



## Domestic Violence

The dynamics of domestic violence relationships

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## Purpose

- The purpose of this session is to highlight the dynamics of domestic violence relationships and identify actions personnel can take when dealing with these cases.

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## Myths and Realities

- The victim can just leave.
- Drugs/alcohol cause the abuse.
- Victims are common in all socio-economic levels and are usually women.
- Men who abuse are violent because they can not control their anger and frustration.

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The victim can just leave.

- 1. Myth
- 2. Reality

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Drugs/alcohol cause the abuse.

- 1. Myth
- 2. Reality

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Victims are common at all soc/econ and educational levels and are usually women.

- 1. Myth
- 2. Reality

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Men who abuse do so because they can't control their anger and frustration.

1. Myth
2. Reality

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## Criminology

- Watch this video clip of a batterer.

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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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## 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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## Return from honeymoon

1. Stay
2. 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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## Please make your selection...

1. Stay
2. Go

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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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### Please make your selection...

1. Go back
2. Stay gone

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### In addition to leaving, what else would you do?

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

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## The final decision

1. Stay gone
2. Return to Tony

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## What happened?

Think about what just happened. In small groups, respond to these questions:

- 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
- Based on NC Administrative Office of the Courts statistics, over the past nine years North Carolina domestic violence filings have increased about 30%, from 24,823 in 98-99 to 32,406 in 05-06.
- DV is a pattern of abusive and coercive behavior to maintain power and control
- There are many misconceptions about DV

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## Judicial employees can send a powerful message by:

- Focusing on children's needs.
- Prioritizing safety.
- 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 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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