

SAFE HOME **Veilig Huis**

October 6, 2025



Evolution of multidisciplinary cooperation on domestic violence in Flanders



**Ad hoc
cooperation**
(before 2006)



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**More structured
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**Chain
approach DV**
(2012-2023)

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**Family Justice
Centers**
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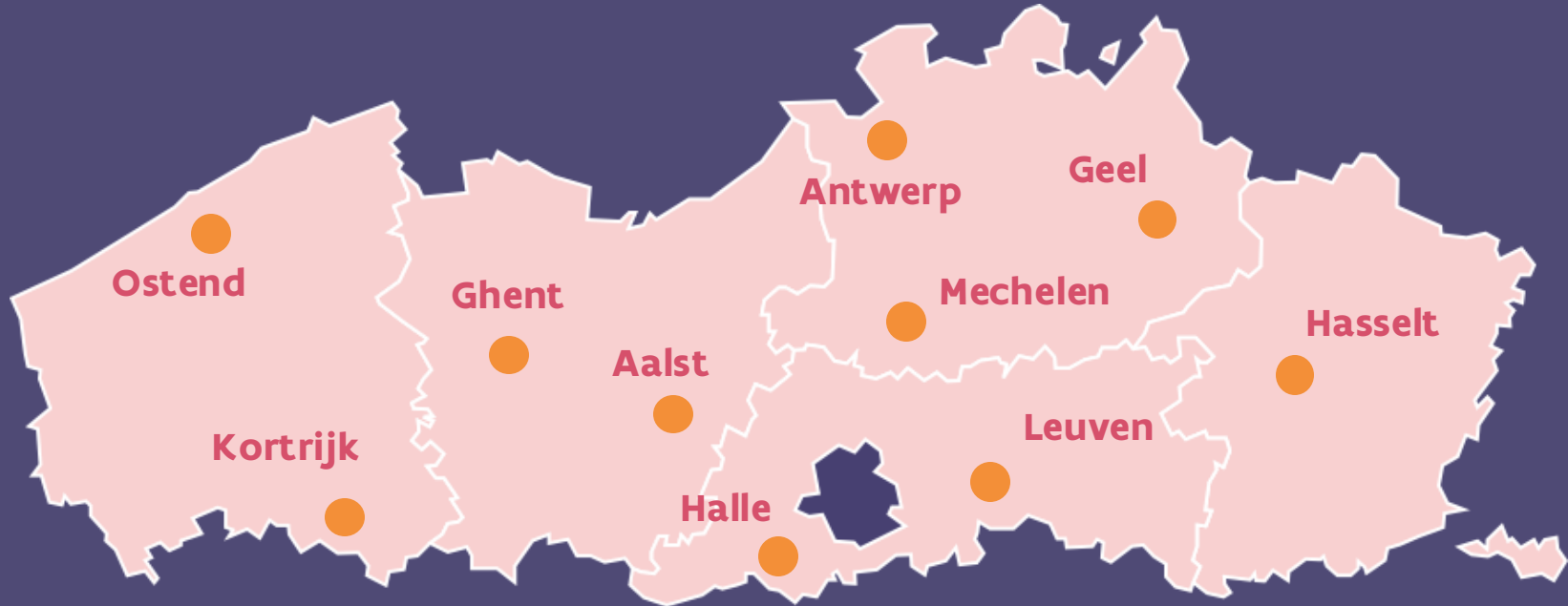
**Family Justice
Centers**
(2015-2023)



**Veilig Huis /
Safe Home**
(since 2023)



10 Safe Homes in Flanders





Why?



Why?

- **Because DV is a gigantic, persistent and dangerous problem**
 - Thousands of police reports and many (fatal) victims
 - Very high “dark number” and high recidivism
- **Because no child should grow up in fear**
 - Devastating impact on children
 - In 2/3 of families, underage children are involved (present, witness, victim)



Why?

- **Because no one should get lost in the system**
 - Victims are often exhausted, traumatized, and afraid
 - The safety and support landscape can be intimidating and feel like a maze
 - As a result, people do not take the step or drop out
- **Because collaboration saves lives**
 - Police, justice, and support services that work closely together can intervene and provide assistance more quickly and effectively



What?



What?

- Safe Home = **regional network organization**
- Encouraging, coordinating, and supporting **intersectoral cooperation** – under one roof
- **Integrated approach** to complex and serious DV cases that require multidisciplinary collaboration between police, justice, and support services

