



Alaska Office of Children's Services
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MANUAL

A Desk Reference Guide

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INTRODUCTION

There is growing evidence of the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment or child welfare-related issues. Best practice in the intervention of these cases should address the co-occurrence of domestic violence. The purpose of this manual is to provide direction for child welfare professionals when working with families where domestic violence and child welfare-related issues are both occurring.

This manual addresses situations where survivors of domestic violence are non-abusive and provide the primary source of care and support for the children, and abusive partners or batterers remain a risk to the safety of the children and the survivor. It does not address situations where a non-abusive, protective parent cannot be identified and both the batterer and survivor are a risk to the safety of the children.

The primary focus of child protection intervention in domestic violence cases is the ongoing safety of children. The preferred way to protect children in most domestic violence cases is to join with the survivor in supporting the mother-child relationship and enhancing safety for the child and the survivor, and to hold the abusive partner or batterer accountable for the abusive behavior through interventions and case plan expectations.

Child welfare professionals should always follow federal and state law and agency policies and procedures when working with families where domestic violence and child welfare-related issues are both occurring.

OCS Policy & Procedures

2.2.6 SCREENING FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

AUTHORITY: AS 47.17.035 Duties of department in domestic violence cases

POLICY: During each initial assessment of reports of abuse and neglect, the department will assess whether there is domestic violence occurring within the family and take appropriate action.

PROCEDURE

- a. During each initial assessment in response to reports of child abuse or neglect, the worker will assess the family situation for the presence of domestic violence by observing or inquiring about the presence of the following factors:
 1. Visible injuries such as bruises in multiple areas or in different stages of healing;
 2. Use of coercion in sexual activities and/or physical activities;
 3. One partner fearful of the other or expressing anxiety about the partner's response to the investigation;
 4. One partner giving all responses and controlling responses to the worker's questions;
 5. One partner controlling of the other's daily activities or limiting access to money, activities outside the home, friends, religious and other activities;
 6. One partner being very controlling/extremely jealous and regularly checking on the other's activities.
- b. The worker will
 1. Initiate a criminal records check of the parents or the person alleged to have abused or neglected the child if not the parent;
 2. Following procedures developed with the local courts, inquire into the existence of any domestic violence protective orders issues or filed under AS 18.66.100 – 180 involving either parent as a petitioner or respondent.

If the worker determines that domestic violence is present in the family, the worker will provide the victim with written notice (D-071, Information for Victims of Domestic Violence -- AS 18.65.520(a)) of the rights of, and services available to, victims of domestic violence.

d. When assessing safety in a home in a home where domestic violence is present or alleged, the worker will consider the following factors in assessing whether the domestic violence poses a risk of serious physical and/or emotional harm to the child:

Was the child previously injured in domestic violence incident?

2. Does the child exhibit severe anxiety (e.g., nightmares, insomnia) related to situations associated with domestic violence?
3. Does the child cry, cower, cringe, tremble, or otherwise exhibit fear and does domestic violence exist in the home?
4. Is the child at potential risk of physical injury?
5. Does the child's behavior increase risk of injury (e.g., attempting to intervene during violent dispute, participating in the violent dispute)?
6. Are guns, knives, or other instruments used in a violent, threatening, and/or intimidating manner?
7. Is there evidence of property damage resulting from domestic violence?

If the worker determines that a child is in danger because of domestic violence or that the child needs protection as a result of the presence of domestic violence in the family, the worker shall take appropriate steps for the protection of the child. In this paragraph, "appropriate steps" may include

1. reasonable efforts to protect the child and prevent the removal of the child from the parent or guardian who is not a domestic violence offender;
2. reasonable efforts to remove the alleged domestic violence offender from the child's residence if it is determined that the child or another family or household member is in danger of domestic violence (this step requires coordination with law enforcement, since the division does not have authority to remove); and
3. services to help protect the child from being placed or having unsupervised visitation with the domestic violence offender until the department determines that the offender has met conditions considered necessary by the department to protect the safety of the domestic violence victim and household members and to guarantee the safety, protection and well-being of the child.

DEFINITIONS

Domestic Violence/ Battering: Occurs when one current or former intimate partner exercises a pattern of abusive and coercive behaviors* against the other current or former intimate partner. These abusive and coercive behaviors are used by one partner to gain power over, dominate and control the other partner.

* Abusive and coercive behaviors may include physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, emotional abuse, economic abuse, use of children, use of privilege, minimization, denial and blame, intimidation, isolation, coercion and threats.

Batterer/ Abusive Partner: A person, male or female, who exercises a pattern of abusive and coercive behaviors against a current or former *intimate* partner.

Survivor/ Victim of Domestic Violence/ Non-Abusive Partner: A person who is, or has been, subjected to a pattern of abusive and coercive behaviors by an intimate partner.

Alleged Child Victim: The alleged victim of a child abuse or neglect protective services report. .

Safety Planning for Adult Victim: A process designed to help a survivor of domestic violence think through things that may change her level of safety. This includes discussing plans and options for situations that may put the survivor's safety at risk. Domestic violence and sexual assault advocates are specially trained in the safety planning process. Contact your local domestic violence or sexual assault program for assistance with this process.

