

Knowing Your Responsibilities:



Addressing Domestic Violence

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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.

Domestic violence is not an isolated, individual event, but rather a pattern of multiple tactics and repeated events. Unlike stranger-to-stranger violence, in domestic violence the assaults are repeated against the same victim by the same perpetrator. These assaults occur in different forms: physical, sexual, psychological. The pattern may include economic control as well. While physical assault may occur infrequently, other parts of the pattern may occur daily. One battering episode builds on past episodes and sets the stage for future episodes. All tactics of the pattern interact with each other and have profound effects on the victims.

Domestic violence includes a wide range of coercive behaviors with a wide range of consequences, some physically injurious and some not; however, all are psychologically damaging. Some parts of the pattern are clearly chargeable as crimes in most states (e.g., physical assault, sexual assault, menacing, arson, kidnapping, harassment), while other battering episodes are not illegal (e.g., name calling, interrogating children, denying access to the family automobile, control of financial resources). While the intervening professional sometimes must attempt to make sense of one specific incident that resulted in an injury, the victim is dealing with that one episode in the context of a pattern of both obvious and subtle episodes of coercion.

From "Understanding Domestic Violence: Preparatory Reading for Trainers" by Anne L. Ganley, Ph.D. in Domestic Violence - Child Protection Curriculum by Susan Schechter, MSW. 1995.

Domestic Violence Statistics

For years, the battered women's movement has been challenged by conservative women's organizations and others about the reliability of domestic violence statistics. Domestic violence is virtually impossible to measure with absolute precision due to the numerous complications, including the societal stigma that inhibits victims from disclosing their abuse and the varying definitions of abuse used from study to study. Due to these and other complications, estimates of the number of domestic violence incidents differ greatly. Advocates should be extremely careful when using statistics, making sure they are from a reliable source, they are not taken out of context, and they are correctly cited. False or insupportable statistics can creep into the public dialogue and get used over and over again, by everyone from reporters to policymakers and advocates. Once an incorrect statistic is used, it can take on a life of its own. Since journalists frequently search old articles for data, an insupportable statistic may be used repeatedly.

Prevalence of Domestic Violence

- Estimates range from 960,000 incidents of violence against a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend per year (*"Violence by Intimates: Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and Girlfriends," U.S. Department of Justice, March 1998*) to three million women who are physically abused by their husbands or live-in partners per year (*"Health Concerns Across a Woman's Lifespan: 1998 Survey of Women's Health," The Commonwealth Fund, May 1999*).
- Nearly one-third of American women (31%) report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives. (*"Health Concerns Across a Woman's Lifespan: 1998 Survey of Women's Health," The Commonwealth Fund, May 1999*). Thirty percent of Americans say they know a woman who has been physically abused by her husband or boyfriend in the past year. (*"Domestic Violence Advertising Campaign Tracking Survey" (Wave IV), Lieberman Research Inc., Conducted for the Advertising Council and the Family Violence Prevention Fund, July, October 1996*)
- While women are less likely than men to be victims of violent crimes overall, women are five to eight times more likely than men to be victimized by an intimate partner (*"Violence by Intimates: Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and Girlfriends," U.S. Department of Justice March 1998*).

- Women between the ages of 16 and 24 are nearly three times more vulnerable to intimate partner violence (excluding intimate partner homicide) than women in other age groups. In 1999, the overall rate of intimate partner violence against women was 5.8 victimizations per 1,000 women, but the rate was 15.6 per 1,000 women for those aged 16 to 24 (*Intimate Partner Violence 1993-99. U.S. Dept. of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics*).
- Intimate partner violence is primarily a crime against women. In 2001, women accounted for 85 percent of the victims of intimate partner violence (588,490) and men accounted for approximately 15 percent of the victims (103,220) (*Bureau of Justice Statistics Crime Data Brief, Intimate Partner Violence, 1993-2001, Feb. 2003*).
- Women of all races are about equally vulnerable to violence by an intimate (*Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey," August 1995*).

Consequences of Domestic Violence

- Women experience two million injuries from intimate partner violence each year. (*Adverse Health Conditions and Health Risk Behaviors Associated with Intimate Partner Violence. CDC, 2008*).
- Women are seven to 14 times more likely than men to report suffering severe physical assaults from an intimate partner. (*National Institute of Justice and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey, November 1998*).
- In 2005, approximately 1,181 women were murdered by their intimate partners. The same year 329 men were killed by an intimate partner. (*"Homicide Trends in the United States: Intimate Homicide." Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2007*.)
- On average, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in this country every day. (*"Intimate Partner Violence in the United States." U.S. DOJ, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2006*.)
- Lethality: 70% of all partner homicides are women killed by male partners (*Saunders, Are Physical Assaults by Wives and Girlfriends a Major Social Problem?, 2002*)
- Among all female murder victims in 2005, 33% were known to have been slain by husbands or boyfriends. Only 2% of the male victims were known to have been slain by wives or girlfriends (*"Crime in the United States, 2005: Expanded Homicide Data., FBI, 2005*).

- Thirty-seven percent of women who sought treatment in emergency rooms for violence-related injuries in 1994 were injured by a current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend (*U.S. Department of Justice, "Violence Related Injuries Treated in Hospital Emergency Departments," August 1997*).
- Three in four women (76 percent) who reported they had been raped and/or physically assaulted since age 18 said that a current or former husband, cohabitating partner, or date committed the assault (*U.S. Dept. of Justice, Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey, Nov. 1998*).
- Domestic violence, whether sexual, physical or psychological, can leave to various psychological consequences for victims, including depression, antisocial behavior, suicidal behavior for females, anxiety, low self-esteem, inability to trust men, fear of intimacy, and/or symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. (*Intimate Partner Violence Prevention: Scientific Information and Consequences, CDC, 2007*).
- In 2005, about 15 percent of state and local firearms application rejections, (10,000 applications) were due to domestic violence misdemeanor conviction restraining order. (*"Background Checks for Firearms Transfers, 2005." Bowling, et al, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2006*).

Domestic Violence and Youth

- Almost 70% of young women who have been raped knew their rapist either as a boyfriend, friend, or casual acquaintance. (*"Intimate Partner Violence 1993-2001," Rennison and Welchans, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2003*).
- According to a Liz Claiborne study on teen dating abuse in 2005, 80% of girls who reported having been physically abused in their relationship continue to date the abuser. (*Liz Claiborne, Inc. study on teen dating abuse conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, February 2005.*)
- Approximately one in five high school girls reported being abused by a boyfriend. (*"Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Use, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk Behavior, Pregnancy, and Suicidality," Silverman, et al., 2001*)
- 1 in 3 teenagers report knowing a friend or peer who has been hit, punched, kicked, slapped, choked or physically hurt by their partner. (*Liz Claiborne, Inc. study on teen dating abuse conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, February 2005.*)

Domestic Violence and Children

- 15.5 million U.S. children live in families in which partner violence occurred at least once in the past year, and seven million children live in families in which severe partner violence occurred. (*Estimating the Number of American Children Living in Partner-Violence Families.* McDonald et al., *Journal of Family Psychology*, 20(1): 137-142, 2006).
- Each year about 324,000 pregnant women in the U.S. are battered by the men in their lives (*Violence and Reproductive Health: Current Knowledge and Future Research Directions.* Gazmararian JA, Peterson R, Spitz AM, Goodwin MM, Saltzman LE, Marks JS. *Maternal and Child Health Journal*. 4(2): 79-84., 2000)

Stalking

- Seventy-eight percent of stalking victims are women. Women are significantly more likely than men (60% and 30%, respectively) to be stalked by intimate partners (Center for Policy Research, "Stalking in America," July 1997).
- Eighty percent of women who are stalked by former husbands are physically assaulted by that partner and 30% are sexually assaulted by that partner (Center for Policy Research, "Stalking in America," July 1997).

