

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MANUAL

FOR

CHILD WELFARE PROFESSIONALS

A Desk Reference Guide

“The emotional recovery of children who have been exposed to domestic violence appears to depend on the quality of their relationship with the non-battering parent more than on any other single factor.”

– Bancroft and Silverman



Produced by the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence and
Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services Children and Family Services

July 2009

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This project was supported by grant number 2005-WR-AX-0015 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women. The points of view expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

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INTRODUCTION

There is growing evidence of the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment or child welfare-related issues. Best practice in the intervention of these cases should address the co-occurrence of domestic violence. The purpose of this manual is to provide direction for child welfare professionals when working with families where domestic violence and child welfare-related issues are both occurring.

This manual addresses situations where survivors of domestic violence are non-abusive and provide the primary source of care and support for the children, and abusive partners or batterers remain a risk to the safety of the children and the survivor. It does not address situations where a non-abusive, protective parent cannot be identified and both the batterer and survivor are a risk to the safety of the children.

The primary focus of child protection intervention in domestic violence cases is the ongoing safety of children. The preferred way to protect children in most domestic violence cases is to join with the survivor in supporting the mother-child relationship and enhancing safety for the child and the survivor, and to hold the abusive partner or batterer accountable for the abusive behavior through interventions and case plan expectations.

Child welfare professionals should always follow federal and state law and agency policies and procedures when working with families where domestic violence and child welfare-related issues are both occurring.

DEFINITIONS

Domestic Violence/ Battering: Occurs when one *intimate partner or former intimate partner* exercises a pattern of abusive and coercive behaviors* against the other *intimate partner or former intimate partner*. These abusive and coercive behaviors are used to gain power over, dominate and control the *intimate partner or former intimate partner*.

* Abusive and coercive behaviors may include physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, emotional abuse, economic abuse, use of children, use of privilege, minimization, denial and blame, intimidation, isolation, coercion and threats.

Batterer/ Abusive Partner: A person who exercises a pattern of abusive and coercive behaviors against an *intimate partner or former intimate partner*.

Survivor/ Victim of Domestic Violence/ Non-Abusive Partner: A person who is, or has been, subjected to a pattern of abusive and coercive behaviors by an *intimate partner or former intimate partner*.

Alleged Child Victim: The alleged victim of a child abuse or neglect investigation.

Safety Planning: A process designed to help a survivor of domestic violence think through things that may change her level of safety. This includes discussing plans and options for situations that may put the survivor's safety at risk. Domestic violence and sexual assault advocates are specially trained in the safety planning process. Contact your local domestic violence or sexual assault program for assistance with this process. *See Appendix IV*

Family Safety Plan (PPM 2462, July 2009): A temporary, short-term plan to keep the child and other members of the family safe while more permanent safety provisions can be put in place. The safety plan may be used pending referral to family preservation or other services or to provide short-term care to avoid unnecessary removal of a child from the child's home. This process is conducted by child welfare professionals and is different than safety planning with survivors of domestic violence. *See "Safety Planning" definition above*

OARS (Orientation, Assessment, Referral, Safety) (KEESM 3330.9, May 2009): A program designed to fulfill the Family Violence Option basic requirements of 42 U.S.C. 402(a)(7), that provides confidential domestic violence and sexual assault services for TAF customers that have experienced past or present violence. If someone is not receiving TAF, refer the survivor to your local domestic violence or sexual assault program. *See Appendix IV*

Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault Program: A nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is to provide free and confidential services to victims of domestic violence or sexual assault, including, but not limited to, emergency housing, crisis hotlines, advocacy, community education and referral services. *See Appendix IV*

CHILDREN & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Power and Control Wheel

- › The Power and Control Wheel is used to show the experience of domestic violence.
- › At the core of domestic violence is the batterer's goal to gain and maintain power and control over the survivor of domestic violence.
- › The Power and Control Wheel has eight spokes that represent the abusive and coercive tactics, tools, pressures and rationales batterers may use to obtain, maintain and reinforce power and control over the survivor.
- › Physical and sexual violence (outer rim) may not be necessary to establish power and control over the survivor; the threat of violence may be enough.
- › The Power and Control Wheel may be used as a screening tool or a discussion tool with survivors of domestic violence.
- › Gender-specific language is used, as women are disproportionately represented as survivors of domestic violence.



Developed by: *Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, Duluth, MN*

CHILDREN & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Wheel as it Applies to Children

- › The following describes how domestic violence and battering behavior may impact children, using the Power and Control Wheel.
- › It is important to explore each spoke of the Wheel thoroughly in order to provide appropriate and effective interventions for the family.

USING INTIMIDATION

Making her afraid by using looks, actions, gestures

- smashing things • destroying her property • abusing pets
- displaying weapons.

