**SCHOOL SELECTION RISK ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE**

Below are questions DV providers should review with parents to help parents make the best-informed decision about whether to keep their children in the same school or transfer schools.

1. What are some of the things you like about your child’s current school (relationships with teachers and friends, curriculum, extracurricular activities, special education services, English Language Learner services, etc.)?
2. How do you think your child will handle the commute to school? Remind the parent that busing is available for students in K-6. Sometimes students can handle a longer commute for a few weeks (for example, if the family enters shelter in April or May), whereas it may be much harder them to do a longer commute for several months (for example, if the family enters shelter in October or November).
3. Where does the abuser live? Are they incarcerated, or have they moved out of state/country, etc.? Or is he/she still within the 5 boroughs, if so in which borough?
4. Has the abuser ever harmed or threatened to harm your child?
5. Does the abuser know where the child’s school is located? For example, if the family recently moved from an emergency/crisis DV shelter to a Tier II shelter, the safety risk may be gone and the child may not need to transfer schools again because the abuser may not know where the child’s school is located.
6. Are there other people or groups of people who have harmed or could try to harm you or your child (family/friends of the abuser, our client’s own family/friends, gangs, etc.)?
7. If so, do they know the location of your child’s school? If they know the location, would they share this information with others?
8. What would happen if the abuser or any of the people you identified above showed up at your child’s school?
	1. How would your child feel or react (acknowledging that some kids are unaware of the abuse, might have a good relationship with the abuser, or might be terrified)?
	2. Could you and your child be hurt?
	3. Could anyone else around be hurt?
	4. Could they try to take your child from the school?
	5. Could they follow you or your child from the school without you knowing?
9. Given the people who know of the school’s location, and the possible scenarios that could play out (as we talked about in #8), how do you feel about keeping your child in the school? Do you believe they are safe attending this school?
10. If you are open to transferring schools for your child, what thoughts and concerns to you have?
	1. Assist the client in understanding the process, assistance, and support we would give them if they chose to transfer schools.
	2. If the client is at an Emergency DV Shelter, explain that if their child transfers to a local school, the child can remain enrolled and get busing if they move into a Tier II shelter, and can also get transportation (likely MetroCards) when they move into permanent housing.
11. If you do not want to transfer schools, what are some things you could do to ensure the safety of you and your child (and the confidentiality of the shelter location)?
	1. Is there an order of protection in place and has it been shared with the school?
	2. Does the school know about the DV incident and that you and your child are staying at a confidential DV shelter? Are the administrators and teachers aware of the safety risk?
	3. Is there an emergency contact on file with the school if you can’t be reached?
	4. Is there a trusted family member or friend who could drop off and pick up your child from school?
	5. Have you done a safety plan with the school? This could include things like:
		* the child remains inside of the school until he/she is picked up
		* identifying a secure meeting point where you could pick up your child after school
		* who is authorized people who can pick up your child from school
		* emergency contact information for trusted relative or friend if you can’t be reached/are unavailable
		* what the school should do if the abuser shows up at school (call the police? contact you and your emergency contacts?)
	6. Are you able to take other steps, such as:
		* Taking different routes/ commutes to the school each day?
		* Making sure you have a fully charged working cellphone at all times?
		* Using a safety app that could send location and distress signal to trusted members in case of emergency?