantiated offense of Level III or higher, mandatory processing for administrative separation is required per MCO P1700.24_ (paragraph 5003.9).</p> <p>*For a substantiated offense, and entry into the FITREP under derogatory material (section 6b) is required per MCO 1610.7F (paragraph 3004 and 4003) and MCO P1700.24_ (paragraph 5003.7)</p> <p>*If service member is separated for this incident, initiate request for Transitional Compensation.</p>	<p>*Participation in a structured domestic abuse group for offenders. or other adjunct intervention</p> <p>*Consider other adjunct intervention services (e.g. parenting classes, mental health evaluation, substance abuse counseling, family counseling, financial management, etc.)</p>	<p>*Monitor level of danger due to risk of attacks involving serious harm to spouse or family/friends increased dramatically at this level</p> <p>*Ensure comprehensive safety planning for the victim</p> <p>*Consider whether this offender has further potential for useful service in the military</p> <p>*Deter further abuse and protect the victim and other family members</p> <p>*Hold the offender accountable and protect the integrity of the Marine Corps</p>

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<p><b>5. LEVEL V Consider one or more of the following:</b></p> <p><b>Physical Abuse:</b> Severe potentially life-threatening use of non-accidental physical force: pushing, shoving, grabbing, restraining, hitting, slapping, kicking, punching with a fist, strangling to unconsciousness, physically assaulting a pregnant spouse, use of weapon. Again, consider the combination of abusive behaviors and the victim impact described below to determine the appropriate level of severity for behaviors that might be noted in previous levels.</p> <p><b>Non-physical Emotional Abuse:</b> *Pattern of extreme use of power and control: *Placing the victim in imminent fear for his or her own physical safety or danger for loss of life *Extreme use of isolation tactics, complete denial of access to phone, transportation, child care, base services, money, social support, family, medical care) *Unrelenting use of put-downs, insults or criticism *Use of severe punishment for reporting or seeking help *Killing, maiming, or seriously harming pets *Pervasive destruction of property *Serious threats of homicide/suicide *Prolonged stalking</p> <p><b>Sexual Abuse:</b> Rape, forcible sodomy</p> <p><b>Victim Impact:</b> *Major and/or life threatening injury warranting medical attention regardless whether the victim actually receives medical care Injuries resulting in loss of consciousness, permanent disability, disfigurement or death. *Life threatening injury to pregnant spouse and/or fetus *Imminent fear of recurring violence or loss of life to victim, victim’s family, loved ones, or pets *Psychological distress evident in symptoms of a stress reaction, depression, anxiety related to the abuse, behavior changes to avoid future violence, learned helplessness, post trauma reaction or disorder suicidal behavior</p>	<p>Consider one or more of the following:</p> <p>*Issue Military Protective Order (MPO), DD Form 2873</p> <p>Ensure comprehensive Victim Advocacy services are offered to the victim and family</p> <p>*Consider pretrial detention.</p> <p>*Involve civilian court system or military judicial system when appropriate</p> <p>*For a second substantiated offense of Level III or higher, mandatory processing for administrative separation is required per MCO P1700.24_ (paragraph 5003.9).</p> <p>*For a substantiated offense, an entry into the FITREP under derogatory material (section 6b) is required per MCO 1610.7F (paragraph 3004 and 4003) and MCO P1700.24_ (paragraph 5003.7)</p> <p>*If service member is separated for this incident, initiate request for Transitional Compensation</p>	<p>*Rehabilitation in the military system may not be possible for this level of violence. May require intensive monitoring and batterer intervention outside the scope of services. Consider involving civilian criminal justice and intervention services.</p> <p>*Case file closes at the conclusion of services for the victim and family</p>	<p>*Closely monitor level of danger due to risk of attacks involving serious harm to spouse or family/friends increased dramatically at this level.</p> <p>*Deter further abuse and protect the victim and other family members.</p> <p>*Ensure comprehensive safety planning for the victim.</p> <p>*Hold the offender accountable and protect the integrity of the Marine Corps</p>



## CHILD ABUSE SEVERITY LEVEL GUIDELINES

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<p><b><u>1. LEVEL I Consider one or more of the following:</u></b></p> <p><b>Physical Abuse:</b> Minimal use of non-accidental physical force: pushing, shoving, grabbing, restraining, or swatting, etc., resulting in minimal if any victim impact.</p> <p><b>Non-physical Emotional Abuse:</b> No pattern of intentional berating, disparaging, or other verbally abusive behavior toward the child.</p> <p><b>Neglect:</b> Any one or combination of: Deprivation of necessities Educational neglect Lack of supervision Medical neglect, failure to seek routine medical/dental care Exposure to physical hazards</p> <p><b>Victim Impact</b> *Child's welfare not harmed or threatened *No or inconsequential fear of recurring abuse *No visible or internal physical injury *No or inconsequential psychological distress as a result of the incident</p>	<p>Consider one or more of the following:</p> <p>*Informal counseling session with immediate supervisor.</p> <p>*Non-career threatening corrective measures.</p> <p>*Command supports and monitors participation in the rehabilitation plan.</p> <p>*Consider referral to New Parent Support Program (NPSP) if appropriate</p>	<p>*Level I incidents may qualify for Low-Level/Low-Risk designation and may not go to the CRC if incident meets the following requirements:</p> <p>No previously substantiated incidents involving SM or family members and</p> <p>Command, FAPM, and Case Manager concur and, SM is amenable to prevention or intervention services</p> <p>*Based on the client's needs, it may include one or more the following:</p> <p>Individual or couples counseling with a focus on parenting issues</p> <p>*Prevention classes/services (e.g. parenting education or other services as appropriate.)</p>	<p>*Since this level acknowledges that there are cases of child maltreatment where the parent(s) or caregiver(s) acted in a way that is uncharacteristic of generally acceptable behavior; and cases where circumstances facilitated unintended acts of commission, the command should determine if there are stressors that indicate a need for preventive measures.</p>