Batterer may use intimidation by:

- › Using looks, actions and gestures to intimidate or cause fear in the family.
- › Destroying property to show authority, intimidate, or punish the family.
- › Using male or adult size to intimidate the mother or the children.
- › Abusing pets to send messages or threats of violence to the family.
- › Displaying or cleaning weapons in front of the family to send messages or threats of violence.
- › Using violence in front of the children.

**USING
EMOTIONAL
ABUSE**

Putting her down • calling her names • making her think she's crazy • playing mind games
• humiliating her • making her feel bad about herself • making her feel guilty.

Batterer may use emotional abuse by:

- › Forcing the children to engage in put-downs or name-calling of the mother.
- › Putting the children down or calling the children names.
- › Humiliating the mother in front of the children.
- › Forcing the mother to engage in embarrassing acts in front of the children.
- › Undermining the value of the mother (i.e., making the mother believe she is an unfit parent, telling the mother the children don't love her).
- › Shaping how the children view their mother.
- › Being inconsistent in visitation, discipline, or parenting.

CHILDREN & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Wheel as it Applies to Children, cont.

USING ISOLATION

Controlling what she does, who she sees and talks to, what she reads, where she goes • limiting her outside involvement • using jealousy to justify actions.

Batterer may use isolation by:

- › Not letting the mother see or spend time with the children.
- › Limiting opportunities for the mother and the children to get help from outside sources.
- › Not allowing the children to participate in age appropriate activities outside the home.
- › Not allowing the children to invite friends into the home.
- › Controlling access to trustworthy adults (i.e., school counselors, grandparents, extended family members).
- › Not allowing the mother to respond to the children's needs (i.e., hurts, fears, basic needs).

MINIMIZING, DENYING, AND BLAMING

Making light of the abuse and not taking her concerns about it seriously • saying the abuse didn't happen • shifting responsibility for abusive behavior • saying she caused the abuse.

Batterer may use minimization, denial and blame by:

- › Shaping the children's understanding of the source of the violence by blaming the mother.
- › Making the children believe the mother is to blame for the violence.
- › Pitting family member against family member.
- › Fostering instability and creating confusion for the children by denying the violence happened.
- › Normalizing the violence.
- › Making light of the violence.
- › Causing the children to feel guilty and to believe they are to blame for the violence.

CHILDREN & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Wheel as it Applies to Children, cont.

USING CHILDREN

Making her feel guilty
about the children

- using the children to relay messages
- using visitation to harass her
- threatening to take the children away.

Batterer may use children by:

- › Making the mother believe anything that happens to the children is her fault.
- › Using the children as confidants.
- › Threatening to take the children away, make an SRS report, or hurt the children if the mother reports the abuse or tries to leave the batterer.
- › Exposing the children to the abuse (i.e., through direct observation, overhearing, or knowing about the abuse).
- › Undermining the mother's efforts to parent the children.
- › Probing the children for information about the mother or her new partner.
- › Controlling the use of contraception or having children born close together; overwhelming the mother.
- › Causing physical harm to the children as a result of violence toward the mother.
- › Physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect perpetrated directly against the children.

USING MALE PRIVILEGE

Treating her like a servant • making all the big decisions • acting like the "master of the castle" • being the one to define men's and women's roles.

Batterer may use male privilege by:

- › Forcing the mother and the female children to do household duties.
- › Teaching the children to not respect women.
- › Centering family life around the batterer.
- › Demanding the children keep quiet about the abuse.
- › Demanding the mother handle the unpleasant or demanding tasks of child rearing.
- › Seeking custody after separation or frequently gaining custody rights based on inappropriate grounds.
- › Demanding the children meet the needs of the batterer.
- › Showing poor emotional boundaries.
- › Teaching that women are weak or stupid.
- › Having the ultimate authority but assuming no responsibility, including household chores or parenting.
- › Establishing rigid gender roles for the children.
- › Creating rules for everyone in the household to follow and changing the rules without warning.

CHILDREN & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Wheel as it Applies to Children, cont.

USING ECONOMIC ABUSE

Preventing her from getting or keeping a job • making her ask for money • giving her an allowance • taking her money • not letting her know about or have access to family income.

Batterer may use economic abuse by:

- › Creating poor credit for the mother so that she is unable to get financing on her own.
- › Controlling the family finances or withholding information about the family finances.
- › Giving the mother a meager allowance for her and the children's needs.
- › Withholding child support.
- › Refusing to help pay for necessities.
- › Creating reasons for the mother to lose her job (i.e., calling her work frequently, making her miss work, withholding transportation).
- › Disrupting child care arrangements needed to maintain employment.

USING COERCION AND THREATS

Making and/or carrying out threats to do something to hurt her

- threatening to leave her, to commit suicide, to report her to welfare
- making her drop charges
- making her do illegal things.

Batterer may use coercion and threats by:

- › Threatening to report the mother to welfare to impact her economic benefits or initiate a child maltreatment investigation.
- › Threatening that SRS will take the children away.
- › Making threats to harm the mother or the children if the mother leaves him.
- › Threatening to report the mother or the children to immigration authorities.
- › Making threats of retaliation toward the children who disclose abuse to outside helpers.
- › Threatening to abandon the children.
- › Making threats of suicide or other self-harm.