OCS Protective Action Plan (PAP): A temporary, short-term plan to keep the child safe when present danger conditions have been identified (typically for 7-14 days in duration). The Protective Action Plan may be used pending referral to family preservation or other services or to provide short-term care to avoid unnecessary legal removal of a child from the child's home. This process is conducted by OCS Workers and is different than safety planning with survivors of domestic violence. See "Safety Planning" definition above.

OCS Safety Plan: an OCS Safety Plan is developed when OCS has determined through the impending danger assessment that a child is unsafe. OCS Safety Plans are designed to ensure safety through the least restrictive means possible. Safety plans may involve a child remaining in the home with safety services, separating from the maltreating caregiver(s), or a combination of both. The safety plan is implemented and active as long as impending danger threats exist and caregiver protective capacities are insufficient to assure the child is protected. If domestic violence is present, OCS workers should encourage the survivor to invite an Advocate from the local Domestic Violence Program to be present during the development of an OCS Safety Plan. Please note, in most circumstances it is not appropriate for DV Advocates to be tasked as a Safety Plan participant; their role is to help in the brainstorming aspects of safety planning.

OCS Case Plan: an OCS Case Plan is a written plan of action for the parent and a plan of action for the child. It typically involves the utilization of specific interventions, services and/or activities to assist the maltreating caregiver in making the behavioral changes needed to enhance protective capacities. Case plans must be written in collaboration with the parents, the child (when appropriate), and other legal parties when appropriate.



Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault Program: A nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is to provide free and confidential services to victims of domestic violence or sexual assault, including, but not limited to, emergency safe shelter, crisis hotlines, transportation to safety, advocacy and support, community education and referral to community resources.

THE POWER AND CONTROL WHEEL

- The Power and Control Wheel is used to show the experience of domestic violence.
- At the core of domestic violence is the batterer's goal to gain and maintain power and control over the survivor of domestic violence.
- The Power and Control Wheel has eight spokes that represent the abusive and coercive tactics, tools, pressures and rationales batterers may use to obtain, maintain and reinforce power and control over the survivor.
- Physical and sexual violence (outer rim) may not be necessary to establish power and control over the survivor; the threat of violence may be enough.
- The Power and Control Wheel may be used as a screening tool or a discussion tool with survivors of domestic violence.
- Gender-specific language is used, as women are disproportionately represented as survivors of domestic violence.



CHILDREN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Wheel as it Applies to Children

- The following describes how domestic violence and battering behavior may impact children, using the Power and Control Wheel.
- It is important to explore each spoke of the Wheel thoroughly in order to provide appropriate and effective interventions for the family.
- The use of intimidation by the batter may impact the entire family by:
- Using looks, actions and gestures to intimidate or cause fear in the family.
- Destroying property to show authority, intimidate, or punish the family.
- Abusing pets to send messages, the implication being you could be next.
- Displaying or cleaning weapons in front of the family to send messages or threats of violence.
- Using violence in front of the children.



CHILDREN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Wheel as it Applies to Children

Batterer may use Emotional Abuse by:

- Forcing the children to engage in put-downs or name-calling of the mother.
- Putting the children down or calling the children names.
- Humiliating the mother in front of the children.
- Forcing the mother to engage in embarrassing acts in front of the children.
- Undermining the value of the mother (i.e., making the mother believe she is an unfit parent, telling the mother the children don't love her).
- Shaping how the children view their mother.
- Being inconsistent in visitation, discipline, or parenting.

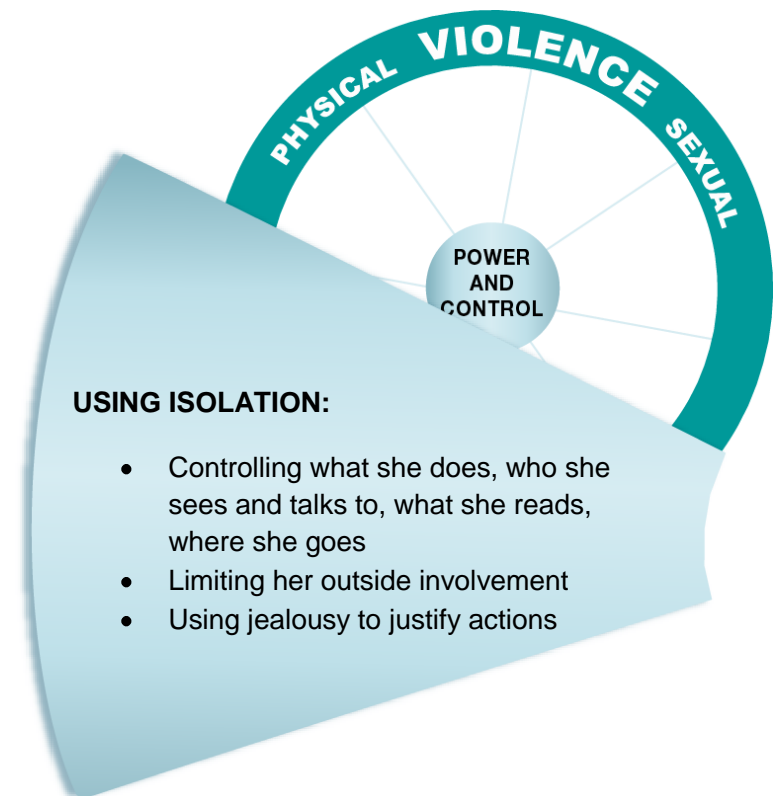


CHILDREN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Wheel as it Applies to Children

