# Violence & Homicide Risk Assessment Cheat Sheet

Reviewed by the BastionGPT Clinical Advisory Board · July 2026

**A violence and homicide risk assessment** records how a clinician evaluated a client's risk of harm to others: the threat inquiry, how identifiable the person at risk is, the factors weighed, a formulation with reasoning, and the protective decisions made, including a reasoned decision not to disclose. No statute prescribes the layout; the standard is a reasonable, documented process whose duty analysis explains the actions.

**Reason for assessment & context** what prompted it
**Do:** record the trigger (statement, disclosed ideation, collateral report, referral) plus precipitants, course, substance use.
**Pitfall:** a trigger with no context reads more alarming, or less, than your actual judgment.

**Threat inquiry** shown, not summarized
**Do:** record the substance of what was communicated, conditional or unconditional, when, to whom, repeated or escalated.
**Pitfall:** "made threatening statements" supports nothing; the threshold cannot be reconstructed from it.

**Target & identifiability** the pivotal legal fact
**Do:** state who the concern involves, how identifiable they are, the relationship, and current proximity or contact.
**Pitfall:** skipping this analysis; most duty-to-protect standards turn on a reasonably identifiable victim.

**Intent, capability & access** a conversation, not a checkbox
**Do:** separate stated intent from anger or ideation; ask about access to means directly; record steps agreed and verified.
**Pitfall:** recording the conclusion ("no access") with no conversation shown.

**History** with its sources
**Do:** record prior violence with recency and context, legal history, protective orders, and which sources were available.
**Pitfall:** history from self-report alone, silently; note what you could and could not review.

**Risk & protective factors** this client, today
**Do:** separate acute from stable factors, and make protective factors specific and current.
**Pitfall:** boilerplate copied forward unchanged; it cuts both ways in a courtroom.

**Risk formulation** the load-bearing paragraph
**Do:** characterize acute and longer-term risk with the rationale; record any instrument as an input with its date.
**Pitfall:** a score or level standing in for reasoning, or prediction language like "will not act".

**Duty analysis, consultation & decision** in both directions
**Do:** name the standard applied, whether its threshold is met, who was consulted and when, and the decision, including not disclosing.
**Pitfall:** the analysis that only exists when the answer is yes.

**Actions, disposition & reassessment** dated and tracked
**Do:** record actions with dates, times, and content, the disposition, a dated next contact, and reassessment triggers.
**Pitfall:** "will monitor" with no date; risk assessed once and dropped reads as abandoned.

## Before you sign

- [ ] Inquiry shows asked, endorsed, and denied
- [ ] Identifiability of the person stated
- [ ] Means conversation recorded, steps agreed
- [ ] Formulation states level and rationale
- [ ] Duty analysis and consultation recorded
- [ ] Actions dated; reassessment plan set
- [ ] Signed with credentials, dated promptly

## Drafting with AI

Capture 30 seconds of bullets after the session: trigger, what was communicated, identifiability, intent and access, factors, formulation and level, consultation, decision, actions, next contact.

*"Draft a violence risk assessment note from these bullets for an outpatient client after a conditional statement about a former coworker, no intent or plan endorsed: …"*

**Never paste client-identifying information into consumer AI tools. BastionGPT is HIPAA-compliant with a signed BAA on every plan.**

| 300 to 800 words | 15 to 30 min by hand | Threat · ideation · forensic | Care team · boards · courts |
|---|---|---|---|
| typical length | clinical team estimate | when completed | who reads it |

Full guide, sample note, and compliance notes:
**bastiongpt.com/template/violence-risk-assessment**

**BastionGPT** drafts risk assessments from bullets, dictation, or a transcript. Free 7-day trial.

# Violence & Homicide Risk Assessment Template

Copy or print for your practice · Adapt fields to your organization's, payer's and jurisdiction's documentation requirements.

Client (initials): Date: Setting: ☐ office ☐ telehealth ☐ inpatient/ED ☐ other

Prompted by: ☐ statement in session ☐ ideation disclosed ☐ collateral report ☐ referral

## Context & precipitants

Symptom course, current stressors, substance use; instruments as inputs with dates

## Threat inquiry

Substance of what was communicated and its context · conditional or unconditional · when, to whom · repeated or escalated

## Target & identifiability

Named or reasonably ascertainable · relationship · current proximity or contact

## Intent, capability & access to means

Stated intent as distinct from anger or ideation · asked directly · restriction steps agreed and verified

## History

Prior violence with recency and context · legal history, protective orders · sources available and consulted

## Risk factors

Acute / stable

## Protective factors

Specific to this client, today

## Risk formulation

Acute and longer-term risk characterized, with the rationale connecting findings to the decisions

## Duty analysis, consultation & decision

Standard applied · threshold met or not · who was consulted, when, outcome · decision, including a reasoned decision not to disclose

## Actions, disposition & follow-up

Dated, timed actions · level of care · dated next contact · reassessment triggers

Clinician signature / credentials: Date signed: