Agenda

- Social Definition of DV
- Statistics
- Power & Control Wheel
- Myths & Realities

- Legal Definition of DV
- Domestic Violence & Children
Statistics

- One out of four women report they’ve been physically abused in their lives

- Women of all races and economic levels are equally likely to be abused

- Women of all faiths can be victims of domestic violence
Statistics

- 8% of high school age girls said yes when asked if a boyfriend or date had forced them to have sex.
- 40% of girls age 14 to 17 reported knowing someone their age who had been hit or beaten by a boyfriend.
Statistics

- 78% of all stalking victims are women
- 80% of women who are stalked by former husbands are also physically assaulted by that partner
Social Definition of Domestic Violence:

Domestic violence is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors, including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion, that adults or adolescents use against their intimate partners.
Definition

Although many acts of psychological & emotional abuse may not be ‘crimes’, these are tactics batterers use to establish control. That control is often reinforced with physical and sexual violence when non-physical tactics become ineffective.
Power & Control Wheel

VIOLENCE

USING COERCION & THREATS
- Making and/or carrying out threats to do something to hurt her
  - threatening to leave her, to commit suicide, to report her to welfare
  - making her drop charges
  - making her do illegal things.

USING ECONOMIC ABUSE
- Preventing her from getting or keeping a job
  - making her ask for money
  - giving her an allowance
  - taking her money
  - not letting her know about or have access to family income

USING INTIMIDATION
- Making her afraid by using looks, actions, gestures
  - smashing things
  - destroying her property
  - abusing pets
  - displaying weapons.

USING EMOTIONAL ABUSE
- Putting her down
  - making her feel bad about herself
  - calling her names
  - making her think she's crazy
  - playing mind games
  - humiliating her
  - making her feel guilty.

USING MALE PRIVILEGE
- Treating her like a servant
  - making all the big decisions
  - acting like the "master of the castle"
  - being the one to define men's and women's roles

USING ISOLATION
- Controlling what she does, who she sees and talks to, what she reads
  - limiting her outside involvement
  - using jealousy to justify actions.

USING CHILDREN
- Making her feel guilty about the children
  - using the children to relay messages
  - using visitation to harass her
  - threatening to take the children away.

MINIMIZING, DENYING, & BLAMING
- Making light of the abuse and not taking her concerns about it seriously
  - saying the abuse didn't happen
  - shifting responsibility for abusive behavior
  - saying she caused it.

Source: Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, 206 West Fourth Street, Duluth, Minnesota, 55806, Telephone: 218.722.2781
Physical Abuse

Use of physical force that may result in physical pain or bodily injury, including:

- Beating, shoving, biting, burning, pushing, hitting, slapping
- Throwing or hitting with objects
- Using a gun or knife
- Choking or strangling
Sexual Abuse

Any sexual contact or exposure without consent or committed by threat or force, including:

- Rape or other sexual assault
- Constant sexual demands
- Forcing unwanted sexual or sadistic acts or partners
Isolation

❖ Controls what she does, who she sees, and where she goes

❖ Limits or forbids time with friends and family

❖ Uses jealousy or ‘love’ to justify his actions
Emotional Abuse

- Infliction of mental anguish, pain, or distress
- Verbal or non-verbal behaviors:
  - Any statements which puts her down or makes her think less of herself
  - Calls her names or makes her feel guilty
  - Threatens to commit suicide
  - Apologizes and makes false promises
Intimidation

- Makes her afraid with looks or gestures
- Abuses or kills pets
- Destroys property
- Displays or threatens with weapons
Coercion & Threats

- Makes and/or carries out threats to harm her
- Threatens to leave, divorce, commit suicide
- Force her to drop criminal charges or protection orders
- Makes her do illegal acts or drugs
Economic Abuse

- Stops her from getting or keeping a job
- Controls all of the money
- Doesn’t let her know anything about the household finances
- Runs up debts
- Fails to pay child support
Uses Male Privilege

- Treats her like a servant
- Master of the Castle
- Makes all of the decisions
- Degrades all women in general
Uses Children

- Threatens to takes children away or get custody
- Threatens to report her to Children Services
- Uses visitation to harass her or to relay messages
- Teaches children to treat her badly
Minimizing, Denying, & Blaming

- Says the abuse doesn’t happen or makes light of it
- Shifts responsibility for abuse
- Says it is her fault or she caused it
Dispelling Myths
Domestic Violence

- Is Not:
  - Mutual Combat
  - Caused by stress, drugs, alcohol
  - Caused by the actions of others
  - Out-of-control anger
  - A family problem
Myth 1: Battering is rare.