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Questioning (LGBTQ)

Although the majority of large-scale studies on domestic violence have not included gays and lesbians, the studies that do exist show:

- Equal prevalence in LGBTQ relationships: Large-scale studies that have measured interpersonal violence (IPV) in LGBTQ relationships have reported rates that range from 17% to 52%.
- Like heterosexual domestic violence, violence in LGBTQ relationships involves the conscious manipulation and control of one person by another through the use of threats, coercion, humiliation, and/or force.
- There are many tactics that abusers use that are unique to LGBTQ domestic violence.

Ristock and Timbang, *LGBTQ Communities: Moving Beyond a Gender-Based Framework*, 2005.

For more statistics on domestic violence, please go to www.endabuse.org. Click on “resources” at the top of the page, and click on “Get the facts” on that pull down menu. www.endabuse.org is the website of the Family Violence Prevention Fund, and they publish several fact sheets on domestic violence, including fact sheets on children and domestic violence, guns and domestic violence, health care and domestic violence, and teenagers and domestic violence, to name a few.

Domestic Violence Calls and Arrest Statistics for Ohio – 2011

Total calls:	74,842
Arrests under ORC §2919.25:	38,328
<u>Arrests under other sections:</u>	<u>5,974</u>
Total Arrests:	44,302

Calls resulting in no charges 30,540

Domestic Violence Fatalities:

Domestic Violence Victim Fatalities	37
<u>Domestic Violence Offender Fatalities</u>	<u>18</u>
Total Fatalities:	55

Domestic Violence Service Statistics – 2010

Total number of Adults Served:	100,206
<u>Total number of Children Served:</u>	<u>18,807</u>
Total	119,013

Total number of Adults Sheltered:	4,961
<u>Total number of Children Sheltered:</u>	<u>3,852</u>
Total	8,813

Referrals:

Medical	7,406
Psychological	17,653
Financial	9,692
Educational	4,110
Vocational	4,423
Child Care	4,323
<u>Legal</u>	<u>28,208</u>
Total	75,815

Source: Attorney General of Ohio

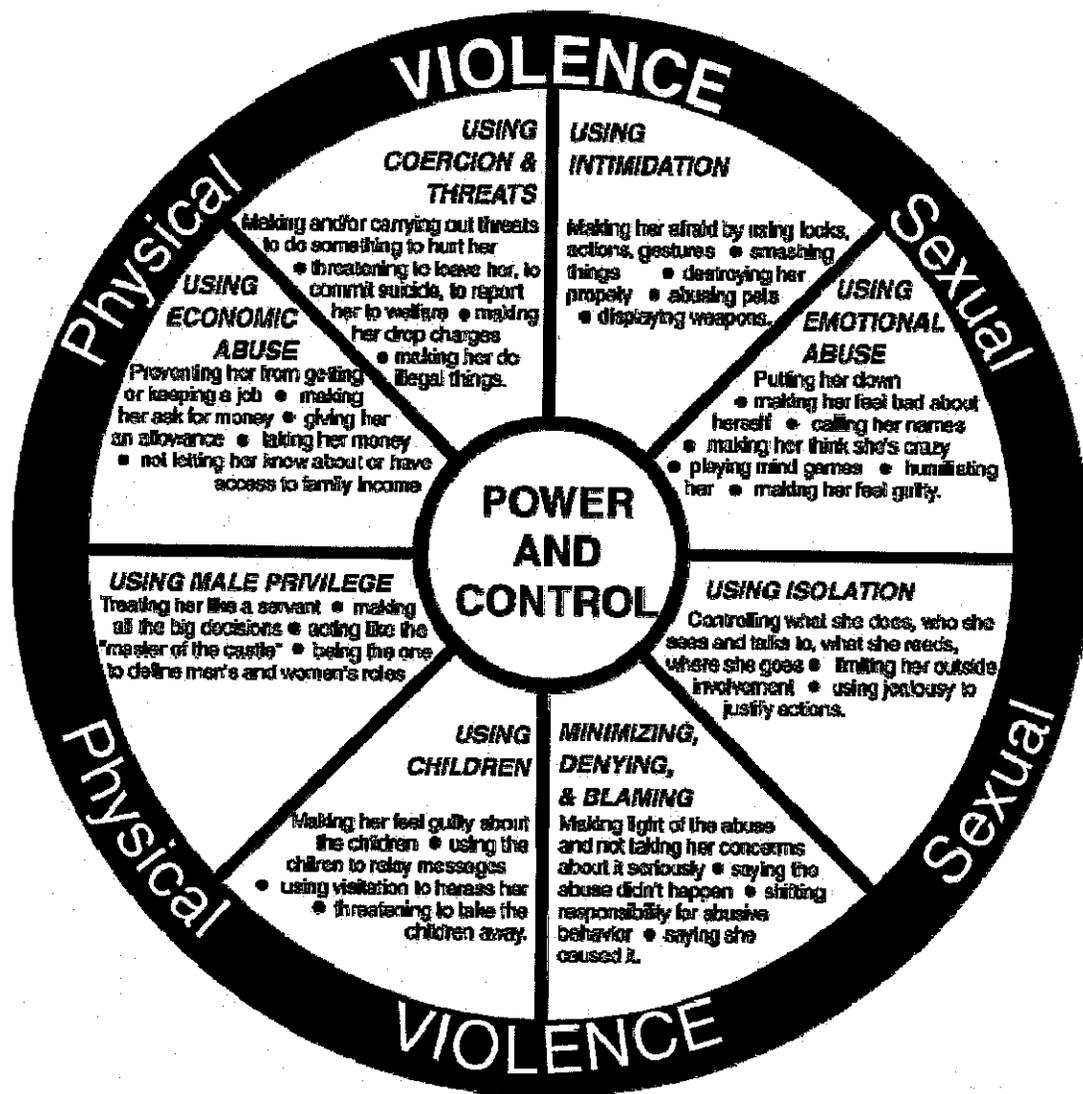
Domestic Violence Civil Protection Orders Issued – 2010

New Filings	19,860
Cases Pending	1,556
<u>Reactivated and Transfers</u>	<u>1,318</u>
Total	22,734