THE INVESTIGATION Prior Considerations

Prior to starting the investigation, consider the following:

- › The investigation is an opportunity to address the needs of the whole family.
- › Address risk, safety and protective factors in order to prevent unnecessary removal of the child(ren).
- › Assisting in enhancing the safety of the survivor is an opportunity to reduce risk to the child(ren).
- › Assume that male and female caretakers have an equal responsibility for the emotional and physical well-being of the child(ren).
- › Understanding the batterer's abusive and coercive tactics toward the survivor and the child(ren) can improve the safety and well-being of the child(ren).
- › Batterers can be helped to play a more positive role in the lives of their child(ren).
- › The use of violence, abuse and control are choices made by the batterer.
- › Send appropriate messages of responsibility for the abuse.
- › Be mindful of race, gender, ethnicity and class issues.

Safety considerations:

- › Consider the safety of the worker, survivor and child(ren) prior to the interview.
 - Should the worker go to the home with another worker?
 - Should the batterer or alleged perpetrator come in to the office?
 - Should law enforcement be notified or assist with the interview?
- › Consider any information that may suggest there is a threat to safety (i.e., batterer has threatened harm to himself or others, batterer has harmed himself or others, batterer has access to weapons).
- › Keep the survivor informed about the steps of the investigation so that she can plan for safety.
- › Interview the survivor before interviewing the batterer or alleged perpetrator.
- › Notify the survivor when the batterer interview will occur.
- › Do not share information provided by the survivor with the batterer.
- › Be prepared to discuss safety options with the survivor around the batterer interview and the investigation itself.

THE INVESTIGATION

Interviewing Tips

Interviewing tips when domestic violence is identified:

- › Interview all family members separately.
- › The survivor and the child(ren) are not likely to disclose information if they are in the presence of the batterer.
- › Interview the child(ren) outside the presence of the parents.
- › Conduct interviews in a location that is safe and comfortable for the child(ren).
- › Ask the survivor how she might approach talking to the child(ren) about the violence so that there exists an initial understanding of the child(ren)'s likely attitude or behavior.
- › Understand that the child(ren) may feel responsible for what happened or feel guilty for telling about the abuse.
- › Be aware that the survivor may think the worker is there to take the child(ren). The batterer may have threatened her with calling SRS and has reinforced the idea that the worker is there to take the child(ren).
- › A thorough understanding of battering tactics will assist in providing appropriate interventions and referrals.
- › Explore and ask about batterer tactics identified on the Power and Control Wheel. *See page 7*
- › Batterers may manipulate the interview in ways the worker may not be aware (i.e., takes control over the interview, tries to side with the worker, tries to triangulate professionals involved, portrays self as victim).

THE INVESTIGATION

Identifying Domestic Violence

Proper identification of the existence of domestic violence will assist the worker in determining appropriate interventions and referrals, as well as appropriate considerations for the safety of family members.

Ask about domestic violence:

- › Regardless of the nature of the original report.
- › Only if you are able to interview all family members separately.

Ask the interviewee:

- › Have you ever been hurt, threatened, or intimidated by a current or former partner?
- › Are you afraid of a current or former partner?
- › Has your partner ever forced you to do something you did not want to do?
- › Would working with our agency put you or your child(ren) in danger?
- › Has current or past abuse ever prevented you from going to work or going to school?
- › Has anyone taken away something you needed to be independent (i.e., medications, wheelchair, immigration papers, photo identification, birth certificates)?
- › Has your partner ever taken the child(ren) without permission, threatened to take the child(ren) away from you, or otherwise harmed the child(ren)?

Appropriate responses by the worker to the survivor include:

- › “You don’t deserve to be hurt.”
- › “It is not your fault.”
- › “You have a right to be safe.”
- › “I believe you.”
- › “There are voluntary, free and confidential services available to assist you with your needs. Would you like me to assist you in making contact with the local domestic violence program?” *See Appendix IV*

THE INVESTIGATION

Challenges for the Survivor

Survivors of domestic violence are faced with many challenges and barriers. Consider the following examples:

- › Fear of the batterer's behavior and what the batterer might do
- › Fear of threats and harassment by the batterer
- › Fear of stalking by the batterer
- › Fear for the child(ren) or of losing custody of the child(ren)
- › Fear of unsupervised parenting time with the batterer
- › Fear for other family members' safety
- › Emotional attachment or affection for the batterer
- › Economic reliance on the batterer
- › Conflicts with religious or cultural beliefs
- › Isolation or lack of support
- › Shame about the violence
- › Fear of deportation
- › Physical or mental disability

