

Domestic Abuse: Protecting Staff and Children

Presenter:

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Did You Know?

- A woman is physically abused every 7 seconds in America
- Domestic violence is the single largest cause of injury to women in America
- Every person on death row was reared in domestic violence
- 96% of all crimes committed by those who are between 13-17 are the result of domestic violence in the home
- A married woman is 5 times more likely to be attacked by her husband than by a stranger.

What is Domestic Abuse?

- Any behavior used by one person in a relationship to control the other. Abuse can be physical, emotional, financial, and sexual.
- Victims can be of any age, sex, race, culture, religion, education, employment, or marital status. Although some victims are men, the majority are women.

Are You Abused?

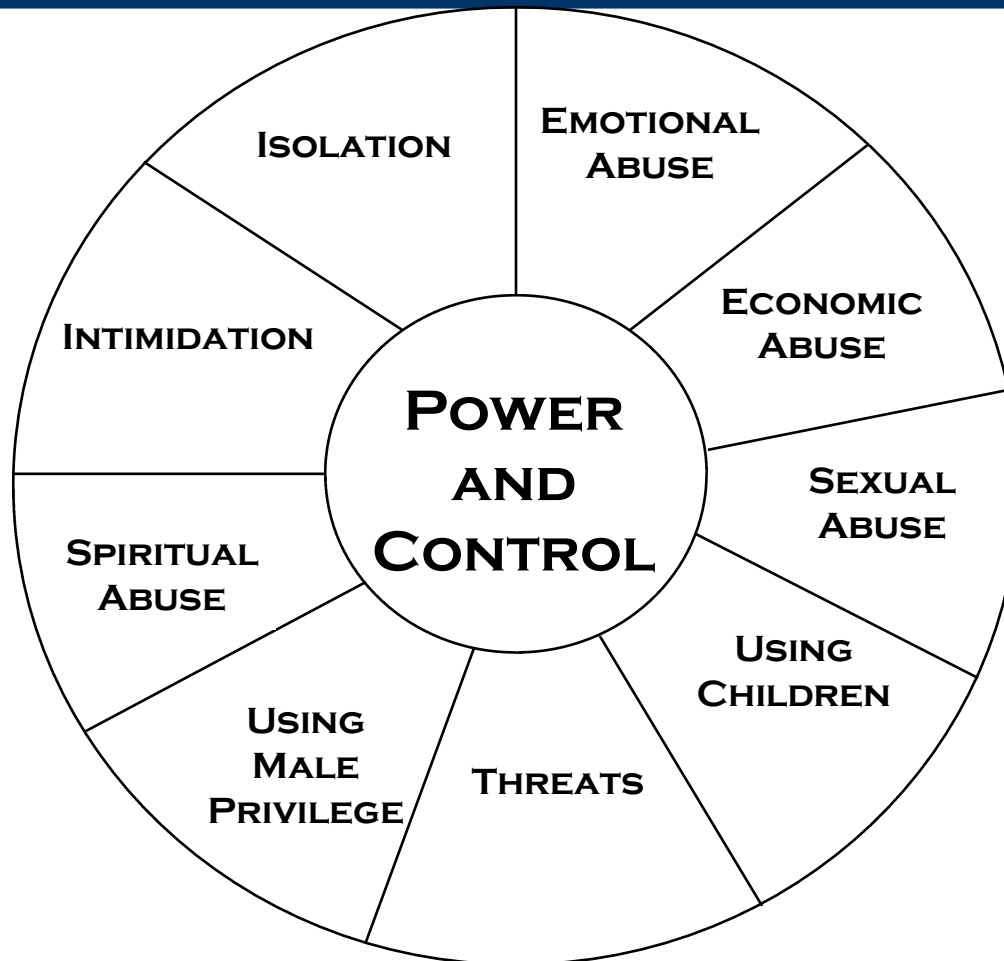
Does the person you love.....

- track all of your time?
- Constantly accuse you of being unfaithful?
- Discourage your relationship with family and friends?
- Prevent you from working or attending school?
- Criticize you for little things?
- Anger easily when drinking or on drugs?
- Control all finances and force you to account for what you spend?

