

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence and emotional abuse are behaviors used by one person in a relationship to control the other. Partners may be married or not married; heterosexual, gay, or lesbian; living together, separated, or dating.

Forms of Domestic Violence:

- Physical Violence
- Sexual Violence
- Economic Control
- Psychological Abuse
- Emotional Abuse

Substantial Risk of Physical Abuse

# IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON THE FAMILY

## **Adult Victim**

- Produces thinking errors
- Changes affect and mood
- Changes self-view
- Changes world view
- Psychological/Physiologic consequences

## **Adult Victim/ Parenting**

- Inattentive

## **Batterer Parenting**

- Authoritarian
- Under-involved
- Undermines the victim's authority and parenting
- Use of children as weapons
- Limited sense of age-appropriateness
- Children seen as possessions

## **Child**

- Risk of injuries and bodily harm
- Impaired brain functioning
- Distorted images of relationships, family, and gender roles
- Depression
- Antisocial behaviors
- Low self-esteem
- Behavior and attention problems in school
- Delinquent behavior in adolescence
- Violent behavior in adulthood
- Poor coping behaviors
- Aggressive behavior with peers
- Ambivalent relationships with caregivers

Bragg, H. L. (2003). *Child Protection in Families Experiencing Domestic Violence*. US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect.

## EFFECTS OF DV BY AGE LEVELS

Prenatal	Infants	Toddlers & Preschoolers	School-Age	Teenagers
<p>Increased miscarriages due to increased beatings and/or mother's stress</p> <p>Poor health due to mother's stress and lack of proper nutrition</p>	<p>Crying and irritability</p> <p>Sleep Disturbances</p> <p>Digestive problems</p>	<p>More aggressive than other children</p> <p>More withdrawn than other children</p> <p>Impaired cognitive abilities</p> <p>Delays in verbal development</p> <p>Poor motor abilities</p> <p>General fearfulness</p> <p>Anxiety</p> <p>Stomach aches</p> <p>Nightmares</p> <p>Lack of bowel and bladder control in children over three years</p> <p>Lack of confidence to begin new tasks</p>	<p>Poor grades, or in special classes</p> <p>Failure of one or more grade levels</p> <p>Poor social skills</p> <p>Low self-esteem</p> <p>General aggressiveness</p> <p>Violence outbursts of anger</p> <p>Bullying or withdrawn, dependent</p> <p>Bed wetting</p> <p>Nightmares</p> <p>Digestive problems, ulcers</p> <p>Headaches</p>	<p>Poor grades, failure in school, quits school</p> <p>Low self-esteem</p> <p>Refuses to bring friends home</p> <p>Stays away from home or runs away</p> <p>Feels responsible to take care of home and mother</p> <p>Violent outbursts of anger, destroying property</p> <p>Poor judgment, irresponsible decision making</p> <p>Unable to communicate feelings</p> <p>Immaturity</p> <p>Withdrawn, few friends</p> <p>Nightmares</p> <p>Ulcers, digestive problems</p> <p>Bed wetting</p> <p>Headaches</p> <p>Severe acne</p> <p>Hits their girlfriend or boyfriend</p>

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## CRIMINAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Acts of domestic abuse under the Protection from Domestic Abuse (20-4-20) are defined as:

- (1) Physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or the threat of physical harm;
- (2) Sexual criminal offenses, as otherwise defined by statute, committed against a family or household member by a family or household member;

(b) "Household member" means:

- (i) a spouse;
- (ii) a former spouse;
- (iii) persons who have a child in common;
- (iv) a male and female who are cohabiting or formerly have cohabited.