Reality: Battering is very common. Results from the National Violence Against Women Survey indicate that approximately 4.9 million intimate partner rapes and physical assaults are perpetrated against U.S. women annually.
Myths & Realities

**Myth 2:** Battering occurs when a man is stressed out.

**Reality:** Many people are stressed out and do not become violent with another person. There are many positive ways to handle stress, and a high stress level is not a legitimate excuse for violence.
Myths & Realities

Myth 3: Men who batter cannot control their tempers and need anger management.

Reality: Batterers only use violence against intimate partners and family. They don’t hit the first person they see or their boss. They choose who to abuse, when to abuse, and how to abuse them.
Myths & Realities

**Myth 4:** Alcohol and drugs cause domestic violence.

**Reality:** Alcohol and drug use may be related to domestic violence, but do not cause it. Batterers use alcohol or drugs as an excuse or justification. Many batterers abuse while sober and many alcoholics and drug addicts do not become violent when using.
Myths & Realities

**Myth 5:** Domestic violence only occurs in “dysfunctional families” that are poor, minority, or have no education.

**Reality:** Domestic violence occurs in all racial, ethnic, religious, educational and socio-economic classes. A batterer may be a doctor, a lawyer, or teacher, and families who experience domestic violence come from all walks of life.
Myth 6: Some women deserve to be abused and provoke their partners to hit them!

Reality: No one deserves to be abused. We are all responsible for our own actions and need to be held accountable for choosing to become violent towards another person. No one can provoke us to become violent. Battering is a choice.
Myth 7: Battered women who stay in abusive relationships must like getting hit.

Reality: Battered women do not enjoy the abuse they experience in relationships. Often women do not want the relationship to end, only the violence. There are many reasons that women remain in abusive relationships, inc. fear, hope, love, finances, and inadequate responses from cultural institutions.
Myth 8: Domestic violence is a family problem, so all family members must change to stop the violence.

Reality: The batterer is the only person responsible for stopping the violence. The battered woman and her children have probably tried to stop his violence without success. Batterers are the only family member with the power to end the violence.
Myths & Realities

Myth 9: Batterers are crazy.

Reality: The majority of batterers do not have a mental illness. They often appear charming and persuasive, and may be very intelligent. The only notable characteristics of all batterers are that they choose to be violent toward their partners.
Myths & Realities

Myth 10: “I’d never put up with that kind of treatment. I’d leave the first time my spouse hit me.”

Reality: No one really knows how she may react when a loved one hurts her. Abuse often does not start in a relationship until love and trust have developed. Many abusive partners have “Dr. Jekyll / Mr. Hyde” personalities and victims hope that the abuser will once again become the person they fell in love with.
Myths & Realities

Myth 11: Women are as violent as men in intimate relationships.

Reality: The truth is that intimate partner violence is primarily a crime against women.

In 1998, females were 75% of the victims of intimate murders and about 85% of the victims of non-lethal intimate violence.

Of all murder victims, 32% of females killed were killed by an intimate partner while 4% of males killed were killed by an intimate partner.
Why Does She Stay

“Even though that’s the wrong question!”
Think of a situation you were in that you did NOT like:

- Job
- Marriage
- School/Class
- Apartment
- ?????
Did you leave the situation immediately?

If not, why NOT?

- Love
- Need the money
- Shame
- Can’t move right away
- Fear
- Religion
- Need the class credits
- Have to find a new place to live
- ??????
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JOB</th>
<th>APARTMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Save money</td>
<td>Save money - deposits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read the want ads</td>
<td>Read ads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write your resume</td>
<td>Pack belongings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ask friends about jobs</td>
<td>Arrange for movers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IMAGINE !!!