Batterer may use isolation by:

- Not letting the mother see or spend time with the children.
- Isolating the family from cultural events
- Limiting opportunities for the mother and the children to get help from outside sources.
- Not allowing the children to participate in age appropriate activities outside the home.
- Not allowing the children to invite friends into the home.
- Controlling access to trustworthy adults (i.e., school counselors, grandparents, extended family members).
- Not allowing the mother to respond to the children's needs (i.e., hurts, fears, accessing health care basic needs).



CHILDREN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Wheel as it Applies to Children

Batterer may use minimization, denial and blame by:

- Making the children believe the mother is to blame for the violence.
- Pitting family member against family member.
- Fostering instability and creating confusion for the children by denying the violence happened.
- Normalizing the violence.
- Making light of the violence.
- Causing the children to feel guilty and to believe they are to blame for the violence.

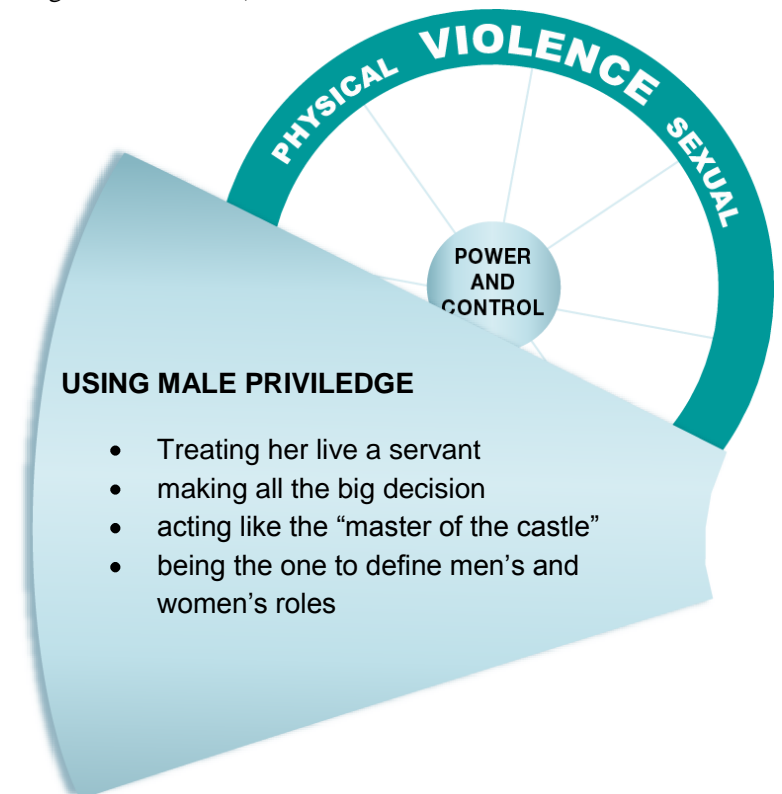


CHILDREN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Wheel as it Applies to Children

Batterer may use children by:

- Making the mother believe anything that happens to the children is her fault.
- Using the children as confidants.
- Threatening to take the children away, make a PSR, or hurt the children if the mother reports the abuse or tries to leave the batterer.
- Exposing the children to the abuse (i.e., through direct observation, overhearing, or knowing about the abuse).
- Undermining the mother's efforts to parent the children.
- Probing the children for information about the mother or her new partner.
- Controlling the use of contraception or having children born close together; overwhelming the mother.
- Causing physical harm to the children as a result of violence toward the mother.
- Physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect perpetrated directly against the children.
- Making the children perpetrate abuse towards the mother.

