

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?

Use the clicker to decide what you would do in the following situations. You will be asked to make your own choices about what you will do when your partner becomes violent. Listen to the scenario. Then click on button that aligns with what you would do in this situation if YOU were the woman in these situations.

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Situation 1 Honeymoon

- At the end of the week, you have returned to NC.
- **Now, make a decision:** Stay or Go

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Situation 2 - If you stayed

It is three weeks later. Tony comes home from work and seems to be in a bad mood. You ask how his day was and he gives you a slight shove and walks past you. He doesn't speak to you the rest of the night and you have no idea why. Every time you try to talk, he simply ignores you.

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Situation 3 – If you left

Tony has called every day . . . He loves you dearly . . .
Parents invested in wedding . . . Mother is disappointed . . .
. Since your leaving was mostly meant to be a wake-up call to Tony, why don't you be a good wife and try to work things out?

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In addition to leaving, what else would you do?

1. Call the police
2. File for a DVPO
3. Call crisis center
4. Tell your parents
5. Talk to a trusted friend

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What happened?

- Think about what just happened. In small groups discuss:
- 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
- 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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Judicial employees can send a powerful message by:

- 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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