Doing all of this with:

- No money
- No self-esteem
- No support systems
- Fear, Shame, Guilt
- Children
Legal Definition of the Criminal Act of Domestic Violence

Ohio Revised Code Section 2919.25

(1) Knowingly causing or attempting to cause physical harm

(2) Recklessly causing serious physical harm

(3) By threat of force knowingly causing another to believe the offender will cause imminent physical harm
Family or Household Member

- The natural or putative parent of a child in common
- Any of the following who reside or have resided together:
  - Spouse, former spouse, or “person living as a spouse”
  - Parent or child or another person related by blood or marriage to the offender
“Person living as a spouse” means:

A person who is living with or has lived with the offender in a common law marriage (but pre-1991!)

or

A person who otherwise is cohabitating with the offender or has otherwise cohabitated with the offender within the five years previous to the incident in question.
# Penalties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offense</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Jail/Prison</th>
<th>Fine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2919.25(1) or (2) first offense</td>
<td>M 1</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2919.25 (3) Third or more</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2919.25 (3) First offense</td>
<td>M 4</td>
<td>30 days</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2919.25(3) Second offense</td>
<td>M 2</td>
<td>90 days</td>
<td>$750.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2919.25 (1) or (2) Second offense</td>
<td>F 4</td>
<td>18 months</td>
<td>$5000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2919.25 (1) or (2) Third or more</td>
<td>F 3</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“The World Would Be a Different Place if Children Paid Attorneys.”

--Nancy Grigsby, Executive Director, Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence
CHILDREN & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Children Witness Domestic Violence

- Interviews with children of battered women reveal that they can give detailed accounts of violent behavior between their mothers and father that they have witnessed, even though many mothers stated that the children had never witnessed or heard any violence.
Children & Domestic Violence

- Children living in violent homes often act out aggressively, frequently directing the aggressions toward their mother.

- Studies have identified that an association exists between the childhood witnessing of domestic violence and the transference of the battering behavior into adulthood.
A study found that among abusive male partners of domestic violence shelter residents:

- 25% of them kidnapped their children
- 35% threatened to take the children in a custody action
- 25% used visitation as an occasion to verbally abuse
- 10% used visitation to physically abuse the children’s mothers.
Children Are Direct Victims of Domestic Violence:

- Research indicates that in 30-60% of families experiencing domestic violence, child maltreatment is also present.

- In their attempt to protect their mothers from abusive male partners, 62% of sons over age 14 were injured.

- The youngest children tend to sustain the most serious injuries, such as concussions and broken bones, while fathers try to attack mothers.
Mothers’ Concerns for their Children

• In her study of 20 battered women, Hilton (1992) found many of the women deeply concerned for their children. In fact, a majority of those interviewed left for the children’s sake.

• It was concern for their children that led almost 1/3 of the women in Hilton’s study to remain with their abusive partners. Women stayed, despite the violence, in order to ensure necessary financial support for their children and avoid lengthy custody battles.
Abuse of Children Wheel

ABUSE OF CHILDREN

VIOLENCE

INTIMIDATION
- Instilling fear through looks, actions, gestures, property destruction
- Using adult size
- Yelling
- Being violent to other parent, pets, etc.

USING INSTITUTIONS
- Threatening punishment with/by God, courts, police, school, juvenile detention, foster homes, relatives, psych wards

USING ADULT PRIVILEGE
- Treating children as servants
- Punishing, bossing, always winning
- Denying input in visitation and custody decisions
- Interrupting

ISOLATION
- Controlling access to peers, adults, siblings, other parent, grandparents.

THREATS
- Threatening abandonment, suicide, physical harm, confinement, or harm to other loved ones

EMOTIONAL ABUSE
- Put downs, name calling
- Using children as confidants
- Using children to get or give information to other parent
- Being inconsistent
- Shaming children

ECONOMIC ABUSE
- Withholding basic needs, using money to control behavior
- Squandering family money
- Withholding child support
- Using children as an economic bargaining chip in divorce

Source: Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, 206 West Fourth Street, Duluth, Minnesota, 55806, Telephone: 218.722.2781
Abuse of Children Wheel

- Intimidation
- Using Institutions
- Isolation
- Emotional Abuse
- Economic Abuse
- Threats
- Adult Privilege
Intimidation

- Instilling fear through looks, gestures, property destruction
- Using adult size yelling
- Being violent toward others, pets, objects
Threatening punishment by g-d schools, police, Children’s Services, foster homes, relatives, psychiatric or mental health agencies.
• Controlling access to friends, family, siblings, school officials, and other support systems
Emotional Abuse

- Using putdowns or name calling
- Using children as confidante
- Using children to get or exchange information between parents or others
- Being inconsistent
- Shaming children
Economic Abuse

- Withholding basic needs, using money to control behaviors
- Squandering money
- Withholding child support
- Using children as bargaining chip in divorce or custody fight
Threats

- Threatening any number of behaviors including
  - Suicide
  - Homicide
  - Confinement
  - Reporting to police or Children’s Services
  - Harm to pets or others
Adult Privilege

- Treating children as servants
- Denying input into custody or visitation
- Interrupting
- Punishing
Children Affected by Domestic Violence

- Physical manifestations
- Emotional reactions
- Work habits
- Nervous manifestation
- Misbehavior and aggression
- Attention seeking
- Self-destructive tendencies:
Are Children Showing…?