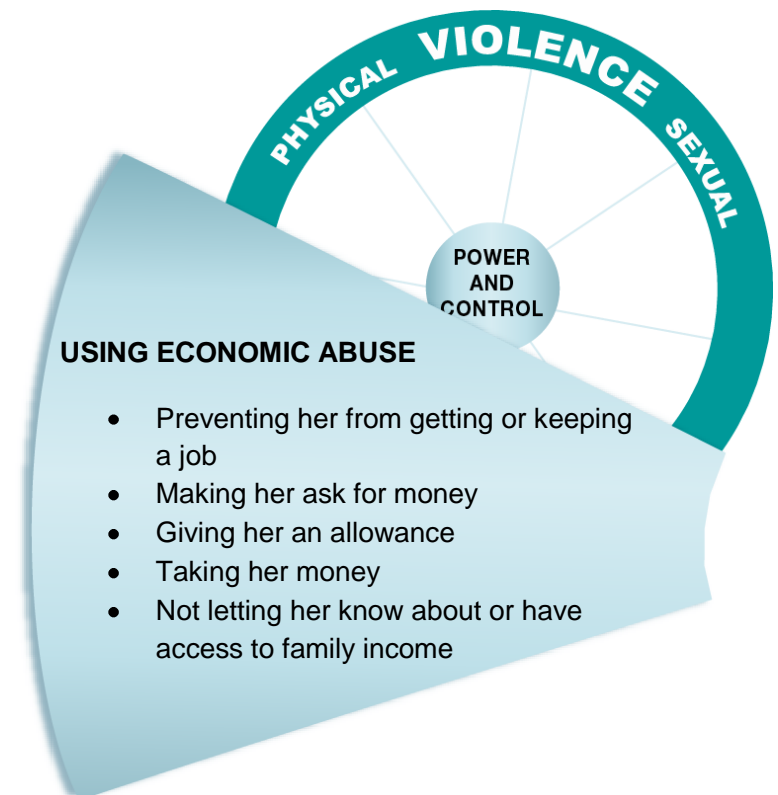


CHILDREN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Wheel as it Applies to Children

Batterer may use economic abuse by:

- Creating poor credit for the mother so that she is unable to get financing on her own.
- Controlling the family finances or withholding access to or information about the family finances.
- Giving the mother a meager allowance for her and the children's needs.
- Withholding child support
- Refusing to help pay for necessities.
- Creating reasons for the mother to lose her job (i.e., calling her work frequently, making her miss work, withholding transportation).
- Disrupting child care arrangements needed to maintain employment.

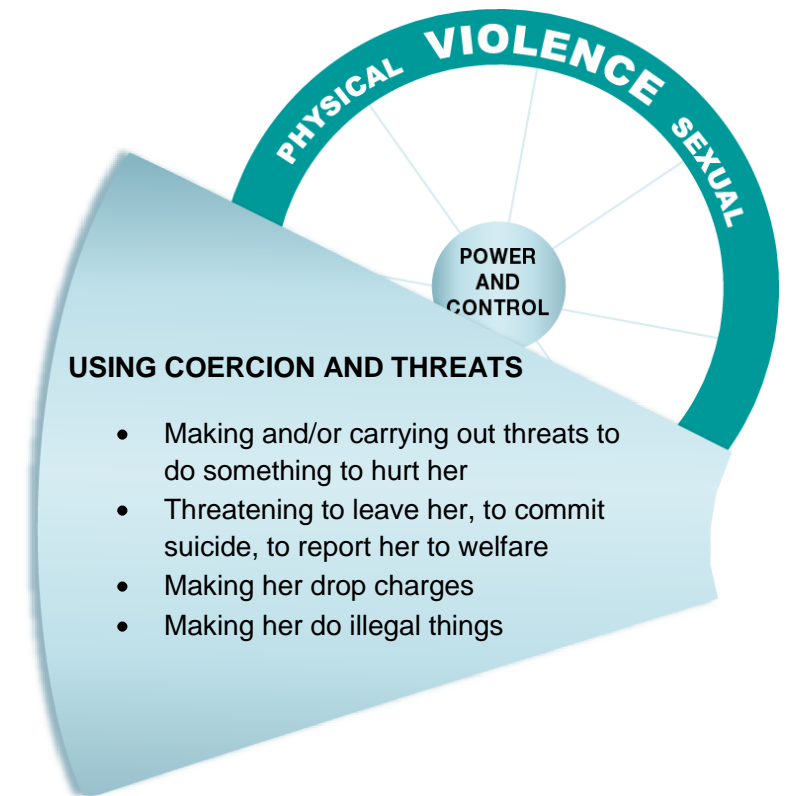


CHILDREN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Wheel as it Applies to Children

Batterer may use coercion and threats by:

- Threatening to report the mother to welfare to impact her economic benefits or initiate a child maltreatment investigation.
- Threatening that OCS will take the children away.
- Making threats to harm the mother or the children if the mother leaves him.
- Threatening to report the mother or the children to immigration authorities.
- Threatening to get full custody of the children.
- Making threats of retaliation toward the children who disclose abuse to outside helpers.
- Threatening to abandon the children.
- Making threats of suicide or other self-harm.



THE INITIAL ASSESSMENT

Prior to initiating the first contacts:

OCS Workers Must: Complete an APSIN/Court view check and review any criminal records pertaining to the alleged maltreaters or caregivers. A background check must also include a review of any protective orders issued or filed involving any of the adult case participants. Complete a review of prior CPS records to identify prior allegations or concerns of domestic violence. Review the information known about household composition and compare it to previous records.

Safety considerations:

- The interview should be conducted in a safe space; consider other safe and confidential meeting spaces in the community.
- Always consider the safety of the worker, survivor and child(ren) prior to the interview.
 - Is it safe for the worker to go to the home alone?
 - Should the batterer or alleged perpetrator come in to the office?
 - Should law enforcement be notified or assist with the interview?
- DO NOT SHARE details of the interview provided by the survivor with the batterer.
- Be prepared to discuss safety options with the survivor around the batterer interview and the initial assessment itself. This includes asking her if she'd like a domestic violence advocate to be present.
- Consider any information that may suggest there is a threat to safety (i.e., batterer has threatened harm to himself or others, batterer has harmed himself or others, batterer has access to weapons).
- Keep the survivor informed about the steps of the initial assessment process so that she can plan for her safety.
- Interview the survivor before interviewing the batterer or alleged perpetrator.
- Notify the survivor when the batterer interview will occur.