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<p><b>2. LEVEL II Consider one or more of the following:</b></p> <p><b>Physical Abuse:</b> Minor use of non-accidental physical force: pushing, shoving, grabbing, restraining, hitting, scratching, pinching, hair-pulling, without loss of hair, etc., with minor victim impact as indicated below</p> <p><b>Non-physical Emotional Abuse:</b> Emerging pattern of intentional berating disparaging or other verbally abusive behavior toward the child</p> <p><b>Neglect:</b> *Minor deprivation of necessities *Educational neglect, failure to provide for educational needs in accordance with state laws and local policies</p> <p><b>Victim Impact:</b> *Child's welfare minimally harmed or threatened *No or inconsequential fear of recurring abuse *Minor redness/swelling/bruising on one area of limbs or buttocks *Minor psychological distress as a result of the incident</p>	<p>Consider one or more of the following:</p> <p>*Informal counseling session with immediate supervisor</p> <p>*Non-career threatening corrective measures</p> <p>*Command supports and monitors participation in the rehabilitation plan</p> <p>*Encourage involvement in NPSF if appropriate</p>	<p>*Level II incidents may qualify for Low-Level/Low-Risk designation and may not go to the CRC if incident meets the following requirements:</p> <p>No previously substantiated incidents involving SM or family members and</p> <p>Command, FAPM, and Case Manager concur and, SM is amenable to prevention or intervention services</p> <p>*Based on the client's needs, it may include one or more the following:</p> <p>*Individual, couples, family treatment with a focus on parent/child issues</p> <p>*Prevention classes/services (e.g. parenting education or other services as appropriate.)</p>	<p>*Command should assist in supporting offender treatment recommendations in order to curtail a potential developing pattern of maltreatment and restore the family to a healthy state free of violence.</p>

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<p><b>3. <u>LEVEL III Consider one or more of the following:</u></b></p> <p><b>Physical Abuse:</b>                      *Use of non-accidental physical force: kicking, shoving, tripping, grabbing, direct hit or blow with victim impact as indicated below.</p> <p><b>Neglect:</b>                      *Non-organic failure to thrive                      *Lack of supervision                      *Deprivation of basic needs                      *No use of seat belt or appropriate child safety device that results in harm/injury to the child, or                      *Medical/dental neglect resulting in pain or disability in spite of efforts at intervention/correction/referral</p> <p><b>Emotional Abuse:</b>                      *Recurring acts of ignoring, isolating, insulting, embarrassing, overpressuring, or threatening behavior</p> <p><b>Sexual Abuse:</b>                      *Deliberate exposure to sexually explicit material or behaviors. Excludes sexual touching.</p> <p><b>Victim Impact:</b>                      *Child's welfare harmed/threatened                      *Child appears fearful of recurring abuse/offender                      *Injuries warrant medical attention such as bruises, welts, swelling, broken skin, hair loss                      *Symptoms of psychological distress, stress reactions, behavioral changes, anxiety, depression, etc.                      *Physical or developmental delay due to lack of nurturing/proper nutrition</p>	<p>Consider one or more of the following:</p> <p>*Prosecution under the civilian court system</p> <p>*Pre-trial detention</p> <p>*Issue a Child Removal Order (CRO) if appropriate</p> <p>*If service member is separated for this incident, initiate a request for Transitional Compensation</p> <p>*For a second substantiated offense of Level III or higher, mandatory processing for administrative separation is required per MCO P1700.24_ (paragraph 5003.9).</p> <p>*For a substantiated offense, an entry into the FITREP under derogatory material (section 6b) is required per MCO 1610.7F (paragraph 3004 and 4003) and MCO P1700.24_ (paragraph 5003.7)</p> <p>*If situation warrants, take appropriate action to keep the victim and offender separated</p>	<p>*Compliance with CPS/FAP recommendations</p> <p>*Participation in services (e.g. parenting classes, family counseling, etc.)</p> <p>*Attend classes on the effects of domestic abuse upon children when appropriate</p> <p>*Consider referral to NPSP if appropriate</p>	<p>*At this level, the offender(s) has crossed a threshold, and a combination of sanctions including accountability and rehabilitation is the best deterrent. A critical task is to assess the danger to the victim.</p> <p>*Ensure safety planning for the victim</p> <p>*Consider appropriate administrative or disciplinary action and determine further career potential</p>

