VIOLENCE RISK SUMMARY TEMPLATE

The risk summary aims to explain why violence risk is occurring for the consumer at the time of the presentation. The purpose is to integrate and explain previously identified violence risk factors (not to simply re-state them). No new information should be introduced in the summary.

Some overlap may exist between the various components of the risk summary. Remember, the aim is not to get each piece of information in the 'right' box, the main aim is simply to provide prompts to help ensure you capture all the relevant information.

Presenting Issues

The presenting issue refers to specific behaviours or phenomena that you are trying to explain. The rest of the summary should be devoted to explaining behaviours within this section. Within the V-RAM, this should always be associated with violence risk. Avoiding broad statements and over-inclusiveness in this section will help create a focussed and coherent summary.

Examples of presenting issues include: "impulsive destruction of property around the home", "recent physical assault of father", and "frequent phone calls to local member of parliament making death threats".

Information listed in the purpose of assessment and background summary on the V-RAM is typically relevant to this section.

Predisposing Factors	Precipitating Factors	Perpetuating Factors	Protective Factors
These are factors that make a consumer more vulnerable to the presenting issues, or violence more broadly. These factors do not cause the presenting issue, rather, they 'set the scene' for the presenting issues to occur. Examples include: exposure to domestic violence, major mental illness, expressive language impairment. *Static/predisposing factors on the V-RAM are typically relevant to this section.*	These are factors that have triggered presenting issues or previous episodes of violence. There are two types of precipitating factors to consider: (i) those that triggered the presenting issue the first time, and (ii) those that tend to trigger the presenting issue now. Examples include: criticism from an authority figure, onset of active symptoms of a major mental disorder, attempts at limit setting. *Dynamic factors that precipitated previous violence on the V-RAM are typically relevant to this section.*	These are factors that maintain a consumer's violence or presenting issues, as well as those which prevent these from decreasing without intervention. Overlap may exist between these factors and the other 5Ps Examples include: impulsivity, poor emotion regulation, ongoing substance use, ongoing symptoms of a major mental disorder. *Dynamic factors that contribute to current and future risk on the V-RAM are typically relevant to this section.*	These are factors that reduce the risk of violence. These factors should represent a resource that the consumer can draw on when at risk. It is important to consider whether listed protective factors reduce risk in a stable, ongoing manner. It is also useful to consider whether protective factors are self-motivating, or whether external input will be required for them to remain protective. Examples include: desire to change behavior, engagement with services, prosocial supports, stable and safe living situation. *Protective factors / strengths on the V-RAM are typically relevant to this section.*

VIOLENCE RISK SUMMARY TEMPLATE

High Risk Scenarios, Early Warning Signs, and Foreseeable Changes

Make a statement about circumstances in which a consumer is most vulnerable to becoming violent. Information about this should be drawn from each of the sections above, with emphasis on precipitating factors. The following concepts each provide a slightly different perspective which contributes to this aspect of the risk summary:

High Risk Scenarios. This refers to a constellation of context-based features that are likely to prompt violent behaviour within a consumer. For example, conflict with family in the context of increasing persecutory delusions, several days of missed medication, and broad mental state deterioration.

Early Warning Signs. This refers to indicators (both behavioural and psychological) that a consumer's violence risk is increasing. Early warning signs can be identified by examining changes preceding previous episodes of violence. For example, social isolation (behavioural), and increasing preoccupation with persecutory delusions (psychological).

Foreseeable Changes. This refers to specific events which are likely to occur in the near future and to have a negative impact on risk. For example, an upcoming custody hearing. Information in the section describing foreseeable changes on the V-RAM is relevant to this section.

Victim Group

Report potential victims of future violence, e.g. family, ex-partner, neighbours, or staff. Note the characteristics of previous victims of the consumer's violent behaviors. Consideration of patterns in such characteristics can be used to identify potential future victims.

Severity of Violence

Report on the severity of the previous violence that the consumer has previously engaged in, and the factors which have led to more (or less) severe violence in the past. Also note the severity of the violence the consumer is currently threatening, as well as factors that are likely to increase the severity of violence (e.g. access to, and willingness to use, weapons). If appropriate, use this information to make an assessment of the severity of the violence a consumer is at risk of engaging in, in the short term.

Imminence of Violence

Make a statement about how soon future violence is likely to occur. Note if there is an imminent or short-term risk of violence; or whether the risk is an ongoing, longer term risk. When considering imminence of violence, take into consideration the degree to which the consumer's current presentation features precipitants, early warning signs, and triggers of past violence; as well as issues that have previously been identified as foreseeable changes. Further, consider factors such as violence ideation, intent, plan, and access to means for perpetrating violence.

Conclusion (including statement of risk status and risk state)

Provide an overall summation of the consumer's level of risk, and how the factors appearing in the summary interact to produce this risk. Report on the consumer's **risk status** and **risk state**.

Risk status refers to the consumer's level of risk compared to a specified population (i.e. the general population, a local community mental health population, and a local inpatient mental health population). This is largely contingent on static factors present for a consumer.

Risk state refers to the consumer's level of risk in comparison to previous periods in their life (especially pre-morbidly and at previous episodes of violence, if such data are available). This is largely contingent on dynamic factors present for a consumer.