

Checklist (for the Principal Investigator) for Assessing the Strength of Preparations to Mitigate Ethical Dilemmas in Family Violence Studies (in Maternal and Child Health settings)

Issue	Assessment		Comment
	Yes	No	
1. The research team is diverse, reflecting as much as possible the cultural differences of study participants			
2. The team includes (will include) people from the culture or cultures being studied in the planning, implementation, interpretation, and dissemination of the research			
3. Obtained participants' consent			
4. Read (will read) the consent forms in their entirety to participants			
5. Will give reasonable weight to differences within each group and variations between the groups			
6. Have some familiarity with the culture of the study population			
7. The research methods and instruments account for participants' cultural contexts			
8. Interviewers selected (will be selected) based on:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (a) ability to engage with people of different backgrounds in an empathetic and non-judgmental manner 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (b) emotional maturity 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (c) skills at building rapport 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (d) ability to deal with sensitive issues 			
9. Research team brainstormed (will brainstorm) the potential emotional, physical, social, and political risks of the study			
10. Research team has planned ways to reduce the potential for risk in each sphere			

11. Have enlisted (will enlist) the expertise of the community to be studied by conducting focus groups in which the research is explained, and participants are asked for input on ways to make the study:			
• (a) more valid			
• (b) more beneficial			
• (c) less harmful to the participants			
12. Results of research on members of the dominant group only will not be applied to members of all groups			
13. The child as a research subject will benefit directly, that is, the results will substantially further the understanding, treatment, or prevention of family violence			
14. Considered how to handle confidentiality in relation to the risk of unsought disclosure of child maltreatment			
15. Considered the benefits and disbenefits of requiring consent of the child, the victimized parent, and the perpetrating parent			
16. Research team will take full responsibility for children's participation and protection			
17. Trained (will train) interviewers to			
• (a) properly ask sensitive questions about violence and how to respond in the case of distress			
• (b) recognise and deal with a respondent's distress during the interview			
18. Interviews will be conducted in a private setting			
19. Interviewers and participants will be gender-matched			
20. Will finish the interview on a positive note that emphasises a woman's strengths			

Note: The more 'yes' response the better, that is, indicating that the research team has developed a strong strategy to mitigate potential ethical dilemmas.