Domestic Violence

The dynamics of domestic violence relationships

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Agenda

- What acts constitute Domestic Violence?
- How does he control her?
- Why does she stay?
- What can you do?

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What is Domestic Violence?

- Domestic Violence is when two people get into an intimate relationship and one person uses a pattern of coercion and control against the other person during the relationship and/or after the relationship has terminated. It often includes physical, sexual, emotional, or economic abuse.
  - Source: NCCADV web site

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Definition G.S. 50B-1

- Read the definition of Domestic Violence found in G.S. 50B-1.

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What acts constitute DV?

Based on these definitions, in small groups brainstorm the answers to the following questions:

What acts do you qualify as "domestic violence"?
What frustrates you about dealing with DV cases?

We will hear and record ideas from each group.

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Power and Control - Abusers believe they have a right to control their partners by:

- Making rules and expecting obedience (the rules can change)
- Using force to maintain power and control over partners
- Feeling their partners have no right to challenge their rules
- Feeling justified making the victim comply
- Blaming the abuse on the partner and not accepting responsibility for wrongful acts

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Tactics used by Batterers

- Isolation
- Emotional abuse
- Economic abuse
- Intimidation
- Using children or pets
- Using privilege
- Sexual abuse
- Threats
- Physical abuse

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Case Study Questions

- In your group, identify **two** tactics used by the batterer in this case study that exemplify your assigned area of the Power and Control Wheel.
- You will need a spokesperson from your group.

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Why does she stay?

EXERCISE

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What happened?

- **Think about what just happened.**
- How did you feel?
- If you left where did you see yourself going?
- Each time you stayed or left, what did you base your decision on?
- How hard was it to decide what to do?
- Did you ever say to yourself, "I'm being abused or battered"?
- What insights did you gain?

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What can you do?

- Read these handouts on Do's and Don'ts.
- In pairs, name one thing you will do differently in your work with DV cases in the future based on what you have learned today.
- You will be asked to share your answers with the large group.

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Class Summary

- DV is prevalent in the US and in NC
  - Almost 20 people per minute physically abused by partner (more than 10 million per year)
- DV is a pattern of abusive and coercive behavior to maintain power and control
- There are many misconceptions about DV
- Stranger and Domestic Violence are similar, but experienced differently by perpetrator, victim, and the community.

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A word about trauma

- One of the original ACE's questions
- Present in every case
- What does trauma do?
  - To the victim?
  - To you?
- Self care

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Resources for your trauma

- The Body Keeps Score, by Bessel Van Der Kolk, M.D.
- What Happened to You, by Bruce Perry and Oprah Winfrey
- iChill app
- "Caring for You" handouts
  - Virus Fatigue Workgroup, Covid-19 Task Force
  - www.nccourts.org

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Judicial employees can send a powerful message by:

- Focusing on the trauma
- Focusing on children's needs.
- Prioritizing safety.
- Having a supportive demeanor.
- Taking the violence seriously.
- Recommending women to community resources.
- Refusing to joke or bond with violent men.

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But Remember

- Recanting/minimizing is normal and often a survival technique.
- Certain members of the case may be impacting the victim's ability to speak freely.
- We will probably NEVER understand the motives/situations of either perpetrator or victim.
- Try to be patient. You may save a life!

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