

Client Assessment Interview Guidelines: Streamlined Collaborative Option

This assessment is a guide to help you determine if this client/case may be appropriate for the Streamlined Collaborative Model. Check the appropriate box to indicate:

- Green: indicates a response that is consistent with the streamlined model.
- Yellow: indicates some concern about the response.
- Red: indicates that the response may exclude the client from consideration.

- Whose decision was it to divorce?
- Describe how ready you are and how ready your spouse is to move forward with the divorce. *“Mutual decision to divorce” is Green flag. If one spouse felt “blindsided” and “not quite ready”, is Yellow flag.*

Self: Acceptance Still in shock
 Green Yellow Red

Spouse: Acceptance Still in shock
 Green Yellow Red

- Are you concerned about your spouse’s alcohol or drug use? Do you have concerns about your own alcohol or drug use? *A “Yes” would be Yellow flag. We would want to know more about what substances were being abused, what concerns they had about the substance abuse, and if treatment has been recommended or initiated. Denial of the other spouse’s concerns about substance abuse would be a Red flag.*

Self: No concerns.....Significant concerns
 Green Yellow Red

Spouse: No concerns.....Significant concerns
 Green Yellow Red

- Have there been times when you have not felt safe, physically or verbally, with your spouse? *Yes is Yellow flag. Recent/chronic domestic violence would be Red flag. Would want to explore triggers to violent behavior and if there has been any treatment, for example anger management classes.*

No concerns.....Significant and current concerns
 Green Yellow Red

5. Does your spouse feel physically or verbally safe with you? Yes is Green flag. No is Yellow flag. As above, would want to explore if this issue is current, recent, or chronic.

Spouse feels safeSpouse feels unsafe
 Green Yellow Red

6. Any history of mental illness in you, your spouse, or your children that required hospitalization or emergency intervention? Is anyone currently receiving mental health treatment? No is Green flag. Yes is Yellow or Red flag. Would want to explore whether issue is significant enough to rule out streamlined approach.

No significant mental illnessYes, significant mental illness
 Green Yellow Red

7. Has there been a recent affair/history of infidelity? No is Green flag. Yes is Yellow flag. Ask when affair occurred, how was it discovered, if couples' therapy attempted?

No infidelityRecent infidelity
 Green Yellow Red

8. Are there any issues that you feel may require immediate attention? Examples might be the need for immediate support, parenting plan, or living arrangements. Nothing urgent is Green flag. Urgent matters needing attention is Yellow flag.

No urgent mattersYes, urgent matters
 Green Yellow Red

9. (a) Are you and your spouse financially equal or does one spouse have more financial resources and/or more responsibility for the management of family financial resources? Equal financial resources is a Green flag. Significant disparity in financial resources is Yellow flag. Lack of trust re: spouse's financial assets is likely Red flag.

Equal resourcesDisparity in resources Lack of Trust
 Green Yellow Red

(b) Do you trust your spouse to be honest about financial matters?

YesNo
 Green Yellow Red

10. Will you or your spouse have difficulty organizing financial materials needed to proceed with divorce efficiently? *No is Green Flag. Yes is Yellow flag. If Yellow, explore the issue: access to information/materials? Knowledge about finances in general? Willingness to do required "homework"? Assess need for additional help from financial expert implying a cost inflator.*

No problem organizing *Lots of problems organizing*
 Green Yellow Red

11. Do you or your spouse have difficulty listening to each other? Make assumptions or blame the other? *No is Green flag. Yes is Yellow flag. Need to explore the openness to defensive continuum*

Open to listening *Defensive and blaming*
 Green Yellow Red

12. Are you willing to be in the same room with your spouse and speak for yourself and your own self-interests – with the assistance of one or more of the collaborative professionals? *Yes is Green flag. No is Red flag.*

Yes, same room, speak for self *No, not willing to be in same room*
 Green Yellow Red

13. Are you willing to persevere through conversations that may feel hard and uncomfortable? *Yes is Green flag. No is Yellow flag and will need to be explored.*

Yes, can hang in there *No, very uncomfortable*
 Green Yellow Red

14. Are you able to make decisions for yourself/your family from a place of calm, rather than from a place of anger/humiliation/fear – even if you may be experiencing those feelings? *Yes is Green flag. No is Yellow flag and will require further exploration.*

Yes, present moment calm *No, vulnerable to anger and fear*
 Green Yellow Red

15. Are you willing to reach a solution that takes into account the highest priorities of yourself, your spouse, and your children? *Yes is Green flag. No is Yellow flag.*

Yes, able to consider spouse's needs *No, unable to consider spouse's needs*
 Green Yellow Red