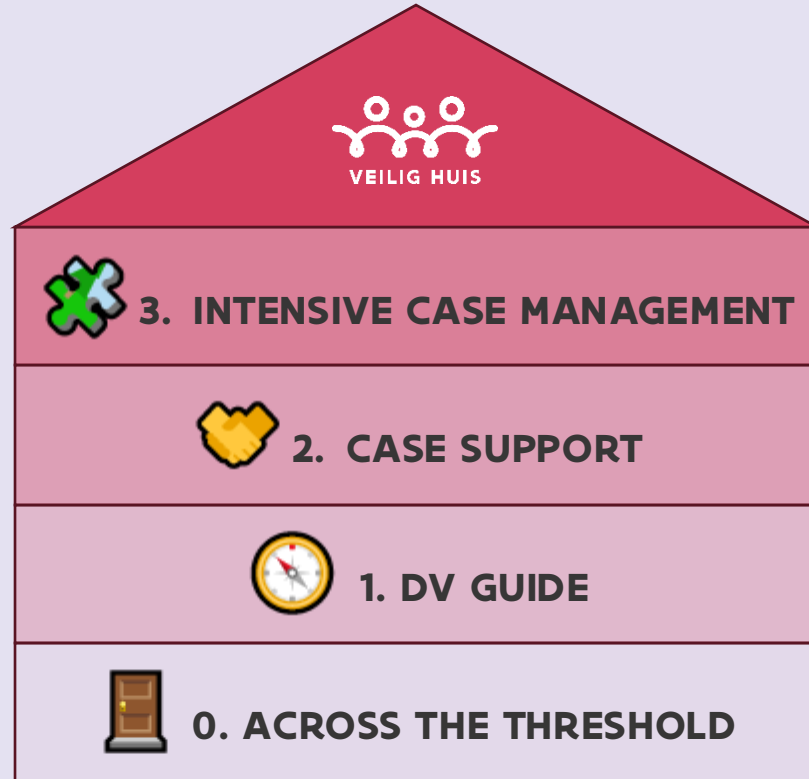
What?

- Before 2024: cooperation through **guidelines & protocols**
- **Decree** on the establishment and regulation of the Safe Homes (29 March 2024)
 - Establishment anchored in legislation
 - Objectives and tasks defined
 - Provision for case consultations
 - Provision for a framework on the processing of personal data



What?

- **4 tracks** within Safe Home



What?

- **Track 0: Across the threshold**

- Peer support groups
- Pilot projects, tailored to client needs, in collaboration with partners

- **Track 1: DV guide**

- Consultation
 - For professionals
 - Anonymous



What?

- **Track 2: Case support**

- Target group: families 'out of balance'
- Approach: short-term support and coordination, with a focus on safety and quickly initiating the right assistance
- Duration: 4 to 6 months
- Funding: local resources – 1 FTE per 50,000 inhabitants

What?

- **Track 3: Intensive case management**

- Target group: structurally unsafe families
- Approach: long-term, persistent trajectory with intensive support and coordination of a joint action plan
- Duration: 12 to 18 months
- Funding: Flemish resources



How?

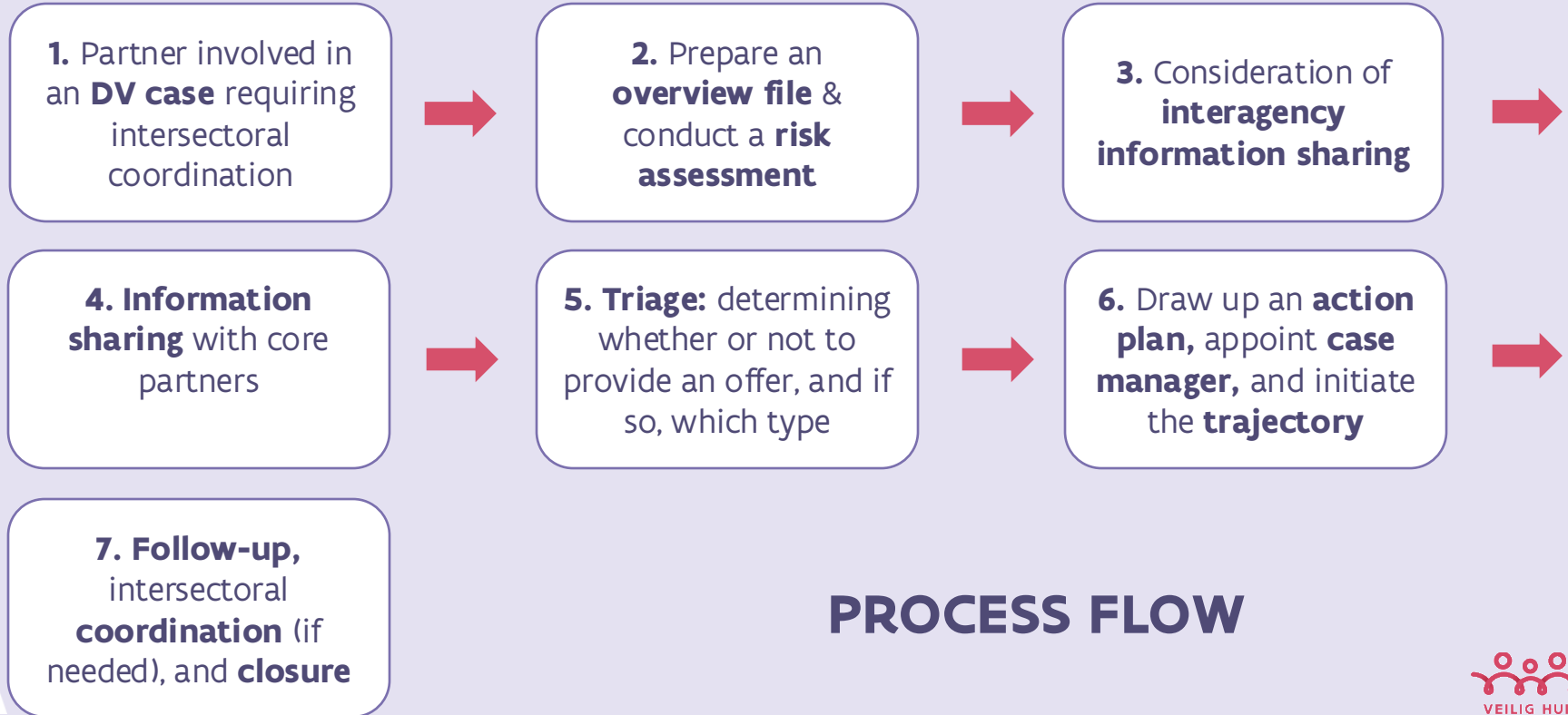
How?