**South Carolina is ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in national statistics regarding homicides due to CDV.**

## WHAT CAUSES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?<sup>6</sup>

- A need to have power and control over an intimate partner
- An effective strategy for creating and maintaining power and control
- Embedded in our social customs and institutions
- Entitlement right to use physical or sexual violence
- A learned behavior
  - Observation
  - Experience and reinforcement
  - Culture
  - Family
  - Communities: schools, peer groups

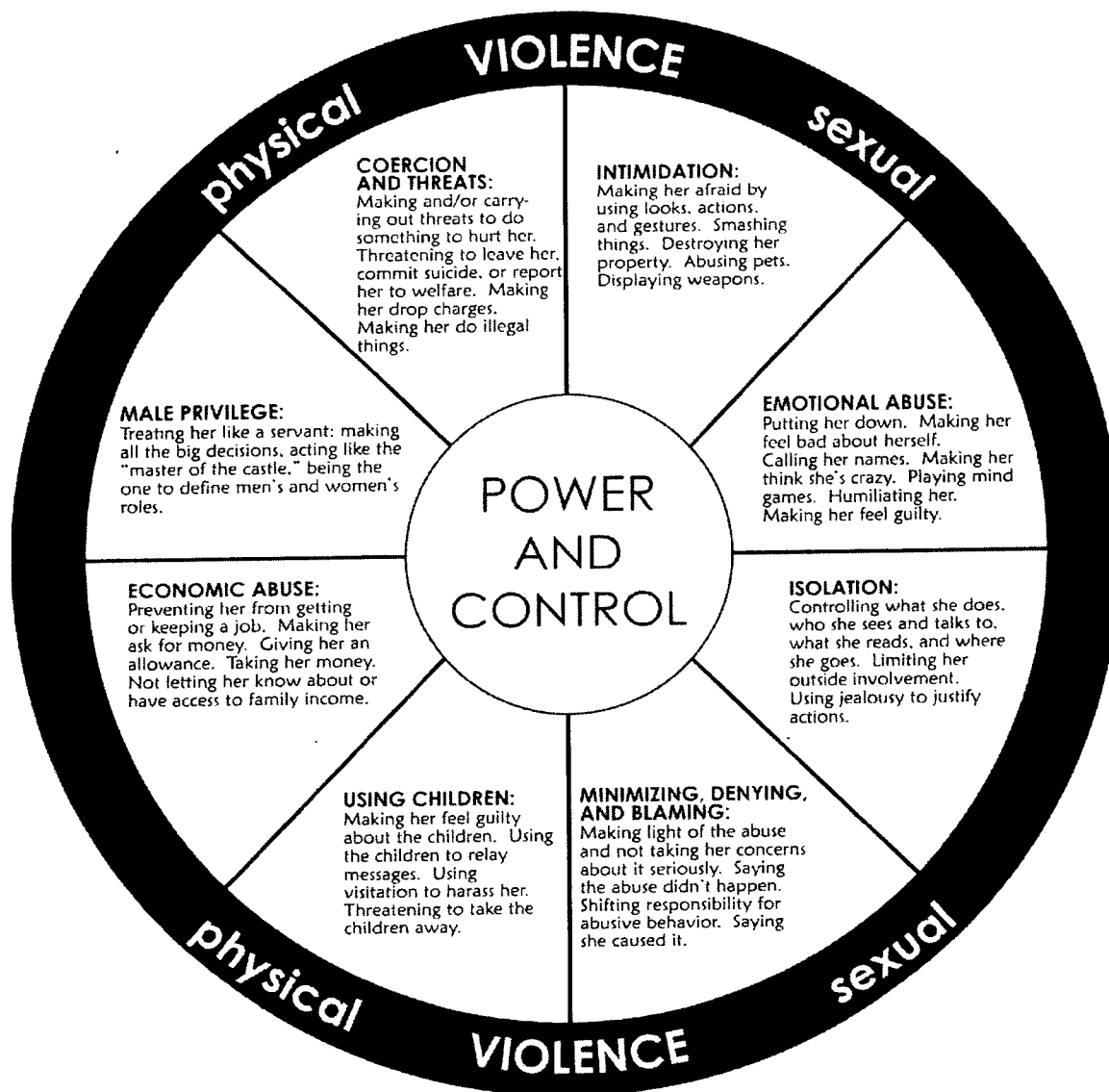
*Domestic Violence is a learned and culturally reinforced pattern of behavior that, without intervention, becomes more destructive over time.*

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<sup>6</sup>SCCADAVASA.(n.d.).*Defining Domestic Violence*. Retrieved January 31, 2011, from:  
<http://sccadvasa.org/domestic-violence-facts-and-stats/defining-domestic-violence.html>

# POWER AND CONTROL

The Power & Control diagram is a helpful tool in understanding the overall pattern of abusive and violent behaviors used by a batterer to establish and maintain control over the victim. Very often, one or more violent incidents are accompanied by an array of these other types of abuse. They are less easily identified, yet firmly establish a pattern of intimidation and control in the relationship.