Source: The Ohio Courts Summary 2010

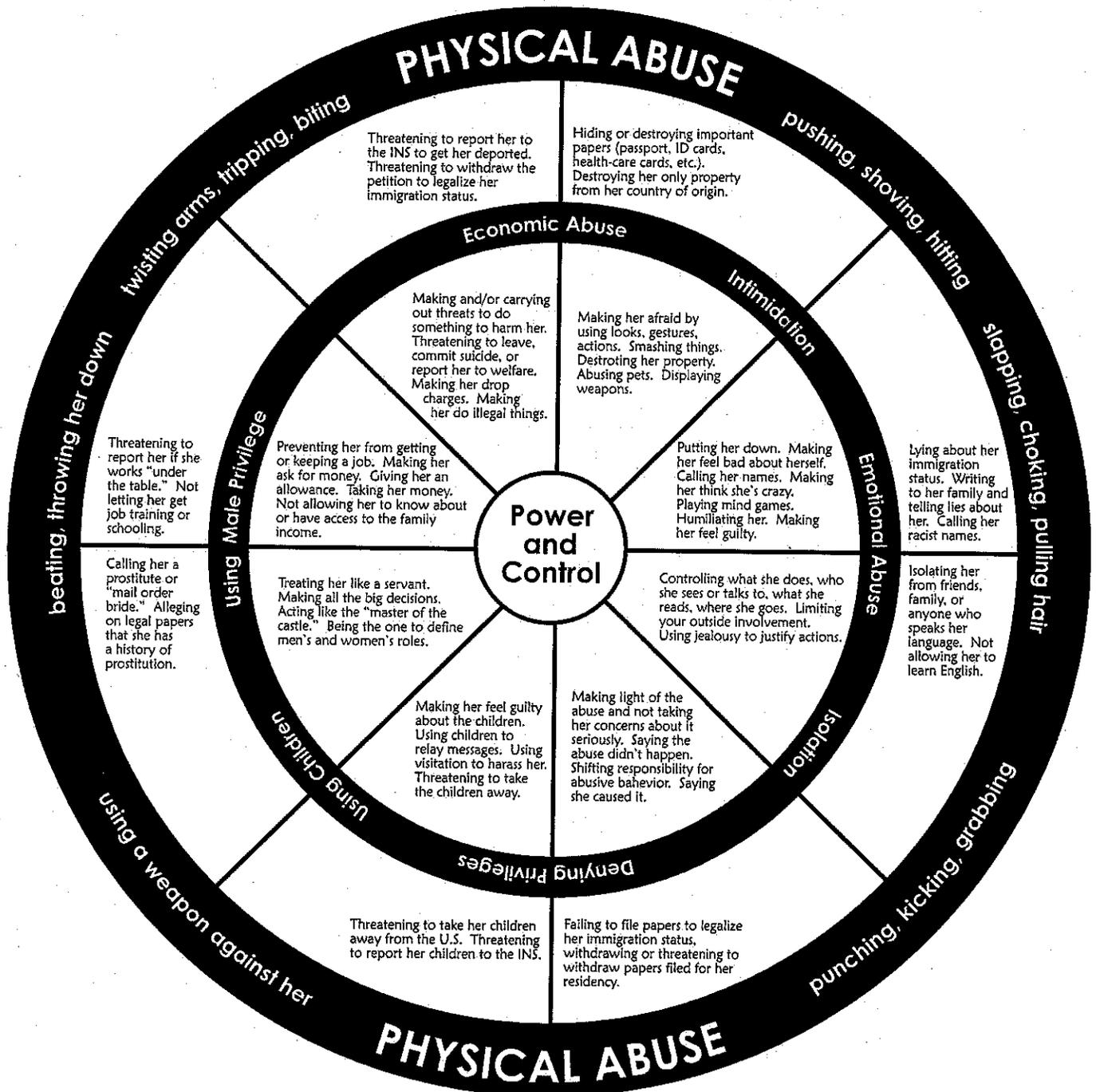
POWER AND CONTROL WHEEL

After interviewing hundreds of women who attended their educational sessions for survivors, the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (DAIP) in Duluth, Minnesota, came to conclude that the abusive tactics are constant force in the relationships of these women and that the batterers had full intention to control lives of their partners. Thus, DAIP developed the Power and Control Wheel* in 1984 to depict these women's experience more accurately.



Source: Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, 203 West Fourth Street, Duluth, Minnesota, 55803, Telephone: 218.722.2781

IMMIGRANT POWER AND CONTROL WHEEL



Produced and distributed by:

Adapted from original wheel by:
 Domestic Abuse Intervention Project
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Power and Control Dynamics

- Domestic violence occurs with power imbalance, not a “fight.”
- A violent episode in domestic violence is part of a pattern of behaviors, not an isolated incident.
- Physical and sexual violence may be infrequent, but reinforces the effects of other tactics.
- The consequences vary by range of tactics, but all are psychologically damaging to the victims.



The tactics used by batterers reflect the tactics used by many groups or individuals in positions of power. Each of the tactics depicted on the Power and Control Wheel are typical of behaviors used by groups of people who dominate others. They are the tactics employed to sustain racism, ageism, classism, heterosexism, anti-Semitism, and many other forms of group domination. Men in particular are taught these tactics in both their families of origin and through their experiences in a culture that teaches men to dominate (p. 2).”

From Pence, E. & Paymar, M. (1993). *Education groups for men who batter: the Duluth model*. New York: Springer

Myths and Realities of Domestic Violence

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 (National Resource Center, 2002).

Myth 2: Domestic violence is usually a one-time event.

Reality: Domestic violence involves a pattern of coercive, assaultive control and can include physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, or financial abuse. The frequency and severity of violence tends to increase over time.

Myth 3: 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.

Myth 4: Alcohol and drugs cause domestic violence.

Reality: Alcohol and drugs use are correlated with domestic violence, but alcohol and drugs do not cause domestic violence. Often batterer's use alcohol or drugs as an excuse or justification for violent behavior. However, many batterers abuse others while sober and many alcoholics and drug addicts do not become violent when using.

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, but want the violence to stop. There are many reasons that women remain in abusive relationships including fear, hope, love, finances, and inadequate responses from cultural institutions.

Myth 8: Battered women always stay in abusive relationships.

Reality: Many women leave abusive relationships and lead lives free from violence. We do not know how many women leave after the first incident of abuse. There are also many dangers to a woman if she chooses to leave an abusive relationship. Abusive partners often escalate abuse during separations from their partners, putting women and their children at increased risk. Also, women may not receive appropriate responses from institutions that are expected to assist them (police, courts, medical, or social services personnel) further increasing their danger.

Myth 9: Batterers are crazy.

Reality: The majority of batterers do not have a diagnosable mental illness. Batterers often appear to be charming and persuasive and may be very intelligent and high functioning. The only notable characteristics of batterers are that they choose to be violent toward their partners.

Myth 10: 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 most likely made numerous attempts to stop the violence without success. Batterers are the only family member with the power to end the violence.

Myth 11: "I'd never put up with that kind of treatment. I'd leave the first time my spouse hit me."

Reality: It is difficult to know how we'd respond if someone we loved hurt us and few people enter into relationships that are abusive in the beginning. Abuse often does not start in a relationship until love and trust have grown between the partners and a commitment has been made. Many abusive partners have "Dr. Jekyll / Mr. Hyde" personalities that change after the relationship has progressed and many victims have hope that the abuser will return to the loving person they know. There are many complex reasons for remaining in an abusive relationship and leaving a relationship is a process that takes time.

Myth 12: A father's abuse of a mother does not interfere with his parenting ability.

Reality: Children are certainly adversely affected when their mothers are battered by their father. Between 30-70% of children in homes where mothers are abused are also physically or sexually abused. In addition, witnessing abuse of a parent is traumatic to children and can have lasting effects on their emotional development. Batterers also have typical characteristics of parenting styles which are detrimental to their children including authoritarianism, under involvement, neglect, and irresponsibility and undermining the mother's authority as a parent (Bancroft, Lundy & Silverman, Jay *The Batterer as Parent*, 2002).

Myth 13: Women are as violent as men in intimate relationships.

Reality: This myth has resulted from the backlash against the feminist movement in general and the domestic violence movement specifically. The truth is that intimate partner violence is primarily a crime against women. In 1998 females were 75 percent of the victims of intimate murders and about 85 percent of the victims of nonlethal intimate violence. (Hennenburg, M. (August, 2000). *Bureau of Justice Statistics: At a glance*).

Why Do Partners Batter?

