



**Professional Standards Working with Couples**  
**Each Step Together**

**Document Control**

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Professional Standards in relation to the significant impact and identified risk for couples when joint working.

- When cases are allocated, staff must check to identify if another worker is allocated to the other member of the couple.
- When two workers are working with a couple; collaborative working must take place by both workers involved with each member of the couple.
- There must be clear case recordings on Paris detailing the joint working and communication involved for both members of the couple.
- Advocacy must be considered for both members of the couple, if required.
- Best interest outcomes for the couple must be considered when progressing care plans.
- A risk assessment must be completed for both individuals detailing any separation issues when meeting the care needs of each or one member of the couple. The significant impact of any possible separation issues due to a placement of any kind must be recorded in the risk assessment. (positive or negative)
- If couples are to be separated the support plans for both must include adequate contact arrangements to ensure the relationship is maintained and supported after separation.
- Consider any possible safeguarding issues during the process, and progress safeguarding if required.
- The risk assessment for both members of the couple to be evidenced in the risk section of the EST assessment & support plan.

## Appendix 5 Professional Standards- Working with Couples

- Seniors to check the Quality Assurance Panel to ensure the points mentioned above are cited before progressing with panel comments and sign off
- Service managers to check the above actions have been completed by the senior prior to QAP authorisation.
- Seniors must check the risk section of the EST assessment & support plan to ensure it has been completed before authorisation of the support plan.
- Seniors, Service Managers and the Head of Service to discuss with all supervisees the importance of the Professional Standards when working on complex cases with couples.
- Seniors/Service managers to include the Working with Couples Standards as a regular agenda item in team meetings as a check measure to remind staff and ensure this practice is embedded in practice.
- Non adherence to the Standards will lead to performance management.

“Couples” can include; husband and wife, same sex couples, two close friends living together long term, two other family members living together long term.

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