- › No place to go
- › Lack of resources
- › Hope the batterer will change his behavior
- › Lack of community or criminal justice demand for batterer accountability
- › Sense of hopelessness
- › Lack of job skills
- › Lack of resources for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities
- › Limited access to housing
- › Limited English proficiency
- › Fear of arrest
- › Fear of harm to pets

THE INVESTIGATION

Interviewing Children or Alleged Child Victims

Questions to ask children or alleged child victims:

- › Who lives in your home? Who else visits the home?
- › Do you have any pets?
- › Who are your favorite teachers, friends, or people?
- › What do you like to do with your mom?
- › What are things that bother you about your mom?
- › What do you like to do with your dad?
- › What are things that bother you about your dad?
- › What do you like to do with your brothers or sisters?
- › What are things that bother you about your brothers or sisters?
- › What happens when mom and dad disagree about...? When your mom and dad argue, what happens?
- › What happens when dad gets really mad? Has anyone ever been hurt when dad gets mad? Is that different or the same when mom gets mad? Has anyone ever been hurt when mom gets mad?
- › People can be hurt in a lot of different ways – by words, by touching (like hitting), or by other touching that bothers them or makes them feel uncomfortable. Have you ever seen or heard anything like this happening in your family?

- › What happens when you get in trouble? How does that make you feel?
- › What makes you feel scared at home? What do you do when you're scared? What makes you feel better?
- › Have you ever told anyone when you have been scared? Who did you tell? What happened after you told? Has anyone ever talked to you about what to do when you're scared?
- › What do you do when mom and dad are mad at each other?
- › Do you have a hard time sleeping? Do you have any bad dreams?
- › Do you think about this [child's words for the violence] a lot? When do you think about these things? When you're at school? With friends?
- › If you had something important to tell your mother, when would you tell her?

THE INVESTIGATION

Interviewing the Survivor

Questions to ask a survivor of domestic violence:

- › In what ways is your partner controlling? Has he ever prevented you from going to the following activities...(parent teacher conferences, doctor's appointments, family functions)? Is he jealous?
- › How often do you spend time with family and friends in supportive activities? Have you ever been prevented from spending time with them?
- › Does your partner ever monitor your activities? Your phone calls?
- › Does your partner ever call you names, insult you, or scream at you?
- › How are family finances handled? How do you feel about that?
- › How are the household responsibilities divided? How do you feel about that?
- › If you could change anything about your relationship, what would it be?
- › Has your partner ever hurt you, accidentally or on purpose? In what ways?
- › Do you feel safe? Have there been times when you didn't feel safe?
- › Do you have plans that help keep you safe? What are those? – *Note: These plans **cannot** be shared with anyone.*
- › Have you sought out safety or support from any agency or person in the past? How was that experience?

Children-focused questions:

- › Has the child(ren) ever been hurt, accidentally or on purpose?
- › Where is the child(ren) when the fighting happens? How does the child(ren) respond to the violence?
- › If the child(ren) is hurt, scared, or upset, are you allowed to comfort them?
- › How safe is the child(ren)?
- › Has the child(ren) ever expressed or indicated they worry about you?
- › Has your partner ever threatened to take the child(ren) away?
- › Has your partner ever threatened to harm the child(ren)?
- › How does the child(ren) interact with peers? Who are the child(ren)'s favorite teachers, friends, or people?
- › Is the child(ren) involved in any activities outside of the home?
- › Do you feel that if certain things about your relationship with your partner were different, that your relationship with the child(ren) also would be different?
- › How does the child(ren) treat you?
- › Does your partner undermine your parenting? In what ways?
- › How does your partner participate in the parenting?
- › How is the child(ren) disciplined?
- › Does your partner criticize the way you discipline? In what ways?

THE INVESTIGATION

Preparing for the Interview with the Batterer

Safety	Appropriate Approach	Prudence	Respect	Rapport
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Consider your safety, the safety of the survivor and the child victim. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Speak to collateral sources who have had contact with the batterer in the past such as partners, service providers, or law enforcement. * Become familiar with the batterer's tactics and behaviors, and then plan your approach to working with him. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Avoid getting into a power struggle with the batterer. * Stay focused on the issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Let the batterer tell his situation. * Be mindful of race, ethnicity and class issues. * Do not allow the batterer to use his culture as a justification for violent behavior. * Remember, this isn't about bad people, it's about harmful behavior. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Establish a working relationship with the batterer. * Take time to build rapport as it helps to engage the batterer and create a more positive outcome for the family, investigation and possible future investigations.

Attention to Fatherhood	Set Limits	Documentation	Accountability	Structure the Interview
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Many batterers want to be good fathers. * Have the batterer talk about how he feels his behaviors have affected his child. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * If the batterer is using tactics of intimidation and threats towards you, call his attention to it and request that he change his behavior. * Inform the batterer that if the interview needs to be ended due to his behavior, it will be documented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Approach the batterer with documentation of his behaviors and actions such as police reports, prior investigations, hospital records, EES records. * Tell the batterer the source of the information you received (i.e., “The police report says . . .”) * Make a concerted effort to get corroborating evidence. * Do not confront the batterer with survivor and/or child victim statements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Hold the batterer responsible for changing his behaviors. * Challenge the batterer’s minimization, denial and blame. * Ask the batterer to talk about what he did in the situation. * If the batterer blames others for what happened, continue to focus on how he contributed to the situation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Prior to the interview, have a sense of the goals and know what line of questioning will be most useful.