Also consider the following:

- The initial assessment is an opportunity to address the needs of the whole family.
- Address risk, safety and protective factors in order to prevent unnecessary removal of the child(ren).
- Assisting in enhancing the safety of the survivor is an opportunity to reduce risk to the child(ren).
- Assume that male and female caretakers have an equal responsibility for the emotional and physical well-being of the child(ren).

- Understanding the batterer's abusive and coercive tactics toward the survivor and the child(ren) can improve the safety and well-being of the child(ren).
- Batterers can be helped to play a more positive role in the lives of their child(ren).
- The use of violence, abuse and control are choices made by the batterer.
- Send appropriate messages of responsibility for the abuse.
- Be mindful of race, gender, ethnicity and class issues.

The Initial Assessment Interviewing Tips

Interviewing tips when domestic violence is identified as a concern within the household:

- Interview all family members separately.
- The survivor and the child(ren) are not likely to disclose information if they are in the presence of the batterer.
- Interview the child(ren) outside the presence of the parents and at their school if at all possible.
- Conduct interviews in a location that is safe and comfortable for the child(ren).
- Ask the survivor how she might approach talking to the child(ren) about the violence so that there exists an initial understanding of the child(ren)'s likely attitude or behavior.
- Understand that the child(ren) may feel responsible for what happened or feel guilty for telling about the abuse.
- Be aware that the survivor may think the worker is there to take the child(ren). The batterer may have threatened her with calling OCS and has reinforced the idea that the worker is there to take the child(ren).
- Explore and ask about batterer tactics identified on the Power and Control Wheel. (*See page 8*).
- Batterers may manipulate the interview in ways the worker may not be aware (i.e., takes control over the interview, tries to side with the worker, tries to triangulate professionals involved, portrays self as victim).

THE INITIAL ASSESSMENT

Tips for Initial Assessment workers for Identifying Domestic Violence

Early and proper identification of the existence of domestic violence will assist the IA worker in determining appropriate interventions and referrals, as well as appropriate considerations for the safety of family members. These types of questions should be used during your initial face to face contacts with the adult caregiver.

Ask about domestic violence:

- Regardless of the nature of the original report.
- Only if you are able to interview all family members separately.

Ask the interviewee:

- Have you ever been hurt, threatened, or intimidated by a current or former partner?
- Are you afraid of a current or former partner?
- Has your partner ever forced you to do something you did not want to do?
- Would working with our agency put you or your child(ren) in danger?
- Has current or past abuse ever prevented you from going to work or going to school?
- Has anyone taken away something you needed to be independent (i.e., medications, access to money or financial information, wheelchair, immigration papers, photo identification, birth certificates)?
- Has your partner ever taken the child(ren) without permission, threatened to take the child(ren) away from you, or otherwise harmed the child(ren)?
- If the interviewee screens positive for domestic violence, provide appropriate supportive responses and move on to the second phase of screening questions

Appropriate responses by the worker to the survivor include:

- "You don't deserve to be hurt."
- "It is not your fault."

- "You have a right to be safe."
- "I believe you."
"There are voluntary, free and confidential services available to assist you with your needs. Would you like me to assist you in making contact with the local domestic violence program?"

THE INITIAL ASSESSMENT After an adult caregiver screens positive for domestic violence (*second phase of questions*): Interviewing the Survivor

Questions to ask a survivor of domestic violence:

- In what ways is your partner controlling? Has he ever prevented you from going to the following activities...(parent teacher conferences, doctor's appointments, family functions)? Is he jealous?
- How often do you spend time with family and friends in supportive activities? Have you ever been prevented from spending time with them?
- Does your partner ever monitor your activities? Your phone calls?
- Does your partner ever call you names, insult you, or scream at you?
- How are family finances handled? How do you feel about that?
- How are the household responsibilities divided? How do you feel about that?
- If you could change anything about your relationship, what would it be?
- Has your partner ever hurt you, accidentally or on purpose? In what ways?
- Do you feel safe? Have there been times when you didn't feel safe?
- Do you have plans that help keep you safe? What are those? - Note: These plans cannot be shared with anyone.
- Have you sought out safety or support from any agency or person in the past? How was that experience?

Children-focused questions:

- Has the child(ren) ever been hurt, accidentally or on purpose?
- Where is the child(ren) when the fighting happens? How does the child(ren) respond to the violence?
- If the child(ren) is hurt, scared, or upset, are you allowed to comfort them?
- How safe is the child(ren)?
- Has the child(ren) ever expressed or indicated they worry about you?
- Has your partner ever threatened to take the child(ren) away?
- Where is your child(ren) when your partner uses abusive behavior?