- Fear
- Phobias
- Anxiety
- Stress
Guideline to determine if Exposure create harm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No physical injury or fear of bodily injury</th>
<th>No physical injury, but child is fearful</th>
<th>Child injured while protecting adult victim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child is not using violence</td>
<td>Child is hyper-vigilant or acting out</td>
<td>Child is using violent behavior at home or school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanking is primary form of discipline; authoritarian parenting</td>
<td>Adult victim is fearful and follows batterer’s rules</td>
<td>Child is fearful of bodily injury from batterer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yelling, calling child, adult victim names</td>
<td>Adult victim is “accommodating” batterer</td>
<td>Adult victim is afraid of bodily injury or death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batterer is out of home and does not contact child or adult</td>
<td>Adult victim takes child to relative during “Explosive incident”</td>
<td><strong>NOTE: Not to be strictly across but rather down.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Things a GAL Must Remember Where DV Exists

- The mother is not responsible for her abuser’s behavior.
- She cannot control what he does; do not penalize her for his actions.
- Leaving can be both difficult; Are the social systems she will need actually available and accessible.
Things a GAL Must Remember Where DV Exists

- False allegations of domestic violence arising during a custody dispute are extremely rare.
- Mothers may have not previously reported domestic violence instances for a variety of reasons.
Things a GAL Must Remember Where DV Exists

- Abusers are very good manipulators; Be on guard.
- Mutual instances of domestic violence are very rare. Such allegations are often a batterer’s attempt to manipulate the GAL.
Things a GAL Must Remember Where DV Exists

- Children may still want to see their father
- Visitation should be set up so both mother and children will be safe.
- Abusers may use visitation to get information about their mother or send messages to her. Children should NEVER be used to exchange information between adults.
What Every Individual Who Touches Children’s Lives Should Know About Domestic Violence

- If mother is abused, kids are probably abused
- Kids are witnessing the abuse
- Kids are damaged by witnessing the abuse
- Kids get injured protecting their mothers
- Boys who are abused or witness abuse grow up to be abusers
- Boys who are abused or witness abuse go to jail

Courtesy of Michael J. Brigner, Esq.
What Every Individual Who Touches Abuser’s Lives Should Know About DV & Children

- Abusers grew up being abused or witnessing abuse
- Abusers harm and manipulate children in order to control their mothers
- Abusers’ risk to children is greater after separation

- Abusive fathers are more likely to seek custody than non-violent fathers
- Abusive fathers often win, by controlling the mother and controlling the court system

Courtesy of Michael J. Brigner, Esq.
“Somebody who is abusive to their spouse can't be a good parent. ...
“I think judges used to feel that somebody could be a violent husband but still be a kind and loving father. And those things just don't go together. . .

Courtesy of Michael J. Brigner, Esq.
“Once you're a violent husband in fact, you're offering a terrible role model for children. You're exposing children to fear and terror. You're traumatizing children in a variety of ways. You're undermining often their primary caretaker.”

Dr. Peter Jaffe, PhD, C Psych, Toronto
Michael Borack, PhysD
Child Custody Expert Witness
Cincinnati:

“The most important thing to remember about many abusive fathers seeking child custody is that this is a NO-LOSE GAME for him. . .

. . .because he doesn’t really want the kids anyway!”

Courtesy of Michael J. Brigner, Esq.
“I got custody of the kids. Do you want one?”
OHIO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NETWORK

www.odvn.org

- Training Institute
- Pocket Safety Plans Clearinghouse
- Various Brochures including
  - Criminal Law & Domestic Violence
  - What You Should Know About Stalking
  - A Guide for Family & Friends
  - What You Should Know about Public Assistance
Leslie N. Malkin, Esq.

614-781-9651, ext 226

lesliem@odvn.org