Adapted from: *Accountability and connection with abusive men: A new child protection response to increasing family safety*, (Mederos and Family Violence Prevention Fund, 2004).

THE INVESTIGATION

Interviewing the Batterer

Questions to ask the batterer:

- › Describe your relationship with your partner.
- › What goes well in the relationship? What do you disagree about?
- › Do you and your partner have conflicts? About what?
- › What happens when you have conflicts or strong disagreements?
- › What do you do when you feel angry, jealous, or possessive of your partner?
- › Does your partner seem afraid of you? In what ways?
- › Has your partner ever been hurt during an argument?
- › Where is the child(ren) when the argument happens? Has the child(ren) ever been hurt?
- › What do you think is the most important aspect of being a father? What does it take to be a good father?
- › How do you think the child(ren) is affected by what you did?
- › If you need to leave the home, do you have a place to stay? Can the worker help him find a place to stay?
- › How do you earn the child(ren)'s respect?
- › What did the child(ren) do when you did...[behaviors]?
- › What have you done to stop your violence? Have you asked anyone for help? What happened?

Children-focused questions:

- › Has the child(ren) ever been hurt, accidentally or on purpose?
- › Where is the child(ren) when the fighting happens? How does the child(ren) respond to the violence?
- › How safe is the child(ren)?
- › How safe does the child(ren) think you are?
- › How does the child(ren) interact with peers? Who are the child(ren)'s favorite teachers, friends, or people?
- › Is the child(ren) involved in any activities outside of the home?
- › How does the child(ren) treat you?
- › How is the child(ren) disciplined?

THE FINDING

Include in the finding:

- › Specific descriptions of the batterer's pattern of control.
- › Past violent behavior, threats, intimidating actions and other forms of control.
- › How the fear and uncertainty generated by the batterer's prior behavior continues to impact current parenting, decision making, risk assessment and safety of the survivor and the child(ren).
- › Details about the severity of the violence, extent of the injuries, duration of the incidents, unpredictability of violent behavior and the physical proximity to the child(ren).
- › If the child(ren) is being used as a way of gaining access to, or control over, the survivor.
- › An assessment of how these actions are impacting the child(ren).
- › Precise language affirming the batterer's role in harming the child(ren).
- › Description of battering behaviors that interfere with the parenting efforts of the survivor.

SEE PAGE 44, APPENDIX I, CASE FINDING DOCUMENTATION EXAMPLE

THE ASSESSMENT

Document Safety and Protective Actions

Document how the survivor has provided for the safety and well-being of the children:

- › How has the survivor's behavior helped the child(ren) or lessened the impact of the batterer's behavior?
- › Explore and acknowledge the survivor's strengths and ways in which she's protected the child(ren).
- › How has the survivor managed to keep herself and the child(ren) safe thus far?
- › In what ways has the survivor provided for safety that do not immediately appear to be safety strategies or protective actions?
- › What are the survivor's resources?
- › What does the survivor say that she needs? What does the survivor say the child(ren) need?
- › Help the survivor strategize around basic needs, options for safety, support systems and resources in the community.
- › Validate her experience as a survivor and as a non-abusive, protective parent.

Examples of safety strategies and protective actions (this is not intended to be used as a checklist):

- › Working with a domestic violence or sexual assault advocate or program.
- › Accessing a domestic violence shelter or homeless shelter.
- › Obtaining protection from abuse orders (PFA), restraining orders, or no contact orders.
- › Calling 911 or teaching the child(ren) to call 911.
- › Working to protect the child(ren) from the violence by sending them to stay with relatives or friends.

- › Notifying school officials of batterer’s potential for violence, the safety plan, emergency contact information, PFA, restraining order, heightened awareness to and possible changes in child(ren)’s behavior.
- › Talking to the child(ren) about how to respond to the violence.
- › Providing the child(ren) with age appropriate tools to understand and cope with the violence.
- › Identifying a person to assist with visitation to reduce potential for violence during transfer of the child(ren).
- › Taking the child(ren) to counselor or consulting with the child(ren)’s counselor.
- › Moving out of home with the child(ren). Seeking legal assistance or gaining custody of the child(ren).
- › Normalizing as much as possible by providing safe structure. Maintaining a routine.
- › Meeting basic needs.
- › Engaging the child(ren) with outside activities and relationships.
- › Attending school functions such as parent-teacher conferences.
- › Following family traditions.
- › Minimizing, denying, or refusing to talk about the abuse for fear of making it worse.
- › Leaving, going back, or staying in the relationship so the violence does not escalate.
- › Refusing or not following through with services to avoid angering the batterer.
- › Trying to improve the relationship or finding help for the batterer.