The following are the common assumptions about causes of violence:

- Anger causes violence.
- Stress causes violence.
- Alcohol and/drugs cause violence.
- The victim provoked violence.
- It takes two to tango.

As you can see, commonly held assumptions about causes of domestic violence tend to get the batterers “off the hook” while blaming the victims.

Domestic violence is NOT caused by:

- Illness
- Genetics
- Alcohol and/or drugs
- Out-of-control anger
- Stress
- Behavior of the victim or problems in the relationship

Domestic violence is caused by the batterer's decision to batter based on:

- What he learned through observation
- What he learned through experience and reinforcement
- What he learned in the culture
- What he learned in the family
- What he learned in the communities

Prepared by Anne L. Ganley, PhD. For the Family Violence Prevention Fund

Why Victims of Partner Abuse Stay with Batterers

People who don't know a lot about the dynamics of partner abuse may ask, "Why would someone stay in a violent relationship?" Some victims may ask themselves that same question. Here are some examples of things victims see as barriers to leaving their relationships. Though this list does not cover all victims' experiences, it provides a framework to better understand some dynamics of abusive relationships.

Victims may stay in abusive relationships because:

1. They feel safer with their batterers because they know what they are up to. Often after the separation victims are stalked repeatedly by their ex-partner in order to show they still have control in the relationship.
2. They're scared of their abusers. Victims believe that if they leave the relationship, their abusers will act on threats they've made in the past. Batterers often tell their victims they will hurt or kill them or people close to them, report them for welfare fraud or to Children Services, call the police on them for domestic violence, or "out" them to their family, friends or co-workers.
3. Batterers often don't get serious consequences for their abusive behavior
4. Involving the police can make the violence worse because batterers feel threatened. If arrested, batterers can be let out of jail in a few hours and go after their victims for reporting the abuse.
5. Even if another person calls about the abuse or the state picks up the charges against them, batterers often blame their victims. Victims know this and often deny the abuse to avoid being beaten.
6. Community resources for victims may not be well known or easy to use. Victims may not know about their options.
7. They may not receive help from the community because their abusers may be rich, well known, or respected. Abusers are good at changing their personalities to hide abuse behavior in public.
8. They may be used to focusing on the needs of their abusers and feel unsure about making decisions about their own safety and futures. When victims reach out for help, professionals often ask them to quickly decide their futures. Victims may feel uncomfortable with quick decision-making or big changes because they live in an environment where violent consequences discourage this.

9. Victims often do not have the money to survive away from their abusers. Victims who leave with no money face homelessness.
10. They may be afraid that if they report the violence, their abusers will lose their jobs or reputations.
11. Societal values cause victims to feel ashamed or embarrassed about the abuse.
12. Victims may believe that outsiders shouldn't be involved in family matters.
13. Gender roles or cultural and religious beliefs may make victims feel like they have to pretend that nothing is wrong at home. Victims may also define their self-worth by their relationships.
14. They may believe their children are better off in a two-parent household. Batterers often focus on kids as a way to keep victims from leaving by threatening to take them away from the victims or hurt them if they leave.
15. Isolation from their family and friends decreases options for leaving relationships. Batterers are sometimes the only people victims can go to for support. Because abusers feel threatened by their victims' relationships, they stop them from becoming close with others.
16. Victims may only get limited support from their family and friends. Victims of partner abuse try to leave an average of four times before they succeed. People close to them may not understand that leaving an abusive relationship is a long process and think victims fail when they go back with their abusers. They may also tell victims that their abusers are good people and that the abuse is not as bad as they say, or to go back and try harder to make things work.
17. They may believe their batterer's messages that the abuse is their fault, that it happens because of alcohol or drug use, that they just can't control their anger, or that no one else will ever want the victims. These messages attack victims' self-esteem and make them doubt the way they feel about the violence.
18. Incidents of physical violence may occur in relatively short bursts. Afterward, their batterers may be gentle and loving, and promise to change, acts that are as manipulative as the physical violence. This is confusing to victims who may see their batterers as good loving people most of the time. Their batterers may convince them that they will change and their relationships will get better. Victims may not want the relationship to end, just the violence.
19. They may have seen fighting in their homes while growing up and accept that violence in relationships is okay. Abusers also learn how to be violent from their families of origin. Growing up in violent homes may create a bond of common experience between abusers and victims.

20. They may feel their abusers need them and they can help the abuser change.
21. Victims may feel that if only they would change and stop making mistakes, then their abusers would stop hurting them.
22. Victims may fear being alone or miss their abusers when they are separated. Victims may love their abusive partners and need the space to grieve the loss of their relationships.
23. Victims may have a hard time knowing what abuse is. They may know their relationship is bad, but not see the abuse as the reason for this. Victim may feel that their batterers' substance abuse, money problems, or stress outside the relationship causes the turmoil, not their abusers violence.
24. Victims may have tried to seek assistance through the community "systems" (JFS, CPS, law enforcement, etc.) in the past and received an inappropriate response or been given unrealistic goals.
25. Victims may not know they have the right to be safe and live lives free from violence.

Adapted from educational literature created by Chaer Robert, Denver Commission on Community Relations.

Common Batterer Characteristics

Batterers come from all socioeconomic, educational, cultural, racial, and age groups. We need to be careful not to be convinced by the stereotypes of who the batterers are. However, it is helpful to recognize common characteristics of batterers as we work with victims/survivors.

Batterers often:

- Have a history of influences conducive to the development of severe pathology within their background
- Have a desire to conquer and a superior sense of self
- Lacks boundaries in the world
- Find the normal restraints of life unlivable
- Are full of pretensions in their thinking
- Experience satisfaction from doing the forbidden
- Look to outsiders as if they conform with accepted norms of behavior, thinking, etc.
- Desire to be viewed as unique
- Are “sprinters” and not “marathoners”
- May have an history of deceptiveness and lying in their early background
- Live in a world without loyalty
- Show evidence of trauma symptoms
- Engage in compartmentalized thinking
- Have regard for the future
- Have a history of interests in and use of pornography

- Engage in criminal activities unrelated to domestic violence
- Have a tendency to overreact when deprived of what they want
- Have consistent failure to learn from their experience

Adapted from the information sheet, "The Batterer" developed by Melymbrosia Associates, Inc.

Common Types of Batterers:

- Anti-Social Type
- Narcissistic Type
- Dependent/Borderline Type

Batterer Belief System

It is critical to understand the belief system sustained by batterers in order for victim advocates to truly see victim's experience of pain and devastation. In addition, understanding how batterers think can lead to an understanding of why they batterer.

Batterers tend to:

- Deny responsibility
- Emphasize externals
- Switch subjects
- Rationalize/justify/intellectualize their actions
- Minimize severity or importance of matters
- Deceive and fog
- Generalize to absurdity
- Have all-or-nothing thinking
- Jump to conclusions
- Dwell on the negatives
- Have high expectations for others
- Have rigid ideas and values
- Have an attitude of ownership
- Have an attitude of retaliation
- Have little trust
- Have no ability to feel for others
- Show boosted sense of self and pride
- Have "mood swings"
- Have poor tolerance for frustration and are easily discouraged
- Be overly cruel or overly kind

Safety Planning with Battering Victims

It is crucial to address safety issues with the victim throughout her involvement. The extensiveness of the plan will depend upon the amount of time spent together and/or the victim's need to modify any existing plan(s). Safety planning not only enhances the victim's safety and that of her children, but also helps enhance her emotional well-being by alleviating some fear and returning to her some control over her situation.

