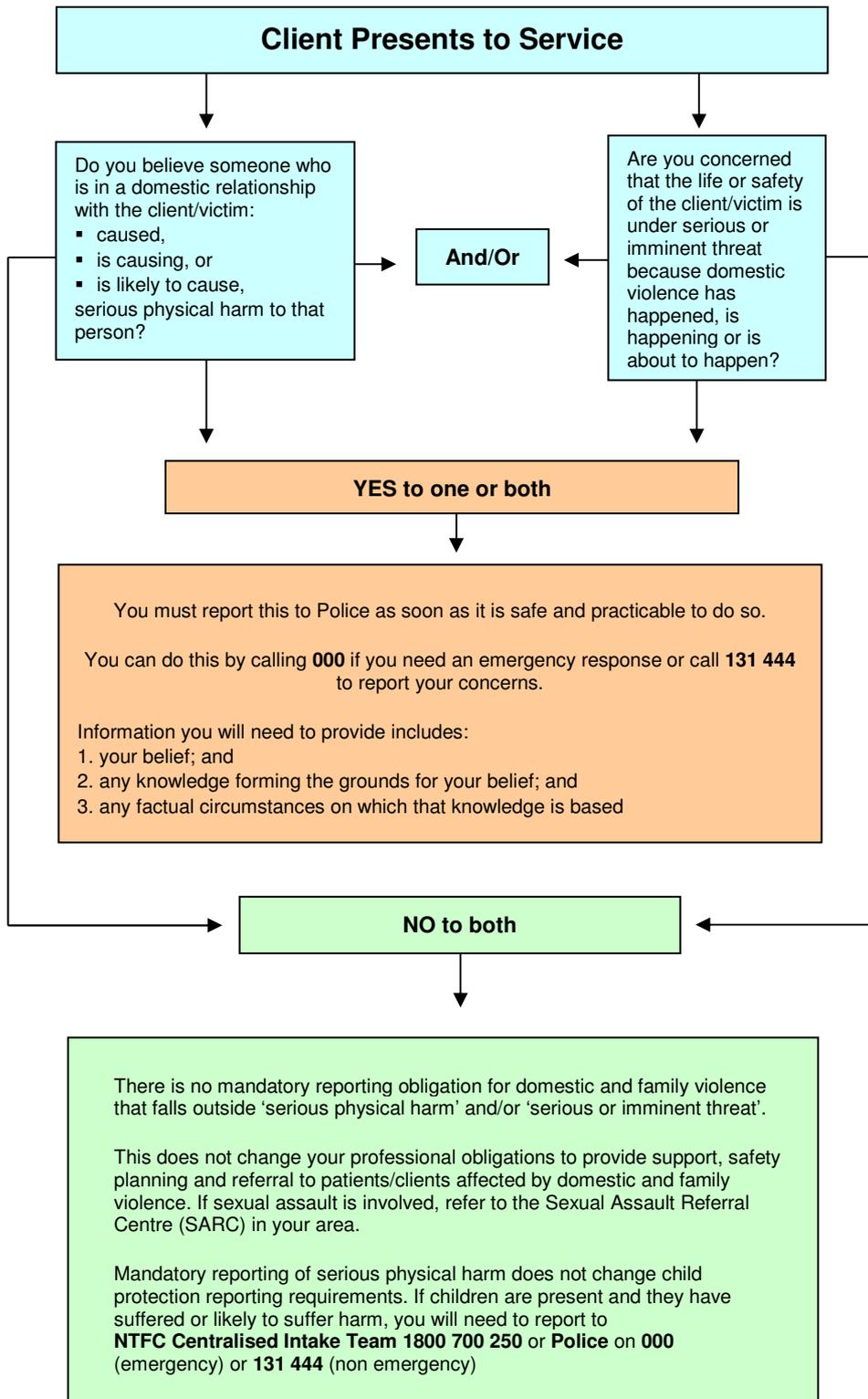


Domestic and Family Violence Mandatory Reporting Flowchart



Serious Physical Harm

Mandatory reporting covers serious physical harm

Section 1A of the Criminal Code defines physical harm as including unconsciousness, pain, disfigurement, infection with a disease and any physical contact that a person might reasonably object to in the circumstances, whether or not the person was aware of it at the time.

Physical harm can be temporary or permanent.

Section 1 of the Criminal Code defines serious harm as any harm (including the cumulative effect of more than one harm):

- that endangers, or is likely to endanger, a person's life; or
- that is or is likely to be significant and longstanding.

You will need to make a professional decision to determine if the injury or circumstances fit within the definition of serious physical harm.

Case management of patients/clients affected by domestic and family violence that falls outside 'serious physical harm':

Consider:

- encouraging the client to report the matter to police themselves,
- offering to report the matter to police on the client's behalf,
- assisting client/children with immediate safety/accommodation needs,
- referring client to other services and offering to make the appointments (eg counselling, medical, financial etc)
- developing a safety plan with the client,
- arranging a time to followup