

In adult protection, if in doubt, rule it in, not out!

Below is a case study and an example of how TILS can be used to clarify risk:

John is 80. He lives alone. The police have found him walking outside, lost and confused four times in October 2022. Each time he was unable to tell them where he lives.

The police alerted the council contact centre. John lives in a small town with a few friends but his family live in Canada.

It transpired that John was found walking and lost first in early 2022, but he was able to tell his neighbour where he lived after a spell of confusion. This seemed to have been a one off.

In 2022 family say they have had reports of him being found, initially lost and confused but then able to orient himself, on a monthly basis.

In Sept-October 2022 this escalated to every few weeks with John having to be taken home half the time as he couldn't say where he lived. The community and family chose to protect John themselves up until now. GP has not yet seen John, but says he has always been healthy, does not drink alcohol and this sounds like early stages of dementia as urine sample shows no sign of UTI. John has an appointment with the memory clinic in a month. Each time he was found this year he was only in his dressing gown and slippers. A driver also reports almost hitting him.

Using the 'T.I.L.S'. Risk Clarification sheet to assess what the:

Type of harm(s) is/are,

Imminence of harm(s) is/are,

Likelihood of harm(s) is/are &

Severity of harm(s) is/are.

T.I.L.S. Risk Clarification Tool: John

Risk Factor	How Do You Know This?	What Do You Still Need to Know?
Type(s) of Harm:		
Exposure to the elements	Found outside in cold weather, complaining of being chilly & shivering.	Any other types of harm?
Being hit by a car	He has had to cross busy roads and a driver reported a near miss.	

Alan Laughland, Adult Support and Protection Lead Officer, East Lothian and Midlothian
10th Oct 2023.

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Imminence of Harm(s): HIGH MEDIUM LOW	<p>Exposure to the elements: The pattern of frequency of being found walking, lost and confused has increased, now without adequate clothing in cold weather. HIGH IMMINENCE</p> <p>Risk of being hit by a car: This is a one off. But the risk is new. Not able to predict whether this will happen again, but it is in the context of increasing confusion. MEDIUM IMMINENCE</p>	<p>Exposure to the elements: how quickly can family and friends comprehensively monitor John till services are agreed?</p> <p>Risk of being hit by a car: How quickly can family and friends comprehensively monitor John till services are agreed?</p>
Likelihood of Harm (s): HIGH MEDIUM LOW	<p>Exposure to elements: The pattern of frequency of walking outside, due to being confused, has increased to twice weekly, now without adequate clothing in cold weather. GP thinks it is likely there is dementia, which looks like is deteriorating. HIGH LIKELIHOOD OF HARM.</p> <p>Being hit by a car: This is a one off. But the risk is new. Not able to predict whether this will happen again, but it is in the context of increasing confusion.</p>	<p>Exposure to elements: Are there any other sources of information? How quickly can family and friends comprehensively monitor John till services are agreed?</p> <p>Being hit by a car: What do neighbours and family know of John's road safety and eyesight? How quickly can family and friends comprehensively monitor John till services are agreed?</p>
Severity of Harm (s):	Exposure to the elements: could lead to death or hypothermia.	How long is he lost for?

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<p>HIGH</p> <p>MEDIUM</p> <p>LOW</p>	<p>HIGH SEVERITY</p> <p>Being hit by a car: could lead to fatality.</p> <p>HIGH SEVERITY</p>	<p>Are there any other reports?</p> <p>Does John need a physical examination?</p>
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Use the 'Risk Matrix' to clarify your risk assessment for each risk if necessary:

Risk Matrix (Fig 2a)

Severity of Harm	Likelihood
Serious	Highly likely
Significant	Likely
Minor	Unlikely

(Fig.2b)

Severity of Harm	Serious		High Risk	
	Significant		Medium Risk	
	Minor	Low Risk		
		Unlikely	Likely	Highly Likely
		Likelihood		

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