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Domestic Abuse Intervention Project.(n.d.)*Wheel Gallery*. Retrieved October 4, 2011, from <http://www.theduluthmodel.org/training/wheels.html>

# BARRIERS TO LEAVING

**Fear**

**Isolation**

**Financial Dependence**

**Guilt and Shame**

**Emotional and Physical Impairment**

**Individual Belief System**

**Hope, Community Services and Societal Values**

**Cultural Hurdles**

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## DANGEROUSNESS

- Threats or thoughts of homicide and suicide
- Possession or access to weapons
- Use of weapons in a threatening or intimidating manner
- Extreme jealousy or obsession with the victim
- Physical attacks, verbal threats, and stalking during a separation or divorce
- Kidnapping or hostage taking
- Sexual assault or rape
- Prior abusive incidents that resulted in serious injury
- History of violence with previous partners and children
- Psychopathology or substance abuse

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## MICHAEL'S STORY

*Instructions: Read "Michael's Story". List the indicators and dynamics of abuse/neglect and the impact on Michael, Mom, and Dad, if applicable.*

### Michael's Story<sup>7</sup>

4:00 P.M.

Michael jumps down the bus steps clutching his creative writing paper in his hand. He can't wait to show his dad the A+ he got for his poem on hunting. He bounds up the back porch steps, racing into the kitchen and nearly knocking over his mom. Michael exclaims, "Look, Mom, wait 'til you see my English paper. An A+! What's for supper?"

"Wow, honey, that's great. Your dad will really be pleased. We're having spaghetti, tossed salad, and garlic bread for supper. And guess what? I baked your Halloween cookies for the school party tomorrow."

"I hope you didn't put raisins in them," Michael groans.

"No, Michael, I used chocolate chips instead."

"That's good. I don't want everyone to think I have a nerd for a mother." Michael hesitates, "You're not going to be sick again tomorrow, are you?"

"Michael, I know I haven't been party Mom for a while, but you know I couldn't help it. I'm really looking forward to going to the party tomorrow and helping Mrs. Jones."

"Well, she said to remind you not to forget this time."

7:30 P.M.

"Mom, I'm starving! Where's Dad? Do we have to wait for him to eat?"

Mom tenses and sighs. She hopes there wasn't a problem at the regional sales meeting. It's getting late, and she and Michael can't wait all night. He should have called if there was a delay. Bad sign. "Sure, honey, let's go ahead. Daddy can eat when he gets here."

Mom and Michael dig into dinner as they discuss tomorrow's Halloween party and what costume Mom should wear to serve her cookies and help Mrs. Jones.

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<sup>7</sup> The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program. (n.d.). *Michael's Story*. Retrieved October 4, 2011, from: <http://www.pacwcbt.pitt.edu/Curriculum/310DomesticViolenceIssuesAnIntroductionforChildWelfareProfessionals/Handouts/HO8MichaelsStory.pdf>.

Just then, the front door bangs open.

"God damn it, Helen, how many times do I have to tell you to make the paper boy put the paper inside the front door, not on the lawn? Can't you even do one simple chore right?"

Ed throws his briefcase across the kitchen floor and continues: "It certainly was nice of you to wait for me for dinner. I don't know why I even bothered to come home."

"Gee, Ed, it's seven thirty. We were hungry. But sit down while I get yours.

"We just started, really," Michael adds. Ed glares at Michael and casts a disgusted look at Helen.

"Hey Dad, look at the A+ I got on my poem!"

"An A+ on a poem, Michael. Let's get serious. What are you, a wimp or something? Science and math are the subjects to get A's in. Real men don't write poetry!" he grunts.

Michael is about to protest that the poem was about their hunting trip together, but Helen interrupts, "Ed, please, not tonight. I worked for hours on dinner. Can't we have just one dinner in peace?"