Safety planning should begin with what the victim is doing now to remain safe. She may not realize her present behavior as a "safety plan," but she has been acting in ways to keep herself as safe as possible since the onset of abuse. Ask her what she does now to feel safe and discuss the effectiveness of the behavior. What has she tried in the past? What does she think will keep her safe in the future? For example, victims tend to have a good idea whether the abuser will react positively or negatively to court action. Also important in safety planning is to assess the lethality of the abuser. This will help focus the plan appropriately.

A safety plan should be very thorough and include all possible situations. The plan should include safety at home, in protective shelter, at work, at school, while driving, when in public places, etc. Safety planning is valuable with all victims whether they have chosen to leave, remain, or return to the abuser.

A first step in safety planning with victims of domestic violence involves a risk assessment done by or in collaboration with a domestic violence professional. It is your job to refer them to the domestic violence shelter hotline (or let them call from your office, cell phone, etc.) and discuss your concerns for their safety based upon the below listed lethality factors. The following factors, present in either victim or perpetrator, are considered to indicate a higher level of danger and the more factors present, the higher the potential for increased harm to the victim or offender. NOTE: Homicide is a rare event, however, and so therefore difficult to predict. Lethality is not certain even if all factors are present.

- ✓ Access to or ownership of guns
- ✓ Use of a weapon in past incidents
- ✓ Threats with weapons
- ✓ Threats to kill
- ✓ Serious injury in past incidents
- ✓ Threats of suicide or serious depression
- ✓ "Ownership" of the victim
- ✓ Drug or alcohol abuse
- ✓ Forced sex and/or sadistic behavior
- ✓ Obsessiveness with or centrality of partner
- ✓ Batterer is highly dependent on the victim
- ✓ Monitoring and/or stalking behavior

- ✓ Extreme jealousy and dominance in the relationship
- ✓ Depression or anxiety in the batterer
- ✓ Violence toward other family members or pets
- ✓ Violations of court order
- ✓ Isolation (no supports for batterer or victim)
- ✓ Recent separation, divorce, or issuance of protection orders
- ✓ Loss of job or other life losses

The most important consideration of life-threatening violence is the victim's perception of danger and level of fear. Once risks are assessed, a safety plan can be developed.

Development of a safety plan involves several activities that include:

- ✓ Assessment of level of danger
- ✓ Assessment of risks generated by the batterer
- ✓ Assessment of risk generated by life circumstances
- ✓ Identification of available and relevant options and resources
- ✓ Analysis of options with the battering victim
- ✓ Exploration of the consequences of pursuing or not pursuing a particular option
- ✓ Identification of actions necessary to implement the plan
- ✓ Identification of sources of available information
- ✓ Identification of agency and community resources

Safety planning focuses on the immediate needs of the victims and addresses the level or risk for danger. Safety planning also takes into consideration that leaving is NOT always the safest strategy for the victim and failure to access services is not always an indication that victims are not interested in protecting themselves.

For battering victims, physical violence is not the only, or for some, the primary risk. Other risks can include loss of financial support/security or loss of the relationship/family. Safety planning includes batterer-generated and/or life-generated risks, as well as danger from future assaults or abuse. Listed are some examples of batter and life-generated risks.

Adapted from Safety Planning With Battered Women by Jill Davies, 1998

Criminal Law and Temporary Protection Orders

Overview of Ohio Revised Code §2919.25 and .27

The domestic violence criminal statute, ORC §2919.25, addresses certain abusive acts which society has deemed to be crimes, but does not address all forms of abusive behavior. The criminal law defines domestic violence as doing any of the following to a Family or Household Member:



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

The criminal law defines Family and Household Member the same as in the Civil Protection Order Statute, ORC §3113.31, which is:

1. The natural parent of any child of whom the offender is the other or putative natural parent or
2. Any of the following who reside or have resided together:
 - a. Spouse, former spouse, or “person living as a spouse”,
 - b. Parent or child or another person related by blood or marriage to the offender,
 - c. Parent or child or another person related by blood or marriage to the spouse, former spouse, or “person living as a spouse of the offender
3. “Person living as a spouse” means:
 - a. A person who is living with or has lived with the offender in a common law marriage
 - b. 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.

The Ohio Supreme Court ruled in State v. Carswell that the domestic violence statute section defining family or household member as “living as a spouse” is not unconstitutional in light of the Marriage Amendment Act. Thus, unmarried cohabitants are still afforded all of the protections of the domestic violence laws.

The crime of Violation of a Protection Order, ORC §2919.27, provides that no person shall recklessly violate:

1. Any terms of a protection order issued or consent agreement approved pursuant to ORC §2919.26 or ORC §3113.31
2. Any terms of a protection order issued pursuant to ORC §2903.213 or §2903.214
3. A protection order issued by the court of another state

Charging the Offense

It is important to note that although an act may qualify for a particular degree of crime, the prosecutor has almost complete discretion in regard to whether to charge any offense, what degree of offense, and whether a plea agreement should be made. Further, the victim has no say whatsoever regarding any of the prosecutor's actions. Ideally, the prosecutor will consider the victim's wishes, but s/he is not required to follow them. It is also important to understand that the Prosecutor does not represent the victim; s/he represents the government municipality which charges the offense.

A violation of either section 1 or 2 of §2919.25 above is a first-degree misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine; if the offender has a previous conviction of domestic violence, assault, aggravated assault, felonious assault, menacing by stalking, aggravated menacing, or child endangering against a family or household member, then the offense is a fourth degree felony punishable by 18 months in prison and a fine of \$5,000. If the offender has two or more convictions of these sections, it is a third degree felony, punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

A violation of section 3 of 2919.25 above is a fourth degree misdemeanor punishable by up to 30 days in jail and a \$250 fine; if there is one previous conviction of this section, the offense is a second degree misdemeanor punishable by 90 days in jail and up to a \$750 fine. A third conviction of section 3 is a first degree misdemeanor, punishable by 6 months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

A violation of a protection order is a first-degree misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine unless one of the following apply:

1. For a protection order granted under 1 or 3 above and the offender has previously been convicted of two or more violations of menacing by stalking or aggravated trespass involving the same person that is the subject of this order or of one or more violations of a civil stalking or stalking protection order, the offense is a fifth degree felony punishable by one year in jail and up to \$2,500 fine. If the violation of the order occurred while committing a felony, the violation is a felony of the third degree.
2. For a protection order granted under 2 above and the offender has previously been convicted of two or more violations of violating a protection order granted under 2, or an offense of menacing by stalking, aggravated trespass, child endangering, or aggravated menacing the offense is a fifth degree felony and is punishable by one year in jail and up to a \$2,500 fine.

If the protection order violation is committed while committing another felony, for example, a felony domestic violence, burglary, kidnapping, then the protection order violation is a felony of the third degree punishable by up to five years in jail and a fine of up to \$10,000.

Temporary Protection Order, ORC §2919.26 (TPO)

A Temporary Protection Order or TPO is a tool of the courts to try to protect a victim from further violence at the hands of a family or household member. An effective advocate should know the criteria and procedures for obtaining a TPO.

1. Upon the filing of a complaint for domestic violence, assault, aggravated assault, felonious assault, menacing by stalking, or aggravated trespass against a family or household member, the victim, arresting officer, or the court may hear a motion for a temporary protection order. Only the criminal court hearing the offense can issue such an order.
2. The court must hold a hearing before a Judge or Magistrate before determining whether an order should be issued unless the defendant waives the right of a hearing.
3. If the court holds an ex parte hearing and grants a TPO, the offender has a right to a full hearing when brought before the court on the underlying charge.
4. The TPO is effective until any of the following occurs: the disposition of the case, dismissal by the court granting the order, or the issuance of a Civil Protection Order arising from the same incident.

