**The importance of the risk assessment**:

Risk assessments shall be completed for all eligible adults in every instance possible because gauging risk is a vital component of adult protective services.

Assessing the eligible adult's immediate or imminent danger to provide appropriate interventions is paramount.

Risk and safety are linked and should be read with the case notes to complete a picture of the eligible adult’s current situation and future risk for harm.

It is as important to document why someone has no or low risk as to why someone has a high risk level.

**Some issues to consider when assessing risk:**

**Health and Functional Status**

* Is the EA capable, capable and unwilling, or incapable of performing ADLs?
* What are the limitations, if any? Can the EA do one ADL but not another?
* Does the EA have consistent support to complete some aspects of ADLs, and who are those persons? What would the EA do without those supports?
* If no supports are available, will EA safety be compromised?
* Does EA require assistive devices or medical equipment?
* Is the EA capable of scheduling and keeping appointments? How does the EA get to appointments?
* Does EA require immediate attention for health issues?

**Social**

* Does the EA have social supports? Family supports? Who are those persons/groups?
* What would the EA do without those supports? Are supports unreliable/unavailable?
* Does EA have negative supports? For example, a live-in caregiver who relies on EA?
* Is EA able to seek out support on their own?
* How is EA coping without support in place?

**Financial**

* Does EA’s income meet current needs? Do needs exceed income?
* Is EA usually short of money after being paid? Is EA going without necessities?
* Do others rely on EA’s income?
* Is EA able to manage finances and/or handle financial situations/emergencies?
* Does EA rely on the community to manage or pay bills?
* Does EA typically receive shut-off or cancellation/eviction notices?
* Do others have access to EA’s accounts? Is EA vulnerable to others?

**Living Environment**

* Is EA’s home relatively clean and adequate for EA’s needs? Is EA’s home in disarray and overly cluttered?
* Does EA have multiple pets causing environmental issues/trash/insect infestation?
* Is EA living in a hazardous or structurally unsound location?
* Does EA’s living environment meet needs, i.e., low counters, wide doorways, and ramps?
* Is EA homeless?

**Mental Health**

* Does EA have mental health issues? Are mental health issues under control?
* Do EA’s mental health issues cause problems for EA?
* Does EA have unrealistic expectations about handling mental health or substance use problems?
* Is EA suicidal?
* Does EA need immediate assistance or relocation?
* Does EA understand care needs?

**Decisional Capacity**

* Does EA have capacity limitations? What are they?
* How do capacity issues affect EA’s ability for self-care?
* Do EA’s capacity issues require intervention?
* Does EA have decisional capacity supports in place? Who are these persons?
* Does EA understand the consequences of decisions?

**Issues to consider when assigning a level of risk**

**No Risk**

* The EA presents with no issues or concerns to be addressed in any of the risk domains
* EA has an excellent support system in place that assists in any manner the EA needs

**Low Risk**

* EA needs minor assistance and/or resource referrals
* EA’s identified needs are addressed through support systems which rarely break down

**Medium Risk**

* EA has trouble meeting needs regularly and occasionally reaches out for assistance
* EA needs moderate assistance with resource referrals to mitigate the current situation

**High Risk**

* EA cannot meet needs and/or frequently fails to provide for self adequately
* EA needs immediate intervention as they are in a dangerous situation

**Observations**

These should be factual, descriptive, and informative about the eligible adult’s current situation.