Risk Assessment in Forced Marriage Cases – Forms of Force, Fraud, Coercion

This checklist can be used to review the forms of forced, fraud or coercion a service seeker has experienced, and to supplement your agency's risk assessment/safety planning process. The list below is not exhaustive; however, it attempts to outline means that commonly may be used or threatened against individuals facing forced marriage.

☐ Emotional blackmail (e.g., parent threatens self-harm, asserts that family's or individual's reputation will be ruined if they resist the marriage)
☐ Isolation tactics (e.g., family severely limits individual's social contacts or ability to leave the home; individual not allowed to go to school)
☐ Stalking (e.g. a family member follows the individual when they leave their home)
☐ Social ostracization (e.g., threatening that the individual will be an outcast in their community)
☐ Economic threats or abuse (e.g., family threatens to kick the individual out/withdraw support)
☐ Withholding food
☐ Withholding medical care
☐ Immigration-related threats or abuse (e.g., threatening to get the individual deported)
☐ Deception/tricking (e.g., telling an individual they are being taken abroad to visit a relative when really they are being taken abroad to get married)
☐ Reporting the individual as a runaway/missing child to enlist law enforcement help in returning the individual home.
☐ Falsely accusing the individual of a crime
☐ Forging a marriage certificate
☐ Marrying off an individual without that individual's participation or even knowledge (e.g., where laws or customs of a country allow families to conclude a marriage)
☐ Kidnapping/forcing the individual to travel abroad
☐ Holding the individual captive/physically restrained
☐ Drugging or incapacitating the individual
☐ Threats of physical violence (against the individual facing forced marriage, his/her family members, his/her current boyfriend/girlfriend, or others)
☐ Physical violence
☐ Serious bodily injury
☐ Death threats
☐ Other (please specify):

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