TPO's may prohibit:

- Abuser from calling, e-mailing, sending letters and/or messages to the victim directly or via family or friend to the victim.
- Abuser from going around the victim regardless of where they are.
- Abuser from living in the residence shared with the victim.
- Abuser from shutting off utilities and any other relief the court deems proper.

TPO's may allow:

- Abuser to pick up personal belongings: toiletries, clothes, etc. one time with a police escort.

TPO's only last as long as the pending criminal case or the issuance of a CPO. They can be obtained at any time during a pending case, but are typically issued at the initial arraignment. Children may be included if they were injured or involved.

Civil Protection Orders

Overview of the O.R.C. Section §3313.13

Civil Protection Orders (CPO) are intended to help protect domestic violence victims and hold abusers accountable for their actions. Domestic Violence CPO cases are governed by O.R.C. 3113.31, which allows a petitioner to file a petition against the respondent, requesting relief that may decrease the violence occurring within her family. A petitioner may be accompanied at all stages of civil judicial proceedings by a victim advocate (O.R.C. 3113.31 (M)).

An effective advocate should know the following statutory rules governing the CPO process:



1. Only a court with general or domestic relations jurisdiction may issue a CPO; other divisions of common pleas courts do not have authority to do so. (Under pending legislation, the Juvenile Division may soon have jurisdiction to hear cases involving minors.)
2. There is no residency requirement for the petitioner. Additionally, there is no requirement that the activities or threats that gave rise to the domestic violence claim occurred in the state of Ohio. The petitioner must, however, have evidence of immediate and present danger of domestic violence to a family or household member.
3. Venue is proper in any county in which the petitioner currently or temporarily resides.
4. A CPO action must be brought as a separate claim from a claim for relief of divorce, dissolution, annulment, or legal separation, although it can be filed at the same time.
5. The violation of a CPO is a crime, and is also punishable as contempt of court.
6. A victim may obtain both a CPO and a criminal Temporary Protection Order (TPO). A CPO provides a broader range of relief (including custody and support orders), and lasts up to five years and is renewable. The TPO lasts only until the criminal case terminates for any reason or until the issuance of a CPO arising out of the same incident.
7. The filing of a case for divorce, dissolution, legal separation or annulment does not effect the commencement and proceeding of a CPO case. However, the portion of a CPO that determines custody, visitation, child and spousal support terminates on the date that a domestic relations or juvenile court issues an order concerning those issues.

8. Only the court that issues a CPO may modify or dismiss it: the parties may not do so, either by agreement or conduct. A CPO is not waived or nullified by a petitioner's invitation to respondent to enter any place proscribed by the CPO.

9. The victim, the victim's parent, guardian ad litem, or any adult household member may file a petition requesting relief. The respondent may be any of the following: the natural or putative natural parent of the victim's child or a person who now resides with the victim or has previously resided with the victim: the spouse of the victim, former spouse of the victim, a "person living as a spouse," the parent of the victim, the child of the victim, or any other relative by blood or marriage of the victim.

10. At this time, the law regarding the issuance on behalf of, or against, a juvenile is unclear. Contact the Clerk of Court for the Common Pleas Court in the county you wish to file such a CPO to determine how they handle this issue.

The CPO

The process for obtaining a CPO requires two hearings. The first is called *ex parte* because only the petitioner/victim is present, not the respondent/abuser. The petitioner may proceed *pro se*, or without an attorney, but this is not always recommended. Legal aid or a private attorney may be obtained.

The Ohio Supreme Court has adopted forms and instructions for mandatory use in all CPO cases. (If your court does not have these forms, contact the Ohio Domestic Violence Network or go to the Ohio Supreme Court's website, www.sconet.state.oh.us).

The petition must set forth the following information:

1. An allegation that the respondent engaged in domestic violence against a family or household member, including a description of the nature and extent of the domestic violence;
2. The relationship of the respondent to the petitioner, and to the victim if that person is someone other than the petitioner; and
3. A request for relief under the statute.

The statutory definition of domestic violence is broadly defined as:

1. Attempting to cause or recklessly causing bodily injury;
2. Placing another person by threat or force in fear of imminent serious physical harm or committing a violation of O.R.C. 2903.11 or 2911.211; or
3. Committing any act with respect to a child that would result in the child being an abused child as defined in O.R.C. 2151.031.

Courts are to broadly interpret the above definition and should issue a CPO if the petitioner demonstrates by a preponderance of the evidence (not clear and convincing evidence) that the petitioner or petitioner's family is in danger of domestic violence.

Proof of actual prior violence is not required and corroboration is not required as long as the preponderance test is met. A threat of violence is sufficient to warrant a CPO.

Relief Available and Enforcement

The civil court has extensive power to grant relief in a CPO case. The court may grant any protection order, with or without bond, to bring about a cessation of domestic violence. This statute gives a trial court extensive authority to tailor a domestic violence civil protection order to the exact situation before it. The court may:

1. Direct the respondent to refrain from abusing the family or household members;
2. Grant exclusive possession of the residence or household to the petitioner or other family or household member;
3. Require the respondent to vacate and/or remain away from the residence or household (NOTE: No protection order may in any manner affect title to any real property. R.C. 3113.31 (E)(5)).
4. Require the respondent to refrain from entering the residence, school, business, or place of employment of the petitioner or family or household member;
5. Temporarily allocate parental rights and responsibilities for the care of, or establish temporary visitation rights with regard to, minor children, if no other court has determined, or is determining, the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities for the minor children or visitation rights;
6. Require the respondent to maintain support, if the respondent customarily provides for or contributes to the support of the family or household member, or if the respondent has a duty to support the petitioner or family or household member;
7. Require the respondent to seek counseling;
8. Require the respondent to post a bond to assure compliance with the orders issued;
9. Prohibit the respondent from consuming alcohol or other substances.
10. Grant other relief that the court considers equitable and fair, including, but not limited to, ordering the respondent to permit the use of a motor vehicle by the petitioner or other family or household member and the apportionment of household and family personal property.

Courts are statutorily required to issue a copy of all protection orders and consent agreements to all law enforcement agencies that have jurisdiction to enforce the orders, i.e., where either of the parties live or work. Orders are also entered into the LEADS, or law enforcement statewide computer system. Any officer of a law enforcement agency must enforce a CPO issued or consent agreement approved by any court in the state in accordance to the provisions of the order or agreement. This may include removing respondent from the premises, if appropriate.

An effective advocate must be well educated in the laws governing the filing and enforcement of CPOs, and be able to clearly explain the procedures involved to a victim. Although much of the procedures are governed by statute, it is essential that you investigate your local systems to ensure you realize the reality of your systems before giving your client information regarding a CPO.



Other Protection Orders and Stay Away Orders

Criminal Protection Order ORC § 2903.213(CRPO) (Formerly called Stalking Civil Protection Order)

A Criminal Protection Order (CRPO) granted by a judge/magistrate during the pendency of certain criminal cases: menacing by stalking, aggravated menacing, menacing, aggravated trespass, assault, aggravated assault, felonious assault. This protection order is granted to parties who are not considered family or household members.

- Applies to victims that never lived with abuser and do not have children together.
- Children are not included, unless they are involved as petitioners or protected parties.
- May be issued based on a pattern of prohibited conduct, such as menacing, or the commission of one sexually oriented offense.
- May contain the same relief as in the TPO.