"Well, didn't you have a tough day? Did your girlfriends come over for coffee this morning? Did you talk all afternoon on the phone to your sister?"

Helen says nothing, but glances at Michael, who is playing with his food.

Ed takes a bite of his spaghetti. "God, Helen, this is mushy. Can't you do anything right?" he screams.

Michael whispers under his breath, "It's your fault. You were late."

Ed slams his fist on the table, knocking over Michael's drink and spilling it all over his poem. "That's enough out of you, young man. Go to your room!"

Michael's eyes glaze over, but he blinks back the tears and swallows hard, and runs to his room. In his room, he turns on MTV. The music bounces and rocks to a beat that doesn't quite muffle the noises from the kitchen.

"Please, Ed, don't!" A jarring sound, wall pictures rattling, glass breaking, and muffled screams. "Stop! Stop!" his mother begs.

"Come back here, bitch. This is all your fault. Don't even think about running away from me!"

Michael pounds his fist into the bed and hides his head under the pillow, sobbing.

7:00 A.M.

Michael wakes up from a troubled sleep and remembers his parents' fighting.

He tentatively slips past their bedroom and into the kitchen.

His mother sits at the kitchen table, her head down over a cup of coffee. "I'm sorry, Michael, I'm too sick to be homeroom mother today." She raises her head. Michael sees that her eyes are swollen from crying. Her lip is cracked and bloody and there are marks around her neck.

"My stomach hurts. Can I stay home too?" Michael pleads.

At this point, Michael's father enters the room and says, "There's nothing wrong with you. Get dressed, you're going to school!" Ed looks at Helen sheepishly and stammers, "Honey, about last night. I'm really sorry. I promise, it will never happen again. You and Michael know how much I love you."

Michael has heard this before. He sighs heavily and trudges back into his room to get ready for school.

### **Indicators/ Dynamics**

#### **Impact**

*Child*

*Mom*

*Dad*

# GUIDELINES FOR INTERVIEWING FAMILIES

Routinely inquire about domestic violence

Interview adult victim alone

Never disclose victim's statements to perpetrator

Build stronger connection with adult victim

## **Develop safety plan:**

*(Refer client to a Domestic Violence Organization)*

- Escape routes
- Places to go
- Survival kit
- Avoid arguments in dangerous areas
- Telephone numbers
- Review plan and make changes as necessary

## DOCUMENTATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Avoid language that blames victims for the violence

Hold perpetrators accountable for their behavior



Identify effects of domestic violence on the abused partner and children

Identify behavior that poses a threat to safety of children

Identify actions implemented to ensure and maintain safety

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(Updated 10/15/12)

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**Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Assault**

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**Safe Harbor, Inc.**

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**Safe Passage, Inc.**

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# INTERVIEWING QUESTIONS

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ASSESSMENT: VICTIM

Do not initiate an assessment with a series of rapid fire, personal questions, which can be intimidating and off-putting. The caseworker should talk with the victim about his or her situation, which helps engage the victim in the process. It is important to ask specific questions, however, to determine the level of domestic violence affecting the victim.

### 1. Types and patterns of abusive tactics

#### a. Controlling, coercive, and threatening tactics

- Does your partner prevent you from visiting friends and family?
- Does your partner prevent you from going to school or work?
- Does your partner tell you what to wear, what to do, where you can go, or whom you can talk to?
- Does your partner control the household income?
- Does your partner follow you to “check up” on you or check the mileage on your car?
- Does your partner telephone you constantly while you are at work or home?
- Does your partner give you threatening looks or stares when he does not agree with something you said or did?

#### b. Verbal, emotional, sexual, or physical abuse

- Does your partner call you degrading names, put you down, or humiliate you in public or in front of friends or family?
- Does your partner blame you or tell you that you are at “fault” for the abuse or any problems you’re having?
- Does your partner deny or minimize his abusive behaviors towards you?
- Has your partner ever destroyed your personal possessions?  
Broken or destroyed household items?
- Has your partner ever pushed, kicked, slapped, punched, or choked you?
- Has your partner ever threatened to kill or harm himself, you, the children, or a pet?
- Has your partner ever threatened you with a weapon or gun? Does your partner have access to a dangerous weapon or gun?
- Has your partner ever been arrested for a violent crime or behaved violently in public?