- Has your partner ever threatened to harm the child(ren)?
 - How does the child(ren) interact with peers? Who are the child(ren)'s favorite teachers, friends, or people?
 - Is the child(ren) involved in any activities outside of the home?
 - Do you feel that if certain things about your relationship with your partner were different, that your relationship with the child(ren) also would be different?
 - How does the child(ren) treat you?
 - Does your partner undermine your parenting? In what ways?
 - How does your partner participate in the parenting?
 - How is the child(ren) disciplined?
 - Does your partner criticize the way you discipline? In what ways?
-

THE INITIAL ASSESSMENT Challenges for the Survivor

Survivors of domestic violence are faced with many challenges and barriers. Consider the following examples:

- Fear of the batterer's behavior and what the batterer might do
- Fear of threats and harassment by the batterer
- Fear of stalking by the batterer
- Fear for the child(ren) or of losing custody of the child(ren)
- Fear of unsupervised parenting time with the batterer
- Fear for other family members' safety
- Emotional attachment or affection for the batterer
- Economic reliance on the batterer
- Conflicts with religious or cultural beliefs
- Isolation or lack of support
- Shame about the violence
- Fear of deportation
- Physical or mental disability
- Fear of harm to pets
- Not identifying the abuse.
- No place to go
- Lack of resources
- Hope the batterer will change his behavior
- Lack of community or criminal justice demand for batterer accountability
- Sense of hopelessness
- Lack of job skills
- Lack of resources for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities
- Limited access to housing
- Limited English proficiency
- Fear of arrest

THE INITIAL ASSESSMENT

Tips for Initial Assessment workers for Interviewing Children or Alleged Child Victims

Questions to ask children or alleged child victims:

- Who lives in your home? Who else visits the home?
- Do you have any pets?
- Who are your favorite teachers, friends, or people?
- What do you like to do with your mom?
- What are things that bother you about your mom?
- What do you like to do with your dad?
- What are things that bother you about your dad?
- What do you like to do with your brothers or sisters?
- What are things that bother you about your brothers or sisters?
- When your mom and dad argue, what happens?
- What happens when your dad gets really mad? Has anyone ever been hurt when your dad gets mad? Is that different or the same when your mom gets mad? Has anyone ever been hurt when your mom gets mad?
- People can be hurt in a lot of different ways - by words, by touching (like hitting), or by other touching that bothers them or makes them feel uncomfortable. Have you ever seen or heard anything like this happening in your family?
- Can you give an example of a time when you got in trouble at home? How does that make you feel?
- What makes you feel scared at home? What do you do when you're scared? What makes you feel better?
- Have you ever told anyone when you have been scared? Who did you tell? What happened after you told? Has anyone ever talked to you about what to do when you're scared?
- Do you have a hard time sleeping? Do you have any bad dreams?
- Do you think about this [child's words for the violence] a lot? When do you think about these things? When you're at school? With friends?
- If you had something important to tell your mother, when would you tell her?

THE INITIAL ASSESSMENT

Preparing for the Interview with the Batterer

Safety	Appropriate Approach	Prudence	Respect	Rapport
<p>Consider your safety, the safety of the survivor and the child victim.</p> <p>Consider where the visit should occur (office vs. home and who should be present (additional OCS staff or law enforcement, etc.))</p>	<p>When possible make every attempt to speak to collateral sources prior to interviewing the batterer.</p> <p>Note: This guidance goes outside IA protocol. Consult with supervisor in these instances.</p> <p>Collaterals are those who may have had contact with the batterer in the past such as partners, service providers, or law enforcement.</p> <p>Become familiar with the batterer's tactics and behaviors, and then plan your approach to working with him.</p>	<p>Avoid getting into a power struggle with the batterer.</p> <p>Stay focused on the issues.</p>	<p>Let the batterer tell his situation.</p> <p>Be mindful of race ethnicity and class & gender issues.</p> <p>Do not allow the batterer to use his culture as a justification for violent behavior.</p> <p>Remember, this isn't about bad people, it's about harmful behavior.</p>	<p>Establish a working relationship with the batterer.</p> <p>Take time to build rapport as it helps to engage the batterer and create a more positive outcome for the family, initial assessment and possible future initial assessments.</p>

Attention to Fatherhood	Set Limits	Documentation	Accountability	Structure the Interview
<p>Many batterers want to be good fathers and believe they are good fathers.</p> <p>Have the batterer talk about how he feels his behaviors have affected his child.</p>	<p>If the batterer is using tactics of intimidation and threats towards you, call his attention to it and request that he change his behavior.</p> <p>Inform the batterer that if the interview needs to be ended due to his behavior, it will be documented.</p>	<p>Approach the batterer with documentation of his behaviors and actions such as police reports, prior investigations, hospital records, EES records.</p> <p>Tell the batterer the source of the information you received (<i>i.e.</i>, “<i>The police report says . . .</i>”)</p> <p>Make a concerted effort to get corroborating evidence.</p> <p>Do not confront the batterer with survivor and/or child victim statements.</p>	<p>Hold the batterer responsible for changing his behaviors.</p> <p>Challenge the batterer’s minimization, denial and blame.</p> <p>Ask the batterer to talk about what he did in the situation.</p> <p>If the batterer blames others for what happened, continue to focus on how he contributed to the situation.</p>	<p>Prior to the interview, have a sense of the goals and know what line of questioning will be most useful.</p> <p>Take steps to ensure interview is conducted in a safe space.</p>

Adapted from: Accountability and connection with abusive men: A new child protection response to increasing family safety, (Mederos and Family Violence Prevention Fund, 2004).