Civil Stalking or Sexually Oriented Offense Protection Order (SSOOPO) (Formerly Civil Stalking Protection Order) ORC §2903.214

- A CSPO is granted by the Court of Common Pleas upon an allegation that the respondent engaged in menacing by stalking behavior or committed one sexually oriented offense. A criminal case need not be pending to request this order.
- This order is not used for family or household members.
- A victim or an adult on behalf of another family or household member may file.
- Upon a finding of immediate and present danger, an ex parte order may be issued.
- After a full hearing, the order may be issued for up to five years.
- The respondent can be ordered to remain away from the petitioner or the petitioner's family.

Stay Away Orders or No Contact Orders.

May be ordered by a judge at the beginning or end of a criminal case. The police cannot enforce these orders; the recourse is for either a probation violation (if the offender is on probation) or contempt of court. Stay Away and No Contact Orders are better than nothing, but often give the victim a false sense of safety.

Restraining Orders

May be granted through Domestic Relations Court during the pendency of a divorce case. This type of order may require the parties to refrain from abusing, harassing, or molesting each other but frequently pertains to property. This type of order does not keep the abuser away from the victim. Violations of restraining orders are not enforceable by the police. A violation is treated as a contempt of court.

Order to Vacate

May be granted during the pendency of a divorce in cases in which the court determines there is reason for a party to be removed from the premises without rising to the level of a Protection Order. This order is not enforceable by the police, unless the court specifically orders law enforcement to enforce the order. In that case, the police can make someone leave, but cannot arrest for the crime of violation of a protection order. In all other cases, the recourse is to file a motion to find the defendant in contempt of court.

Enforcement of Protection Orders ORC § 2919.27

Law enforcement may arrest and criminally charge the violator with the violation of the TPO, CPO, SPO, and CSPO. Law enforcement may not arrest for violations of the other orders listed above.



Notes:

Comparison Between Civil and Criminal Options

TOPIC	CIVIL	CRIMINAL
COURT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common Pleas or Domestic Relations Court in county where you live 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County or Municipal Court where offense occurred
ARREST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No arrest necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police can arrest suspect; Ohio has preferred arrest law (But suspect may be summoned to court with no arrest)
ATTORNEY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may file with or without an attorney 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prosecutor represents the state's case against the abuser; you are a witness
FILING FEE	NONE	NONE
OHIO REVISED CODE	Section 3113.31	Section 2919.25
POLICE REPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not required to file 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required <i>before</i> filing of charges (police may file charges at the scene)
POSSIBLE RELIEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victim given exclusive right to reside in home, abuser ordered to vacate home Civil Protection Order (CPO) for up to 5 years Temporary custody of children Court-ordered treatment of abuser Spousal/child support Household items apportioned Visitation arrangements 	<p>Depending on the degree of conviction: Misdemeanor: Maximum 6 months and/or \$1,000 fine* Felony: Maximum 5 years and/or \$10,000 fine*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary Protection Order (TPO) for duration of criminal case Court-ordered treatment of offender Supervised or Unsupervised probation <p>*Portion of the fine and/or sentence may be suspended</p>
PROTECTION ORDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil Protection Order (CPO) May last up to 5 years Renewable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary Protection Order (TPO) Lasts only through end of criminal case (finding of not guilty, dismissal or sentencing)
TIME FRAME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First hearing ("ex parte") is same day as filing Final hearing ("full hearing") is 7-10 court days later 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If abuser is arrested at scene, arraignment same/next day; otherwise, usually within one week Later hearings may be several weeks apart
VICTIM'S CONSENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action cannot be taken without it 	<p>Not absolutely necessary, but extremely helpful to case. Without victim's consent prosecutor can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proceed with charges without victim's consent Refuse to file charges/drop charges All abuser to plead guilty to a lesser charge
VIOLATION OF PROTECTION ORDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contempt of court Criminal charges (see criminal column) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criminal charges: Police can arrest as scene 1st degree misdemeanor for first violation 5th degree felony if two or more prior convictions 3rd degree felony if violated during commission of another felony

Borrowed from the Ohio Domestic Violence Network's resource manual *Information is Power! 3rd Edition, 2005.*

Complicity to Violate a Protection Order

We continue to see some law enforcement agencies attempting to make victims responsible for violations of protection orders by charging them with complicity to violate the order (R.C. 2923.039(A)). In 2003, the Ohio Supreme Court upheld that “the protected subject of a CPO may not be prosecuted for “aiding and abetting” the restraineed in his/her violation of the CPO.” State v. Lucas (2003), 100 Ohio St.3d 1.

Many of these cases, including State v. Lucas, arose out of a situation in which the victim invited the batterer contact. In each of these cases the forgotten point is that the perpetrator knew he was criminally accountable if he chose to see the victim. Rather than see his accountability in these situations we automatically decide that the victim should be taught a lesson instead of recognizing that he chose to violate the protection order. This is once again a scenario in which victims are held accountable for batterer behavior and it empowers the batterer to continue his abuse. It also shows how perpetrators continue to manipulate the victim and the “systems.”

Battered Immigrant Women

Potential Relief for Battered Immigrants

Being an immigrant without permanent status in the United States is another barrier for victims of domestic violence and other violent crimes. The Violence Against Women Act 2000 increased the possible relief for battered immigrants. Prior to the amendments in this act, battered immigrants had little control of their status and frequently had to depend upon the abuser to gain full status in the United States. This provided the abuser with another tactic for abuse. The batterer who was a resident alien or citizen controlled the family-based petition. The batterer could pull the petition at any time. Some battered women could complete the process if the batterer had already started it and they could prove to the immigration office that they were battered. And immigrant victims whose abusers were not citizens or permanent resident spouses or parents had no immigration protections.

Since VAWA 2000 battered immigrants have six possible ways to become resident aliens and have legitimate status. These different methods are discussed below:

VAWA Self-Petitions

One of the best options under the new law for battered immigrants is a self petition, if they meet certain requirements. These requirements include:

- ✓ Having been subject to battery or extreme cruelty by a U.S. Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident spouse or parent
- ✓ Being of good moral character
- ✓ And having a good faith marriage, if petitioning as a spouse

The first step in the process is to prove a prima facie case (a statement of facts which, if substantiated, would lead to approval). To do this the applicant must provide a statement that explains how the applicant meets each requirement (no documentation required):

- ✓ *Married to the Abuser, or Have the Child of the Abuser*
- ✓ *Abuser's Status as a U.S. Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident*
- ✓ *Reside in the U.S., Abused in the U.S. or Spouse of Government Employee*
- ✓ *Resided with the Abuser*

- ✓ *Battery or Extreme Cruelty*
- ✓ *Good Moral Character*
- ✓ *Good Faith Marriage*

Once that is established a person can receive the right to work while the case is pending. They do, however, have to eventually prove each of these elements. For battered immigrants who have a common law marriage it will take some additional work to prove the case. An advocate should explore whether the country or state where they indicate they established the common law marriage does in fact recognize one. Some petitioners have been able to establish the marriage by affidavit or other witnesses.

Battery or extreme cruelty may be able to be established by the issuance of a protection order as well as other evidence. It is extremely important for immigrant women receiving a protection order that the court make a finding of abuse and not just grant an order without the finding.

