

# QUICK GUIDE TO SCORING THE ODARA

ODARA assesses the likelihood that a **male or female arrestee** who has already committed an assault on a **current/former heterosexual intimate or dating partner** will do so again in the future. To score ODARA, **YOU MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING:**

- An index (current) incident involving an assault defined as either:** [1] Any act of violence that involved physical contact with the victim; or [2] A credible threat of death with a weapon in hand made in the presence of the victim.
- Eligible crime:** domestic violence assault (incl. aggravated and elevated aggravated assault); domestic violence criminal threatening w/ a dangerous weapon; and domestic violence terrorizing if includes the above required circumstances.
- Eligible relationship:** Current or former heterosexual intimate or dating partners only; not other family or household member relationships.

## **1. Prior domestic incident of assault in a police or criminal record**

- Must involve an assault\* carried out by the offender on a prior occasion to the index incident and reported to police
- Include any prior assaults on a current or previous partner or child of the current or previous partner (conviction not required)
- Exclude prior occurrences involving strangers, friends, parents, siblings, pets, other family members, or on police

## **2. Prior non-domestic incident of assault in a police or criminal record**

- Exclude assaults\* involving a current or previous partner or a child of theirs

## **3. Prior custodial sentence of 30 days or more (adult/juvenile facility; any offense, not limited to DV)**

- Only include sentences of 30 days or more; only part of sentence has to have been served; partially suspended sentences count
- Exclude time spent in custody waiting to go to court, unless the time is included as part of the sentence (“time served”)

## **4. Failure on prior conditional release (bail, deferred disposition, probation, PFA, no-contact order; any offense, not limited to DV)**

- Include any known violation at time of index incident or prior to it, whether or not the offender was arrested or charged

## **5. Threat to harm or kill at the index assault**

- Threat must be commonly recognized as a threat to harm a person (not pets or property) physically
- Only include threats made at time of the index incident, whether or not the threat was carried out
- Exclude threats of self harm or threats of emotional or financial harm, legal action or custody dispute

## **6. Confinement of the victim at the index assault**

- Include any attempted or actual act to physically prevent the victim from leaving the scene, whether successful or not
- Exclude restraint in the course of index incident, e.g., holding victim down in order to assault her/him, or threats of future harm

## **7. Victim concern about future assault (expressed in first report of index assault to police)**

- Include any statement made by the victim that she/he is afraid, concerned, worried or certain of possible future assault on her/him or their child/ren by the person being assessed
- Exclude inferences based on protective action taken by the victim, or safety fears during the index incident

## **8. More than one child**

- Include living biological, adopted, adult and minor children of the person being assessed, or the victim, and children they have together, regardless of where they live
- Exclude children of a previous partner who are not biologically related to or adopted by offender or victim

## **9. Victim’s biological child from a previous partner**

- Include only the victim’s living biological children regardless of age or where they live

## **10. Prior violent incident against a non-domestic partner**

- Include assaults\* whether or not reported to police or in criminal record. [NOTE: Score 1 if item #2 scores 1]
- Exclude act of violence involving current or previous partners and/or any children of theirs

## **11. Two or more indicators of substance abuse (Score “1” if the offender has previously been charged with an alcohol or drug related offense OR if at least two of list below are true):**

- A. Offender consumed alcohol immediately before or during the index incident;
- B. Offender used drugs immediately before or during the index incident;
- C. Offender abused drugs and/or alcohol in the days or weeks prior to the index incident
- D. Offender noticeably increased abuse of drugs/alcohol in the days or weeks prior to the index incident
- E. Offender has been more angry or violent when using alcohol or drugs prior to the index incident
- F. Offender consumed alcohol before or during a criminal offense predating index incident
- G. Offender’s alcohol use prior to the index incident but since age 18 resulted in some problems or interference in his/her life
- H. Offender’s drug use prior to the index incident but since age 18 resulted in some problems or interference in his/her life

## **NOTES:**

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\* “Assault” definition for items 1, 2, 10, 12 = physical contact, or the use or attempted use of a weapon to contact the victim’s body, or threat of harm made with a weapon in hand.

**12. Assault on the index victim when she was pregnant**

- Include current and previous assaults\*, current and former pregnancies, irrespective of offender’s knowledge of pregnancy

**13. Barriers to victim support (Score “1” if one or more of the specific following barriers were present at the time of index incident):**

- A. Children aged 18 or younger live in the victim’s home for whom the victim provides care
- B. The victim has no telephone (e.g., cell phone or landline)
- C. The victim has no transportation (e.g., no access to car, no public transport in vicinity, no money for taxi)
- D. The victim is geographically isolated (e.g., living rurally, no one living close by)
- E. The victim consumed alcohol or drugs just before or during the index occurrence, or has a history of alcohol or drug abuse

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**Total Raw Score: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Total Final/Adjusted Score: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Final/Adjusted Score for Assessment with Unclear or Ambiguous Information**

**Number of Unclear or Ambiguous Items**

<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>1</b>	1	1	1	1	2
<b>2</b>	2	2	3	3	3
<b>3</b>	3	4	4	4	5
<b>4</b>	4	5	5	6	7+
<b>5</b>	5	6	7+	7+	7+
<b>6</b>	7+	7+	7+	7+	7+

Signature of Person Completing ODARA \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

(revised 5.16.19; available by emailing [info@mcedv.org](mailto:info@mcedv.org))



The information in this Quick Guide is adapted from the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment General Scoring Criteria, 2005 Revised Edition, and the ODARA 101 Electronic Training Program, with permission from the developers: N. Zoe Hilton, Grant T. Harris, Marnie E. Rice, Carol Lang, and Catherine Cormier from the Research Department of the Mental Health Centre Penetanguishene (now Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care) and Kathryn J. Lines of the Ontario Provincial Police Behavioural Sciences Section. The 2019 revisions to this Quick Guide are approved by ODARA lead author N. Zoe Hilton.