THE INITIAL ASSESSMENT *Interviewing the Batterer*

Questions to ask the batterer:

- Describe your relationship with your partner.
- What goes well in the relationship? What do you disagree about?
- Do you and your partner have conflicts? About what?
- What happens when you have conflicts or strong disagreements?
- What do you do when you feel angry, jealous, or possessive of your partner?
- Does your partner seem afraid of you? In what ways?
- Has your partner ever been hurt during an argument?
- Where is the child(ren) when the argument happens? Has the child(ren) ever been hurt?
- What do you think is the most important aspect of being a father? What does it take to be a good father?
- How do you think the child(ren) is affected by what you did?
- If you need to leave the home, do you have a place to stay? Can the worker help him find a place to stay?
- How do you earn the child(ren)'s respect?
- What did the child(ren) do when you did...[behaviors]?
- What have you done to stop your violence? Have you asked anyone for help? What happened?

Children-focused questions:

- Has the child(ren) ever been hurt, accidentally or on purpose?
- Where is the child(ren) when the fighting happens? How does the child(ren) respond to the violence?
- How safe is the child(ren)?
- How safe does the child(ren) think you are?
- How does the child(ren) interact with peers? Who are the child(ren)'s favorite teachers, friends, or people?
- Is the child(ren) involved in any activities outside of the home?
- How does the child(ren) treat you?
- How is the child(ren) disciplined?

THE ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Incorporate in the six questions (hints for where you might include such information is provided below)

- Specific descriptions of the batterer's pattern of control (Q1 & Q2).
- Past violent behavior, threats, intimidating actions and other forms of control (Q2 & Q4).
- How the fear and uncertainty generated by the batterer's prior behavior continues to impact current parenting, decision making, risk assessment and safety of the survivor and the child(ren) (Q5 & Q6).
- Details about the severity of the violence, extent of the injuries, duration of the incidents, unpredictability of violent behavior and the physical proximity to the child(ren) (Q1).
- If the child(ren) is being used as a way of gaining access to, or control over, the survivor (Q3 & Q4).
- An assessment of how these actions are impacting the child(ren)'s ability to function in a developmentally appropriate manner. Consider the child's social, emotional, behavioral and educational functioning (Q3).
- Precise language affirming the batterer's role in harming the child(ren) (Q1 & Q2).
- Description of battering behaviors that interfere with the parenting efforts of the survivor (Q5).

THE ASSESSMENT SUMMARY Document Safety and Past Protective Measures taken by the Survivor

(this should be included under Q4 for the survivor)

Document how the survivor has provided for the safety and well-being of the children :

- How has the survivor's behavior helped the child(ren) or lessened the impact of the batterer's behavior?
- Explore and acknowledge the survivor's strengths and ways in which she's protected the child(ren).
- How has the survivor managed to keep herself and the child(ren) safe thus far?
- In what ways has the survivor provided for safety that does not immediately appear to be safety strategies or protective actions?
- What are the survivor's resources?

Examples of safety strategies and protective actions (this is not intended to be used as a checklist):

- Working with a domestic violence or sexual assault advocate or program.
- Accessing a domestic violence shelter or homeless shelter.
- Obtaining protection from abuse orders restraining orders, or no contact orders.
- Calling 911 or teaching the child(ren) to call 911.
- Working to protect the child(ren) from the violence by sending them to stay with relatives or friends. 34
- Notifying school officials of batterer's potential for violence, the safety plan, emergency contact information, restraining order, heightened awareness to and possible changes in child(ren)'s behavior.
- Talking to the child(ren) about how to respond to the violence.
- Providing the child(ren) with age appropriate tools to understand and cope with the violence.
- Identifying a person to assist with visitation to reduce potential for violence during transfer of the child(ren).
- Taking the child(ren) to counselor or consulting with the child(ren)'s counselor.
- Moving out of home with the child(ren). Seeking legal assistance or gaining custody of the child(ren).

- Normalizing as much as possible by providing safe structure. Maintaining a routine.
- Meeting basic needs.
- Engaging the child(ren) with outside activities and relationships.
- Attending school functions such as parent-teacher conferences.
- Following family traditions.
- Minimizing, denying, or refusing to talk about the abuse for fear of making it worse.
- Leaving, going back, or staying in the relationship so the violence does not escalate.
- Refusing or not following through with services to avoid angering the batterer.
- Trying to improve the relationship or finding help for the batterer.

THE ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Document Batterer Responsibility

- Document the batterer's responsibility for the abuse:
- Connect the adverse impact on the child(ren) directly to the batterer's behavior (Q3).
- Document how the batterer has interfered with the "normal development" of the child(ren) (Q3).
- Document how the batterer has interfered with the survivor's parenting (i.e., undermining of the survivor's actions or attempts to provide safety for the child(ren), undermining the survivor's attempts to engage the child(ren) in age appropriate activities) (Q5).
- Assess what information about the batterer's behavior needs to be given to the child(ren)'s therapist, if applicable.