SEE PAGE 45, APPENDIX II, CASE ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION EXAMPLE A & B

THE ASSESSMENT

Document Batterer Responsibility

Document the batterer's responsibility for the abuse:

- › Connect the adverse impact on the child(ren) directly to the batterer's behavior.
- › Document how the batterer has interfered with the "normal development" of the child(ren).
- › Document how the batterer has interfered with the survivor's parenting (i.e., undermining of the survivor's actions or attempts to provide safety for the child(ren), undermining the survivor's attempts to engage the child(ren) in age appropriate activities).
- › Assess what information about the batterer's behavior needs to be given to the child(ren)'s therapist, if applicable.

SEE PAGE 47, APPENDIX III, CASE ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION EXAMPLE

FAMILY SAFETY PLANS - SERVICE PLANS - CASE PLANS

Services for Batterer

- › Batterers should always have separate and individualized family safety plans/service plans/case plans from the survivor.
- › Work in conjunction with the court, court services, or other community agencies, if involved (i.e., probation can include the same tasks as the child welfare safety plan/service plan/case plan, creating more oversight and accountability and less opportunity for manipulation of agencies and professionals).

Include the following recommendations specific to the batterer:

- › The batterer will not use further violence towards any member of the household, including pets.
- › The batterer will not use further intimidating behavior towards any member of the household, including, but not limited to, verbal threats, destruction of property, throwing objects and punching walls.
- › The batterer will have all weapons removed from the premises, including, but not limited to, guns, bow and arrows, shotguns, knives and hunting rifles.
- › The batterer will not use physical discipline with the child(ren).
- › The batterer will not deny partner access to phone, vehicle, or other forms of communication or transportation.
- › If separated, the batterer will make no unwanted or unexpected visits to survivor's home or place of employment.
- › The batterer will respect all existing court orders, including protective orders, restraining orders, custody and visitation orders, and child support orders.

- › The batterer will not interfere with the other parent's efforts to seek services for herself and the child(ren).
- › In lieu of the formal child support order, the batterer will maintain financial support for the child(ren), regardless of whether he resides with them.
- › The batterer will support all reasonable efforts to provide the child(ren) with appropriate services, including child care and health care.
- › The batterer will disclose to partner all information relevant to child abuse and domestic violence, including prior arrests and prior CFS cases with other child(ren).
- › The batterer will share with partner all relevant information about income and family financial circumstances.
- › The batterer will disclose to partner all information relevant to partner's immigration status, immigration concerns and immigration proceedings. The batterer will provide partner with her immigration documentation. The batterer will disclose to partner his immigration status.
- › The batterer will seek a batterers' intervention program evaluation and comply with the recommendations of that program to address issues of control and abuse. *(Continued on page 41.)*

FAMILY SAFETY PLANS - SERVICE PLANS - CASE PLANS

Services for Batterer

Recommendations specific to the batterer, cont.:

- › Therapeutic treatment for the batterer, including batterers' intervention programs, will have as its goals: the cessation of violent, abusive and controlling behaviors toward the adult partner; the cessation of violent and abusive behaviors toward any child(ren) in the home; education about the effects of violence, abuse and controlling behaviors on family members; collateral contact with the adult survivor and the referring agency for exchange of information about the purpose and limitations of the counseling, the batterer's pattern of abuse and violence, and other relevant information about the batterer.
- › The batterer will stay involved with any mental health counseling and follow treatment recommendations, including taking prescribed medications.
- › When necessary, the batterer will seek and follow recommendations of a substance abuse evaluation.
- › The batterer will be able to acknowledge a majority of past abusive and violent behavior toward the survivor and the child(ren), including, but not limited to, detailing the abusive nature of physical and nonphysical actions; displaying an understanding of the impact of these behaviors on his partner, the child(ren) and himself; displaying an ability to discuss his own abusive actions without blaming others or outside circumstances for his behavior; being able to demonstrate non-abusive, non-violent behavior when in prior similar circumstances he would have become violent or abusive.

FAMILY SAFETY PLANS - SERVICE PLANS - CASE PLANS

Services for Survivor

- › Seek to understand the survivor's experience of domestic violence and what the survivor believes are challenges and barriers. *See page 22*
- › By exploring barriers with the survivor, the worker can help to safety plan, refer to appropriate services and assist in minimizing some of the identified barriers to safety.
- › Keep in mind that the survivor is the expert on her life and may feel that it is safest to stay in the relationship.
- › The survivor's safety risk will likely be impacted when she is seeking independence from the batterer. This may happen when she is preparing to leave, when she is leaving, or for many months or years after leaving.