Good moral character generally means not having any major criminal convictions such as murder, burglary, drug trafficking, etc. If the battered immigrant you are working with has any criminal record it is important to discuss the case with an immigration specialist. Some battered immigrant women have had to overcome a conviction of domestic violence to show good moral character. This can sometimes be done by showing self-defense or getting the record expunged.

If a divorce is pending or has been completed the petitioner must file the petition within two years of the final decree and must show that the divorce was because of domestic violence.

VAWA Cancellation

This process is for the battered immigrant that has been criminally convicted and is being deported or is being deported for another reason. The individual can request a cancellation of the deportation based upon not being the primary aggressor or because they were charged and convicted of violating a protection order that was there to protect them. Anyone attempting this process should have an immigration attorney representing them.

Battered Spouse Waiver

If the U.S. citizen or permanent resident spouse had started the process for obtaining a green card for their immigrant spouse and the immigrant spouse has a two year conditional permanent residency, the immigrant spouse could request to have a waiver of the continued cooperation of the spouse based upon being battered. Up until October, 2000, this had been one of the few ways for a battered immigrant to gain permanent status.

Gender Asylum

Gender asylum is an option open to some battered immigrants if they can show that their spouse and they are from the same country, the victim has been abused both in the United States and in the country of origin, and the abuser is going to be or may be deported. This victim will need the help of an immigration attorney.

Crime Victim – U Visa

This is a Visa that can be applied for if:

- ✓ Has suffered substantial physical or emotional abuse from criminal activity
- ✓ Possess information about the criminal activity
- ✓ The criminal activity took place in the U. S. or otherwise violated U.S. law
- ✓ Certification from a government official that the victim is being, has been, or is going to be helpful in the prosecution or investigation of the criminal case.

Some of the people who can certify are police, prosecutors, judges, immigration officials, state or federal agency employee. There are many crimes covered by this visa including rape, torture, trafficking, incest, domestic violence, sexual assault, prostitution, FGM (female genital mutilation), being held hostage, peonage, involuntary servitude, slave trade, kidnapping, abduction, false imprisonment, blackmail, extortion, manslaughter, murder, felonious assault, witness tampering, obstruction of justice, perjury or attempt, conspiracy or solicitation to commit any of these crimes.

Other considerations for the U visa are that there are work privileges and children and spouse may be able to get the visa also if they can show extreme hardship.

Trafficking Victim Visa – T Visa

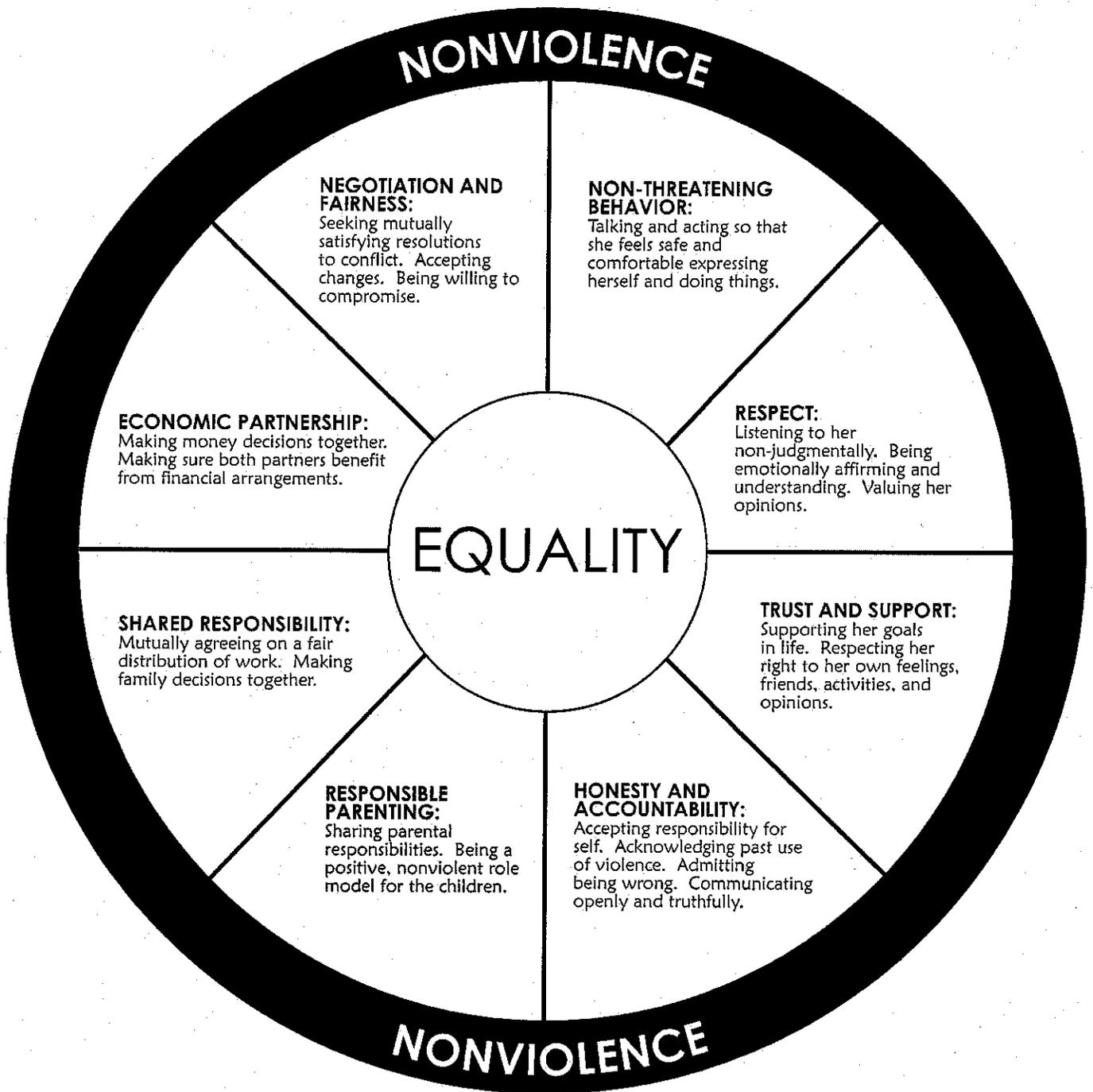
If the immigrant is a victim of severe form of trafficking in persons and is physically present in the United States, American Samoa, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or at a port of entry because of the trafficking, they may be able to qualify for the T Visa. This visa requires that the victim comply with any reasonable request for assistance in the investigation or prosecution of the acts of trafficking, unless the victim is under 15 years old, and the victim would suffer extreme hardship involving unusual and severe harm upon removal.

The definition of severe form of trafficking in persons is either:

- ✓ Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or

- ✓ The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or service, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.

EQUALITY WHEEL



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POWER AND CONTROL WHEEL

Physical and sexual assaults, or threats to commit them, are the most apparent forms of domestic violence and are usually the actions that allow others to become aware of the problem. However, regular use of other abusive behaviors by the batterer, when reinforced by one or more acts of physical violence, make up a larger system of abuse. Although physical assaults may occur only once or occasionally, they instill threat of future violent attacks and allow the abuser to take control of the woman's life and circumstances.

The Power & Control diagram is a particularly helpful tool in understanding the overall pattern of abusive and violent behaviors, which are used by a batterer to establish and maintain control over his partner. Very often, one or more violent incidents are accompanied by an array of these other types of abuse. They are less easily identified, yet firmly establish a pattern of intimidation and control in the relationship.



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DIAGRAMA DE IGUALDAD

¿Está su relación basada en la igualdad?



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Muslim Power and Control Wheel



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