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<p><b>4. LEVEL IV Consider one or more of the following:</b></p> <p><b>Physical Abuse:</b>                      *Serious but not life-threatening use of non-accidental physical force                      *Use of object or instrument as a weapon</p> <p><b>*Neglect:</b>                      *Non-organic failure to thrive                      *Injury resulting from reckless behavior or failure to utilize safety precautions                      *Abandonment of a child                      *Medical/dental neglect resulting in pain/disfigurement/disability that could have been prevented</p> <p><b>Emotional Abuse:</b>                      *Chronic recurring acts or pattern of isolating, insulting, threatening serious harm, threatening to kill, ignoring, and rejecting</p> <p><b>Sexual Abuse:</b>                      *Repeated intentional exposure of a child to inappropriate sexually explicit materials or behaviors.</p> <p><b>Victim Impact:</b>                      *Serious injury warranting medical attention such as broken bones, internal injury, head injury, burns or extensive bruising on torso                      *Signs of non-accidental trauma in various stages of healing                      *Symptoms of stress reactions, anxiety, observable self-worth, clinical depression, emotional or behavioral problems, self-destructive or sexually reactive behavior                      *Weight loss and dehydration despite intervention/referral efforts due to lack of nurturing and proper nutrition</p>	<p>Consider one or more of the following:</p> <p>*Command monitors the offender’s progress</p> <p>*Issuance of a CRO to enhance protective measures if appropriate</p> <p>*For a second substantiated offense of Level III or higher, mandatory processing for administrative separation is required per MCO P1700.24_ (paragraph 5003.9).</p> <p>*For a substantiated offense, an entry into the FITREP under derogatory material (section 6b) is required per MCO 1610.7F (paragraph 3004 and 4003) and MCO P1700.24_ (paragraph 5003.7)</p> <p>*If situation warrants, ensure victim and offender are separated.</p> <p>*If the service member is separated for this incident, initiate request for Transitional Compensation.</p>	<p>*Compliance with CPS/FAP recommendations</p> <p>*Attendance at programs/services offered in coordination with other military/civilian agencies such as the effects of domestic abuse on children</p> <p>*Individual, couples, family therapy focusing on parenting</p> <p>*Consider referral to NPSP if appropriate</p>	<p>Hold offender accountable</p> <p>*Deter further abuse, provide services to victims, and assist the family’s return to a healthy state, free of violence</p> <p>*Ensure comprehensive safety planning for the victim</p> <p>*Protect the integrity of the Marine Corps</p>

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<p><b>5. <u>LEVEL V Consider one or more of the following:</u></b></p> <p><b>Physical Abuse:</b>                      *Serious life threatening use of non-accidental physical force                      *Shaken Baby Syndrome                      *More than one occurrence of serious injury requiring medical intervention within a year</p> <p><b>Neglect:</b>                      *Non-organic failure to thrive                      *Medical/dental neglect resulting in disfigurement/disability/death                      *Egregious failure to utilize reasonable and available safety precautions                      *Abandonment                      *Exposure to life-threatening physical hazards</p> <p><b>Sexual Abuse:</b>                      *Any sexual abuse/exploitation of a child, age 0-17, by an adult or minor more than 6 years older than the victim – may include penetration, threat, coercion, or pattern of progressive sex offenses</p> <p><b>Victim Impact:</b>                      *Life threatening injury, death, disability or disfigurement regardless of type of abuse/neglect noted above                      *Large burns, brain/spinal cord injury, multiple fractures, permanent impairment                      *Battered child syndrome                      *Psychological/emotional/behavioral disorders that seriously impair functioning</p>	<p>Consider one or more of the following:</p> <p>*Issue CRO if appropriate</p> <p>*Pretrial detention</p> <p>*Consider civilian court system or military judicial system</p> <p>*For a second substantiated offense, Level III or higher, mandatory processing for administrative separation is required per MCO P1700.24_ (paragraph 5003.9).</p> <p>*For a substantiated offense, an entry into the FITREP under derogatory material (section 6b) is required per MCO 1610.7F (paragraph 3004 and 4003) and MCO P1700.24_ (paragraph 5003.7)</p> <p>*If situation warrants, ensure the victim and offender are separated.</p> <p>*If service member is separated for this incident, initiate request for Transitional Compensation.</p>	<p>*Ensure comprehensive services are offered to the victim and family</p> <p>*Consider referral to the NPSP if appropriate</p> <p>*Rehabilitation for the offender at this level of child abuse may be beyond the scope of services offered by the Marine Corps. Intensive services coordinated through CPS and other civilian resources may be required.</p>	<p>*Hold offender accountable</p> <p>*Protect the victim who would be vulnerable to ongoing abuse</p> <p>*Ensure comprehensive safety planning for the victim</p> <p>*Preserve the integrity of the Marine Corps</p>