Referrals for survivors as appropriate to the individual's needs:

- › Local domestic violence or sexual assault program (these services are voluntary and should not be mandated) *See Appendix IV*
- › Kansas Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline 1-888-END ABUSE (367-2287)
- › Mental health services for trauma-focused therapy
- › Mental health services or family therapy for the survivor and the child(ren)
- › Drug and alcohol recovery services
- › Credit counseling
- › Legal services

- › Supervised visitation and exchange services
- › Housing resources
- › Family Preservation Services
- › Economic and Employment Services/OARS
- › Child care assistance
- › Law enforcement, if in immediate danger

APPENDICES

Appendix I:

Case Finding Documentation Example (exerpt)

SRS completed an investigation regarding Cindy Smith, 8 years old, in which Mr. Smith, father, was alleged to have engaged in violent acts toward Ms. Smith, mother, in Cindy's presence. Based on law enforcement records, there have been three separate incidents in the past year where Mr. Smith has harmed Ms. Smith, requiring Ms. Smith to receive medical treatment. All three incidents involved Mr. Smith threatening Ms. Smith or Cindy with weapons. In one event, Cindy called law enforcement for help. In the most recent event, Cindy wrestled Mr. Smith in an attempt to get the gun away from him. School records indicate Cindy has missed school for one or two days following the dates of last two incidents. At the time of the first incident, Cindy's teacher made a referral to the grade school counselor because Cindy was uncharacteristically withdrawn and tearful. School records indicate the number of Cindy's aggressive episodes have increased, while Cindy's grades have declined in the past year. Therapist's reports regarding Cindy and Ms. Smith indicate Cindy has anxiety reactions ranging from aggressive behavior to uncontrollable crying events. The therapist believes these behaviors to be a result of Mr. Smith's violent incidents in the home. In the social worker's interview with Cindy, she expressed being fearful of her father, especially when he raises his voice or argues with her mother. Mr. Smith does not deny arguing with his wife but claims her injuries are the result of her lack of coordination. Mr. Smith has terrorized Cindy by creating a climate of fear and engaging in violent and threatening behavior toward Cindy and toward Ms. Smith in Cindy's presence that demonstrates a flagrant disregard for Cindy. Due to child's behaviors and performance at school, child expressing fear and therapist's description of child's emotional health, there is clear and convincing evidence of emotional abuse as defined by KAR due to alleged perpetrator's acts which impairs or endangers the child's social or intellectual functioning.

Appendix II:

Case Assessment Documentation Example A

Ms. Smith has engaged in a pattern of supporting the safety and well-being of her child. Ms. Smith engaged in age appropriate play, attempted to defuse her partner's anger and abusive behavior through the avoidance of his questions, placating him by providing him with a beer and engaging him in a conversation about chores, redirecting the conversation, reminding her partner about their child's needs, preparing dinner for the family, defending her parenting and her child's participation in age appropriate play. She also resisted her partner's abuse by standing up to his verbal abuse and actively tried to remove herself and her daughter from her partner's abusive behaviors but was prevented from doing so by her partner's intimidating and threatening behavior.

Case Assessment Documentation Example B

While Ms. Smith engaged in a series of efforts to shield her child from her father's verbal abuse, threats and intimidation, father continued to choose to expose his child to verbal abuse, threats and intimidation of her mother. Mother's age appropriate play and her efforts to shield her child from her father's abuse should be seen as clear strengths as a parent. Mother appears to be actively engaged in supporting her child's safety and well-being.

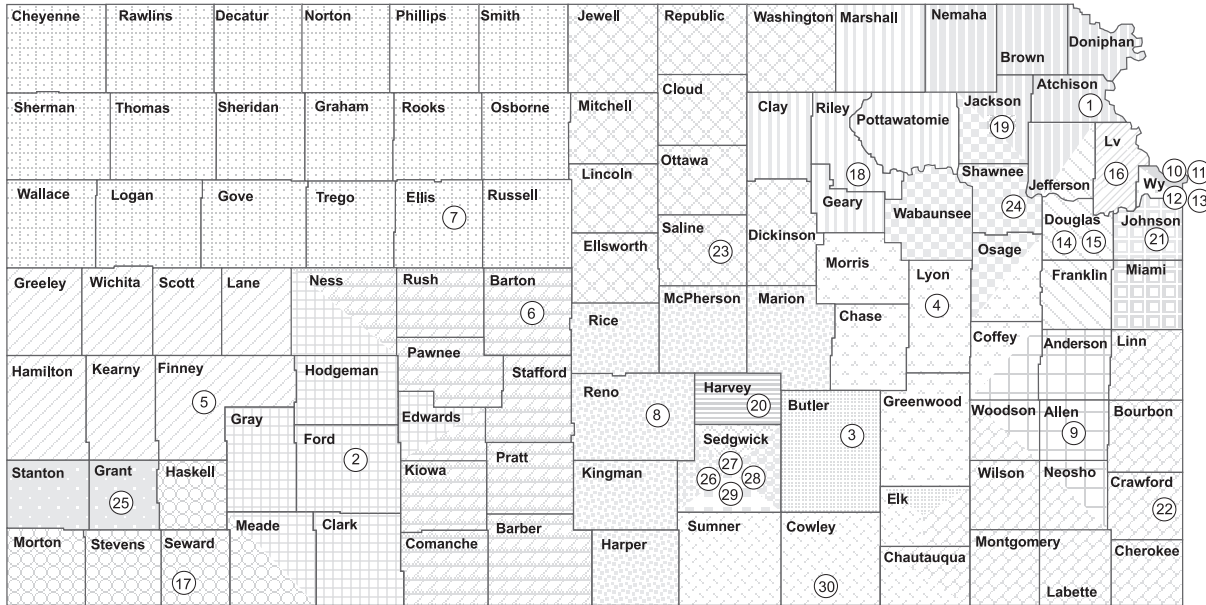
APPENDICES, cont.