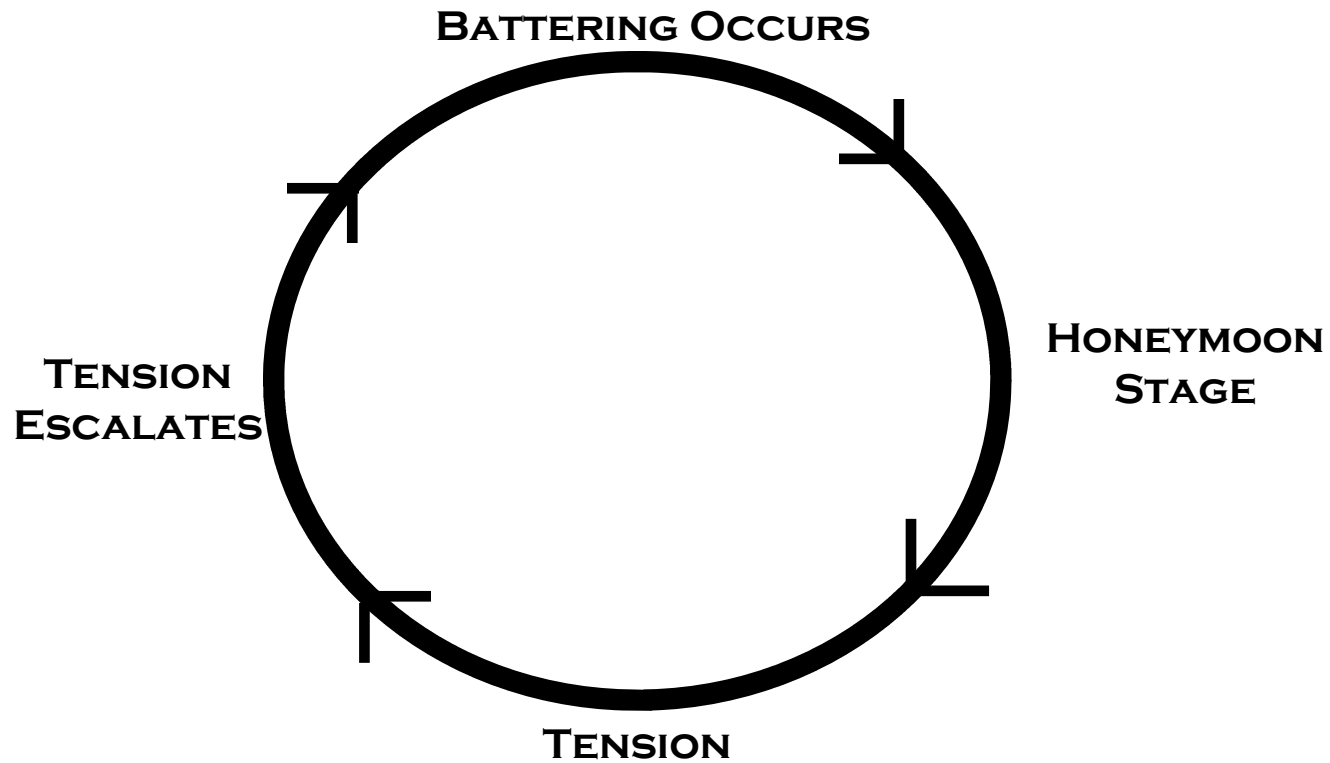
Does the person you love...

- Humiliate you in front of others?
- Destroy personal property or sentimental items?
- Hit, punch, slap, kick, or bite you or your children?
- Use or threaten to use a weapon against you?
- Force you to have sex against your will?

Power and Control Wheel



The Cycle of Violence



Predictors of Domestic Violence

- A push for quick involvement
- Jealousy
- Controlling
- Unrealistic expectations
- Isolation
- Blames others for problems and mistakes
- Makes everyone else responsible for his feelings
- Easily insulted and offended

Predictors of Domestic Violence

- Verbal abuse
- Rigid sex roles
- Sudden mood swings
- Past battering
- Playful use of force during sex
- Cruelty to animals and to children
- Threats of violence

Why Do Women Stay in Abusive Relationships?

- Love
- Sake of the children
- Isolation
- Fear
- Financial dependence
- Traditional value system
- Religious beliefs
- Victim mentality

Impact on Children

- Children lose their childhood
- Children worry their mother will get hurt or their father will go to jail
- Cannot concentrate on studies because of constant anxiety
- May have difficulty relating to their peers
- May feel guilty about the good feelings they have for their abuser

Impact on Children

- Embarrassed to invite friends over to their house
- Because they live with such uncertainty, they may give up hope and decide it's not worth it to set goals or learn self-control.

Questions to Ask Yourself

- What do I gain by staying in a violent home?
- What do my children gain by growing up in a violent home?
- What do I have to lose by leaving?
- What do the children have to lose by leaving?
- What do I have to gain by leaving?
- What do my children gain by leaving?

Questions to Ask Yourself

- Who can I talk to about my problem?
- What am I willing to live without for the rest of my life?
- What price am I paying for 'peace'? Is it too high? Are my children paying a price? Is it too high? How will it affect them 5 years from now?
- Without change, what will I be like 5 years from now?

If you are still in the relationship:

- Have a safety plan. Think of a safe place to go if an argument occurs-avoid rooms with no exits or rooms with weapons.
- Think of a safe people to contact.
- Keep change with you at all times.
- Memorize all important numbers.
- Make copies of important papers/documents.
- Have a bag packed and keep in another location.
- Establish a code word so that family and friends know when to call for help.

If you've left the relationship:

- Change your phone number
- Screen calls
- Change locks if the batterer has a key
- Avoid staying alone
- Plan how to get away if confronted by abuser
- Vary your routine
- Notify school and work contacts
- Call a shelter for battered women

Hope for the hurting

- Be supportive. Don't judge. Listen.
- Encourage her to notify her supervisor.
- Offer going with her to a shelter to find out resources available.
- Be sensitive to children who may act out or be withdrawn.
- Donate your old cell phone or car to the shelter as well as clothing & household items.

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

- 1-800-799-SAFE
- www.ncadv.org