PROTECTIVE ACTION/SAFETY PLANS - CASE PLANS

Services for Batterer

Important things to consider when developing plans with batterers:

If you determine that a child is in present or impending danger because of domestic violence your Protective Action or Safety Plan should attempt to keep the child and the non domestic violence offender together; and or the removal of the alleged domestic violence offender from the residence. The plan must include means to enforce and monitor tasks. You may not rely on the batterer to simply "promise" to adhere safety tasks and services: **Whenever possible, batterers should always have separate and individualized safety plans/case plans from the survivor.** The worker should consult with their supervisor and/or AAG to pursue an appropriate legal action if an appropriate safety or case plan cannot be implemented,.

Work in conjunction with the court, court services, or other community agencies, if involved (i.e., probation can include the same tasks as the child welfare safety plan/service plan/case plan, creating more oversight and accountability and less opportunity for manipulation of agencies and professionals).

Examples of recommendations specific to the batterer:

- The batterer will not use further violence towards any member of the household, including pets, as evidenced by?
- The batterer will not use further intimidating behavior towards any member of the household, including, but not limited to, verbal threats, destruction of property, slamming cupboards or doors, throwing objects and punching walls.
- The batterer will have all weapons removed from the premises, including, but not limited to, guns, bow and arrows, shotguns, knives and hunting rifles.
- The batterer will not use physical discipline with the child(ren).
- The batterer will not deny partner access to phone, vehicle, or other forms of communication or transportation.
- If separated, the batterer will make no unwanted or unexpected visits to survivor's home or place of employment.
- The batterer will respect all existing court orders, including protective orders, restraining orders, custody and visitation orders, and child support orders.

- The batterer will not interfere with the other parent's efforts to seek services for herself and the child(ren).
- In lieu of the formal child support order, the batterer will maintain financial support for the child(ren), regardless of whether he resides with them.
- The batterer will support all reasonable efforts to provide the child(ren) with appropriate services, including child care and health care.
- The batterer will disclose to partner all information relevant to child abuse and domestic violence, including prior arrests and prior CPS cases with other child(ren).
- The batterer will share with partner all relevant information about income and family financial circumstances.
- The batterer will disclose to partner all information relevant to partner's immigration status, immigration concerns and immigration proceedings. The batterer will provide partner with her immigration documentation. The batterer will disclose to partner his immigration status.
- The batterer will seek a batterers' intervention program evaluation and comply with the recommendations of that program to address issues of control and abuse.

PROTECTIVE ACTION/SAFETY PLANS -- CASE PLANS *Services for Batterer*

Examples specific to the batterer, cont.:

- Therapeutic treatment for the batterer, including batterers' intervention programs, will have as its goals: the cessation of violent, abusive and controlling behaviors toward the adult partner, the cessation of violent and abusive behaviors toward any child(ren) in the home; education about the effects of violence, abuse and controlling behaviors on family members; collateral contact with the adult survivor and the referring agency for exchange of information about the purpose and limitations of the counseling, the batterer's pattern of abuse and violence, and other relevant information about the batterer.
- The batterer will stay involved with any mental health counseling and follow treatment recommendations, including taking prescribed medications.
- When necessary, the batterer will seek and follow recommendations of a substance abuse evaluation.
- The batterer will be able to acknowledge a majority of past abusive and violent behavior toward the survivor and the child(ren), including, but not limited to, detailing the abusive nature of physical and nonphysical actions; displaying an understanding of the impact of these behaviors on his partner, the child(ren) and himself; the demonstration of empathy and remorse; displaying an ability to discuss his own abusive actions without blaming others or outside circumstances for his behavior; being able to demonstrate non-abusive, non-violent behavior when in prior similar circumstances he would have become violent or abusive. Please note: Anger Management programs and Marriage or Couples counseling are not equivalent nor an appropriate treatment for the batterer.

PROTECTIVE ACTION/SAFETY PLANS -- *CASE PLANS Services for Survivor*

Seek to understand the survivor's experience of domestic violence and what the survivor believes are challenges and barriers. By exploring barriers with the survivor, the worker can help to safety plan, refer to appropriate services and assist in minimizing some of the identified barriers to safety.

Keep in mind that the survivor is the expert on her life and may feel that it is safest to stay in the relationship. If she chooses to stay, CPS should analyze all the information and identified threats to determine how child safety can be assured.

The survivor's safety risk will likely be impacted when she is seeking independence from the batterer. This may happen when she is preparing to leave, when she is leaving, or for many months or years after leaving.

Referrals for survivors as appropriate to the individual's needs:

To locate the nearest local domestic violence or sexual assault program or hotline go to: <http://www.andvsa.org/shelters-and-services/>

- Mental health services for trauma-focused therapy
- Mental health services or family therapy for the survivor and the child(ren)
- Drug and alcohol recovery services
- Credit counseling
- Legal services
- Supervised visitation and exchange services
- Housing resources
- Family Preservation Services
- Economic and Employment Services
- Child care assistance
- Law enforcement, if in immediate danger

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For a complete list of in-text citations, contact KCSDV, www.kcsdv.org

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