Appendix III:

Case Assessment Documentation Example

Mr. Smith's pattern of coercive control has adversely impacted the family functioning in the following ways:
Mr. Smith's assaultive behaviors have compromised the safety of the home and led to police involvement. This has led to a disruption in the home and required Ms. Smith to relocate with their child. It is reasonable to assume that this relocation has required some degree of adjustment for both Ms. Smith and their child. Further adjustment had been required of Ms. Smith as she has recently obtained employment and sought suitable child care for their child. The separation from Mr. Smith has created additional financial stressors for Ms. Smith and their child. Additionally, the separation from Mr. Smith has the potential to interfere with a healthy father/child relationship.

Appendix IV: Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Programs in Kansas



DV = domestic violence services provided SA = sexual assault services provided DV/SA = both services provided

CITY	SERVICES	KCSADV MEMBER PROGRAM	CRISIS HOTLINE NUMBER
1. Atchison	DV/SA	DoVES	800-367-7075 or 913-367-0363
2. Dodge City	DV/SA	Crisis Center of Dodge City	620-225-6510
3. El Dorado	DV/SA	Family Life Center of Butler County	800-870-6967 or 316-321-7104

4. Emporia	DV/SA	SOS, Inc.	800-825-1295 or 620-342-1870
5. Garden City	DV/SA	Family Crisis Services	620-275-5911
6. Great Bend	DV/SA	Family Crisis Center	866-792-1885 or 620-792-1885
7. Hays	DV/SA	Northwest Kansas Domestic and Sexual Violence Services	800-794-4624 or 785-625-3055
8. Hutchinson	DV/SA	Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Center	800-701-3630 or 620-663-2522
9. Iola	DV/SA	Hope Unlimited	620-365-7566
10. Kansas City, KS	DV	El Centro, Inc. ¡Si Se Puede!	913-677-0177
11. Kansas City, KS	DV	Friends of Yates Joyce Williams Center	913-321-0951
12. Kansas City, MO	DV/SA	KCAVP	816-561-0550
13. Kansas City, MO	SA	MOCSA	816-531-0233
14. Lawrence	SA	GaDuGi Safe Center	785-841-2345
15. Lawrence	DV	The Willow Domestic Violence Center	800-770-3030 or 785-843-3333
16. Leavenworth	DV/SA	Alliance Against Family Violence	800-644-1441 or 913-682-9131
17. Liberal	DV/SA	Liberal Area Rape Crisis and DV Services	620-624-8818
18. Manhattan	DV/SA	The Crisis Center, Inc.	800-727-2785 or 785-539-2785
19. Mayetta	DV/SA	Prairie Band Potawatomi Family Violence Prevention Program	866-966-0173 or 785-966-2932
20. Newton	DV/SA	Harvey County DV/SA Task Force	800-487-0510 or 316-283-0350
21. Overland Park	DV/SA	Safehome	888-432-4300 or 913-262-2868
22. Pittsburg	DV/SA	Crisis Resource Center of Southeast Kansas, Inc.	800-794-9148 or 620-231-8251
23. Salina	DV/SA	Domestic Violence Assoc. of Central Kansas	800-874-1499 or 785-827-5862
24. Topeka	DV/SA	YWCA Center for Safety and Empowerment	888-822-2983 or 785-354-7927
25. Ulysses	DV/SA	DoVES of Grant County	888-229-8812 or 620-356-2608
26. Wichita	DV	Catholic Charities Harbor House	866-899-5522 or 316-263-6000
27. Wichita	DV	StepStone	316-265-1611
28. Wichita	SA	Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center	316-263-3002 or 316-263-2044
29. Wichita	DV	YWCA Women's Crisis Center	316-267-7233
30. Winfield	DV/SA	Safe Homes, Inc.	800-794-7672 or 620-221-4357

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Agency Name:

Contact Person:

Phone:

REFERENCES

For a complete list of in-text citations, contact KCS DV, www.kcsdv.org

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Produced by the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence and
Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services Children and Family Services

July 2009