

DOWRY ABUSE

A guide to support clients impacted by dowry abuse.

STEP 1 Client Safety

Ensure client safety.
Develop Safety Plan.
Support Client to execute Plan.

STEP 2 Dowry Abuse

Dowry abuse will present first as domestic and family violence. Identify Dowry Abuse by using the guide on the back.

STEP 3 Mandatory Reporting

Follow the mandatory reporting policy and procedures of your organisation.

STEP 4 Referrals

In addition to 'standard' domestic and family violence recovery and referral pathways: victims of dowry abuse may need additional referrals to:

- Family Law Legal Services
- Migration Assistance
- Consular Advice
- Social Activities or Programs
- Cultural Counselling
- Financial Counselling



For more information scan the QR code.



DOWRY IS NOT A GIFT

It is a transaction that forms part of the marriage contract.

Dowry is a cultural practice where a person transfers **money, property, goods**, or in the form of other gifts to their partner's family **before, upon or after marriage**.

IDENTIFYING DOWRY

Follow the money

Identifying dowry starts with mapping the client's story. Dowry maybe called 'wedding gifts'. We need to establish who gave these 'gifts', who received it and the value was. We need to establish where the **benefit** or **gain** is in these transactions.

These "wedding gifts" may be money, property, jewelry, payment of students fees and/or payment of visa processing fees.

For example, in South Asian communities, usually the 'wedding gifts' are given by the wife and/or her family to the husband and/or his family. The **benefit** or **gain**, here is in favour of husband and/or his family.

IDENTIFYING DOWRY ABUSE

Ask the questions

Dowry Abuse is 'any act of violence or harassment associated with the giving or receiving of dowry at any time before, during or after the marriage'.*

It is perpetuated to elicit dowry or fulfil further demands for dowry **at any time before, upon or after marriage**.*

Dowry abuse identification involves linking the violence experienced by the client with demands for dowry.

To do this the right questions need to be asked. Here are examples of questions, that can be used:

- **What kinds of 'gifts' were given as part of the marriage arrangement?**
- **What is the total value of these 'gifts'?**
- **Do you think this has an impact on what is going on now in your marriage?**

The answers then need to be clearly documented in case files.

**United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women 2009*

SUPPORT & INFORMATION

This guide is an introduction on to how identify dowry abuse. The identification process can be complex. Training and accessing further resources is recommend.

See below for links to relevant information, resources and training:

- Dowry Abuse Identification Toolkit, visit www.icsa.net.au/
- Research Data on Dowry Abuse in Western Sydney, visit www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/community/domestic-and-family-violence/prevention

Training

- Dowry Abuse, run by Indian Crisis Support Agency, visit www.icsa.net.au
- Complex Forms of Violence, run by DV-Alert, visit www.dvalert.org.au/



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