- Has your partner ever forced you to commit illegal activities, use illegal drugs, or abuse alcohol?
- Has your partner ever forced you to engage in unwanted sexual activity or practices (e.g., pornography, multiple sexual partners, prostitution)?

## **2. Risks and impact on the adult victim**

- a. How has your partner's abusive behavior affected you?
- b. Do you suffer from anxiety or depression?
- c. Do you have difficulty sleeping, eating, concentrating, etc.?
- d. Do you suffer from headaches, stomachaches, breathing difficulties, or other problems?
- e. Have you had to seek medical assistance for injuries or health problems resulting from your partner's violence?
- f. Have you been physically assaulted during pregnancy? Have you suffered prenatal problems or a miscarriage as a result of the abuse?
- g. Do you abuse alcohol or other substances?
- h. Have you ever been hospitalized for a mental illness? Do you have a mental health diagnosis? Are you taking psychotropic medication?
- i. Have you ever thought about hurting or tried to hurt yourself or someone else?

## **3. Risks and impact on the children**

- a. Has your partner called your children degrading names or verbally threatened them?
- b. Has your partner ever threatened to make a report to CPS, take custody of the children, or kidnap the children?
- c. Does your partner physically discipline or touch the children in a manner that you don't agree with or that makes you uncomfortable?
- d. Has your partner ever asked the children to report your daily activities or to "spy" on you?
- e. Has your partner ever forced your children to watch or participate in his abuse of you?
- f. Has your partner physically hurt you in front of the children?
- g. Do your children exhibit problems at school or at home (e.g., sleeping and eating difficulties, difficulty concentrating in school, aggressive behavior)?
- h. Has a school or daycare center ever contacted you regarding behavioral problems of your children?

## **4. Help-seeking and protective strategies**

- a. Have you told anyone about the abuse? What happened?

- b. Have you ever left home because of the abuse? Where did you go? What happened?
- c. Have you ever called the police or 911? What was their response?
- d. Have you ever filed a restraining order or criminal charges? What was your partner's response?
- e. Have you ever used a domestic violence shelter or services? Was it helpful?
- f. Have you fought back? What happened?
- g. How do you survive the abuse?
- h. What have you tried to keep you and your children safe from your partner?
- i. What has made it difficult to keep you and your children safe?
- j. How will your partner react if he finds out you talked to me?

Ganley, A. L., & Schechter, S. (1996). *Domestic violence: A national curriculum for child protective services*. San Francisco, CA: Family Violence Prevention Fund; Massachusetts Department of Social Services' Domestic Violence Protocol. (1995). Unpublished practice protocol, Massachusetts Department of Social Services, Boston, MA; Bragg, L. (1998). *Domestic violence protocol for child protective services intervention*. Charlotte, NC: Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services.

## INTERVIEWING QUESTIONS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ASSESSMENT: CHILD

In order to obtain accurate and reliable information from a child regarding a domestic violence situation, it is critical that the language and questions are appropriate for the child's age and developmental stage. Training and experience in working with young children in particular may be necessary.

1. Types and frequency of exposure to domestic violence
  - a. What kinds of things do mom and dad (or boyfriend/girlfriend) fight about?
  - b. What happens when they argue?
  - c. Do they yell at each other or call each other bad names?
  - d. Does anyone break or smash things when they get angry? Who?
  - e. Do they hit one another? What do they hit with?
  - f. How does the hitting usually start?
  - g. How often do your mom and dad argue or hit?
  - h. Have the police ever come to your home? Why?
  - i. Have you ever seen your mom or dad get hurt? What happened?
  
2. Risks posed by the domestic violence
  - a. Have you ever been hit or hurt when mom and dad (or girlfriend/boyfriend) are fighting?
  - b. Has your brother or sister ever been hit or hurt during a fight?
  - c. What do you do when they start arguing or someone starts hitting?
  - d. Has your mom or dad ever hurt your pet?
  