- **This is how we work:**

- Together, integrated, coordinated, and tailored
- For and with the entire family, with special attention to the children
- Persistent, as short as possible and as long as necessary
- Taking into account gender, risk and protective factors, forms, profiles, and dynamics
- With expertise, evidence-based and innovative
- Aiming for sustainable safety and well-being

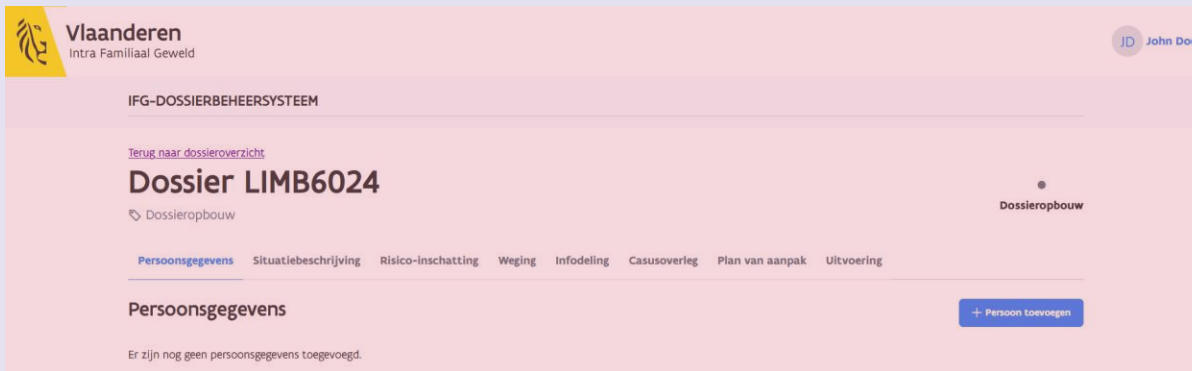


How?



How?

- **WIDA:** Safe Home case management system



Who?



Who?

- **Coordination**

- Flemish Agency for Justice, Dept. Gender Related Violence
- In the Safe Homes Antwerp/Rivierenland together with the City of Antwerp/Mechelen

- **Core partners**

- Police-justice: police, public prosecutor's office, probation services
- Support services: Centre for General Welfare Work, Centre for Mental Health Care, Public Centre for Social Welfare, Child and Family Agency, Confidential Centre on Child Abuse

Who?

- **Coordination and administration**

- Strategic and operational coordinator
- Administrative staff member
- Central Flemish team

- **Case management**

- Case manager
- Psychologist
- Child psychologist

- **Intersectoral liaisons**

- Liaison officer police
- Prosecution criminologist
- Liaisons from core partners

A group of people are in a room, likely a therapy or support group. In the foreground, a woman is seen from the back, holding a black bowl filled with many colorful LEGO minifigures. In the center, a man and a woman are sitting on a tan armchair, looking towards the woman with the bowl. The man is wearing a black hoodie and light blue pants, resting his chin on his hand. The woman is wearing a light blue suit and glasses, with her hands clasped. In front of them is a small, round, light-colored wooden table with several LEGO minifigures placed on it. A black book or folder is also on the table. In the background, a small dog is lying on a red cushion on the floor, surrounded by toys.

How many?

How many?

- **Referred families**

- 2022: 1.971
- 2023: 2.467
- 2024: 3.001

- **Consults**

- 2022: 754
- 2023: 1.169
- 2024: 1.372



Challenges?

Challenges?

- **In the coming years, we will work together on:**
 - A strong structure and culture of cooperation
 - Full regional coverage across all areas
 - Extra attention and care for children
 - An easy-to-access system, starting from the client journey
 - Further development of expertise and specialization
 - Digital innovation
 - A scientifically grounded approach



**More information on
[veilighuis.be](https://www.veilighuis.be)**