3. Impact of exposure to domestic violence
  - a. Do you think about mom and dad (or girlfriend/boyfriend) fighting a lot?
  - b. Do you think about it when you're at school, while you're playing, when you're by yourself?
  - c. How does the fighting make you feel?
  - d. Do you ever have trouble sleeping at night? Why? Do you have nightmares? If so, what are they about?
  - e. Why do you think they fight so much?
  - f. What would you like them to do to make it better?
  - g. Are you afraid to be at home? To leave home?
  - h. What or who makes you afraid?



- i. Do you think it's okay to hit when you're angry? When is it okay to hit someone?
- j. How would you describe your mom? How would you describe your dad?

#### 4. Protective factors

- a. What do you do when mom and dad are fighting?
- b. If the child has difficulty responding to open-ended questions, the worker can ask if the child has:
  - Stayed in the room
  - Left or hidden
  - Gotten help
  - Gone to an older sibling
  - Asked parents to stop
  - Tried to stop the fighting
- c. Have you ever called the police when your parents were fighting?
- d. Have you ever talked to anyone about your parents' fighting?
- e. Is there an adult you can talk to about what's happening at home?
- f. What makes you feel better when you think about your parents' fighting?

Ganley, A. L., & Schechter, S. (1996). *Domestic violence: A national curriculum for child protective services*. San Francisco, CA: Family Violence Prevention Fund; Massachusetts Department of Social Services' Domestic Violence Protocol. (1995). Unpublished practice protocol, Massachusetts Department of Social Services, Boston, MA; Bragg, L. (1998). *Domestic violence protocol for child protective services intervention*. Charlotte, NC: Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services.

# INTERVIEWING QUESTIONS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ASSESSMENT: ALLEGED PERPETRATOR

Increasingly, CPS develops service plans with perpetrators, as appropriate. These plans not only work toward holding the perpetrator accountable for the abuse, but also guide decisions about involvement and interaction with the children. It is as important to engage the perpetrator as it is the victim and children in order to obtain accurate and useful information.

## **1. Expectations of the abused partner and the relationship**

- a. Describe your relationship with your partner. For example, how do you communicate with one another?
- b. What type of things do you expect from your partner?
- c. How would you describe your partner?
- d. What do you do when you and your partner disagree?
- e. What do you do when you become angry?

## **2. Types of abusive behaviors and tactics**

- a. Have people told you that your temper is a problem? Who? And why did they tell you that?
- b. How do you feel about your partner visiting his or her friends and family?
- c. How do you and your partner manage your household duties and income?
- d. Do you ever yell at your partner? Call your partner degrading names? Put your partner down?
- e. Have you ever physically harmed or used force on anyone in your family? In what way? When?
- f. Has your partner made you so mad that you pushed, kicked, or slapped him or her? Held him or her down? Grabbed him or her by the neck?
- g. Have you ever threatened to harm or kill yourself, your partner, your children, or your pet?
- h. Have you ever threatened or used a weapon or gun against your partner? Do you have access to a weapon or gun?
- i. Have the police ever come to your home? How many times? Why? What happened?
- j. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or convicted of a domestic violence assault? If so, what happened?

### 3. Risks to the children

- a. How would you describe your children?
- b. What kinds of things do you expect from your children?
- c. How do you discipline your children?
- d. How do you think the children are affected when they see or hear you and your partner fighting?
- e. Have your children ever had to intervene during an argument with your partner? Why and what happened?

### 4. Risk factors that may increase levels of dangerousness

- a. Did you ever see either of your parents harmed by a spouse or significant other? If so, what did you do and how did it make you feel?
- b. Were you ever harmed as a child?
- c. When was the last time you drank or used an illegal substance? How much?
- d. Have you ever attended a substance abuse program or been arrested for DUI?
- e. Have you ever been treated for depression?
- f. Have you previously been violent with your partner? With others?
- g. Have you experienced pervasive thoughts of homicide or suicide? Attempts?

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All three questionnaires republished from *Child Protection in Families Experiencing Domestic Violence*. H. L. Bragg. (2003). US Dept. of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect.