

Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Guidelines for Responding to Child Maltreatment and Domestic Violence





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Introduction

There is growing evidence of the co-occurrence of adult domestic violence and child maltreatment. Child protective services must begin to develop protocols that formally address both of these issues. Best practice in the intervention and treatment of child maltreatment should address the co-occurrence of domestic violence. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide direction to child protection staff when responding to situations in which child maltreatment and domestic violence are both occurring.

Definition

Domestic violence is the establishment of control and fear in a relationship through the use of violence and other forms of abuse. The adult committing domestic violence may use physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, economic oppression, isolation, threats, intimidation and maltreatment of children to control the other person. Relationships involving domestic violence may differ in terms of the severity or pattern of abuse but control is the primary goal of all abusive partners.

This is a common practice definition of domestic violence and does not fully parallel Minnesota statute.



Important Facts

- Research shows that violence against women is consistent across all racial and ethnic groups.
- One-third of homicides of women are committed by a current or former intimate partner whereas only 4 percent of homicides of men are committed by intimate partners (Fox & Zawitz, 2000). The percent of female homicide victims by an intimate partner has remained almost the same over two decades. The percent of male homicide victims of intimate partners has decreased dramatically over the same period (Rennison & Welchans, 2000).
- Most families involved in child fatalities are two-person caretaker situations where a majority of the perpetrators are the father of the children or the boyfriend of the mother (Pecora et al., 1992).
- Adult domestic violence is found in 41 percent of the families experiencing critical injuries or deaths of children due to child abuse and neglect (Oregon Children's Services Division, 1993).
- Women and children in the same families are often both maltreated. The majority of studies reveal an overlap of 30 percent to 60 percent of this maltreatment depending on the families studied (Edleson, 1999a).
- Many children exposed to adult domestic violence also exhibit behavioral, emotional and cognitive problems (Edleson, 1999b). The impact of exposure varies by the level of violence in a home, the degree of children's exposure (Edleson, 2001), and the presence of other risk and protective factors.
- Exposure to violence in the home is one of the most significant predictors of adolescents' later use of violence in the community (Singer et al., 1998).
- Half of the husbands who batter their wives three or more times during a year also physically abuse their children. Battered mothers are twice as likely to maltreat their children as mothers who are not battered (Straus & Gelles, 1990).
- Two of the major reasons reported by battered victims for both staying with and leaving abusive partners are for the safety and welfare of their children (Hilton, 1992; Humphreys, 1995; Sullivan et al., 2000).

Guidelines

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 adult victim in safety planning and to hold the abusive partner accountable. It is important to work closely with battered women's programs, the criminal justice system and the abusive partners' treatment providers, while protecting the privacy of all individuals involved as required by law.

Goals

- All family members will be safe from harm.
- Abused parents will receive assistance in learning non-coercive and supportive interventions to protect themselves and their children.
- Abusive partners, not adult victims, will be held responsible for stopping their abusive behavior.
- Children will have safe and stable relationships with nurturing parents or caretakers.
- The incidence of child maltreatment co-occurring with domestic violence will be reduced.

Target Population

- Children and adolescents at risk of child maltreatment where domestic violence is reported or where a risk of repeated domestic violence exists
- Adult victims of domestic violence who are the primary source of care and support for children or adolescents
- Abusive partners who remain a risk to the safety of children and adult caretakers of the children.

Immigrant or Refugee Population

When adult victims of abuse are immigrants or refugees, it is important to take note of the additional obstacles they may face as they attempt to access legal and social services. Language barriers and the lack of interpreters may make it difficult for them to recount abuse. Adult victims may not be aware that abuse is against the law, and, because of their experience in their home country, they may have deep-seated fears of government authorities. They may lack even a basic understanding of the federal, state or county governments' social service systems, and the federal and state criminal justice systems.

As a child protection worker, do all that is possible to obtain interpreters for adult abuse victims in order to receive all pertinent information about family circumstances, and to ensure that all services available to adult victims and their children can be adequately explained. Fathers, partners or other relatives who may be present should not be used for interpretive services, although it is common for immigrant men to speak better English than their partners. Also, be aware of possible issues of confidentiality or intimidation if male interpreters from the same community are used.

Provide all written materials to adult victims in their language, if possible. Give documentation and explanation of parental rights to adult victims in their native language at the time of child protection visits, or read information to them in their native language via interpreters. Before a Limited English Proficiency individual signs a Voluntary Placement Agreement, translate the agreement and give it to them.





Consider special circumstances faced by immigrant adult abuse victims when evaluating the safety of the children involved, and when considering their need for,

and compliance with, an Order for Protection. Adult victims may fear that they or their abusive partners will be deported if they call the police. Abusive partners' arrest or deportation may mean the loss of victims' only contact with the English-speaking world and the loss of their only source of financial support. They may not be authorized to work legally or to receive public benefits. They may fear that if they try to obtain help, abusive partners will kidnap the children and return to their home country. Some of these factors may motivate victims to contact their abusers, or to have the Order for Protection lifted.

Finally, it is important for child protection workers to assess the parenting practices of adult victims within the context of their own culture. Sleeping and eating habits, and the use of certain types of language are a few examples of areas in which cultural differences should not be mistaken for actual incidences of abuse or neglect. Referrals for counseling, parenting classes, drug abuse treatment or other services should take into account the availability of culturally-specific services or at least the bilingual capacity of a program.

From Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights

Additional Considerations

Although the guidelines make a distinction between screening, assessment and services, assessment is a continuous process and services may be delivered at any time during an intervention with families.

The following guidelines are written from the perspective that non-abusive parents are voluntary clients. Interventions and services may need to be more directive when working with involuntary clients. Input from family members should be considered in determining agency actions.

Gender-specific language is used in these guidelines because women are disproportionately represented as victims of adult domestic violence.

Screening

- Routinely screen for possible domestic violence when receiving reports of child maltreatment. Screening should be ongoing since violence could occur at any point during an assessment or intervention.
- Obtain information from law enforcement about past and current incidents when domestic violence is part of a report of child maltreatment. Consult regularly with law enforcement concerning factors that may threaten social workers' and adult victims' safety.
- Screen for eligibility for a Family Assessment Response (formerly Alternative Response). Offer Family Assessment Response as an intervention option to adult victims, when appropriate, regarding child maltreatment reports.
- Give information about domestic violence resources to reporters of child maltreatment when reports alleging domestic violence are not accepted for a child maltreatment assessment.

Screening Tool

Screening Questions

Sample questions for any case include:

- Has anyone else in the family been hurt or assaulted?
- Has anyone made threats to hurt or kill another family member or himself?
- Do you know if weapons have been used to threaten or harm anyone?
- Have the police ever been called to the house? Have arrests been made?
- Has anyone threatened to run off with the children?
- Has any family member stalked another family member? Has anyone taken a family member hostage?
- Who is protecting the children right now?

When a call is specifically about domestic violence, sample questions include:

- What violence occurred?
- Are there recent injuries or accidents?
- Are/were police involved?
- Where were the children during the violence?
- Has anyone made threats to hurt or kill family members or pets?
- Are there weapons in the home?
- Are family members using drugs or alcohol?
- Does the victim have contact with other family or community members?
- Has the abusive person threatened to leave with the children?
- What assistance has the victim sought?
- What assistance have other people or agencies provided?
- How has the domestic violence affected the children?

Reprinted from practice guidelines of the Oregon State Office for Services to Children and Families

Assessment

- Determine worker safety needs throughout an assessment.
- Assess for domestic violence through routine direct inquiry of the presence of domestic violence in a manner respectful of victim safety. Conduct separate interviews with adult victims, children and abusive partners.
- Coordinate assessment efforts with law enforcement, domestic violence services and the court system.
- Assess the safety of adult victims as well as children.
- Consult with adult victims about their protective behaviors that may reduce the risk of harm to themselves and their children. The family assessment should balance the issues of safety and risk with the strengths and protective capacity of adult victims.
- Assess adult victims' capacity to protect themselves and their children. Consideration should be given to the confidence adult victims have in the system's ability to keep them and their children safe, and to provide necessary resources.
- Assess whether adult victims pose a maltreatment threat to children, unrelated to the domestic violence they may be experiencing. For instance, victims of abuse may sometimes



also neglect their children, and child protection workers must be alert to this and ensure the safety of both adult and child victims.

- Assess lethality of abusive partners' violent behaviors to determine the level of danger to victims, children and themselves, and the level of intervention needed.

Assessment Tools

Guidelines for Interviewing Families about Domestic Violence

- Make safety for children and adult victims the priority when child protective service workers conduct domestic violence interviews.
- Routinely inquire about domestic violence during the initial reports and in assessment interviews with every adult family member, whether or not there are allegations of domestic violence, and whether or not an adult male lives in the household. Interview adult victims and alleged abusive partners separately when inquiring about domestic violence. Explain calmly that Child Protection Services (CPS) routinely asks questions about domestic violence with all families on a caseload.
- Ask whenever possible that children, friends and other relatives not be present during assessment interviews because of the need to inquire about domestic violence.
- Immediately make a safety plan for adult and child victims when domestic violence is revealed.
- Tell adult victims about their confidentiality rights, as well as limits to those rights. Explain that information shared by adult domestic violence victims will not be shared with suspected abusive partners unless a court requires disclosure. Give adult victims contact numbers for victim advocacy services where victims can discuss domestic violence issues confidentially. However, also explain to adult victims that child protection workers are required to protect children from harm and that victim disclosures will be used to plan for children's safety.

- Interview family members in the following order, if possible, when domestic violence is suspected or known. First, interview adult victims (if this will cause risk to child victims, begin with children). Next, interview children. End by interviewing alleged domestic violence abusers.
- Acknowledge concern for family members' safety if domestic violence is disclosed during a session with other family members present. Try to determine if they are at immediate risk and plan for their safety. If there is no immediate safety concern, explore the disclosure in separate, individual sessions with family members.
- Focus on the safety concerns to build an alliance with adult victims. Adult victims may be reluctant to talk with child protection workers because of fear of losing their children and of being punished by abusive partners. Also, some adult victims minimize or deny the violence as a way to survive the abuse. Make stronger connections with adult victims by informing them that they do not deserve the abuse, that they and the children are in danger, and that child protection workers will try to help them protect themselves and their children.
- Explain any child protection requirements about interviewing domestic violence abusive partners in interviews with adult victims and older children. Ask adult victims if they will feel endangered by child protection workers' interviews of alleged abusive partners. If workers already know about domestic violence through police, child protection and other agency reports, explain to adult victims that only information received from these sources will be shared with abusive partners. Tell adult victims how and when interviews with the domestic violence abusers will occur. Ask the victims about possible consequences to them and their children of such interviews. Plan for victims' safety. If it appears that interviews about domestic violence with alleged abusers will endanger adult victims or their children, delay until their safety is secured.

- Interview alleged domestic violence abusers in a way that encourages them to disclose their own abusive conduct. Do not confront them with information provided by victims. While child protection workers can sometimes use police reports or other agency reports about domestic violence in the interviews with abusers, do not use any information from victims' statements.
- Do not try to force disclosure if identified abusers deny domestic violence. Move on to other subjects. Angry confrontations often result in retaliation against child or adult victims. Workers do not need abusers' disclosure to confirm that domestic violence occurred. Such confirmation comes from adult and child victim statements, worker observations and other agency reports.
- Notify the appropriate authorities and adult victims if domestic violence abusers reveal information that indicates imminent danger or harm to known victims. This is a duty-to-warn situation. Notify child protection supervisors and follow agency policies and procedures.

Reprinted from Anne L. Ganely & Susan Schechter, Domestic Violence: A National Curriculum for Children's Protective Services (CPS), Family Violence Prevention Fund (1996)



Safety Assessment Questions

Interview of Adult Victims

Ask the following questions:

- Tell me about your relationship.
- How are decisions made in your relationship?
- Do you feel free to do, think and believe what you want?
- Does your partner ever act jealous or possessive?
If yes, tell me more about that.
- Have you ever felt afraid of your partner? In what ways?
- Has your partner ever physically used force on you
(e.g., pushed, pulled, slapped, punched or kicked you)?
- Have you ever been afraid for the safety of your children?

Through this line of questioning and careful listening, the tone of the relationship will be evident. If violence and/or severe control are or may be present in families, begin an assessment of severity. These questions will help determine if the pattern of incidents is changing, if the abuse is escalating in frequency and if victims are in danger.

Has your partner:

- Prevented you from going to work/school/church?
- Prevented you from seeing friends or family?
- Listened in on your phone calls or violated your privacy
in other ways?
- Followed you?
- Accused you of being unfaithful?
- Acted jealous?
- Controlled your money?
- Stolen your money?

The following questions will help you identify patterns of verbal, emotional, physical and sexual abuse.

Has your partner:

- Called you degrading names?
- Insulted you?
- Humiliated you at home? In public?
- Destroyed your possessions (e.g., clothes, photographs)?
- Broken furniture?
- Pulled the telephone out?
- Threatened to injure you, himself, your children or other family members?
- Hit, slapped, pushed, kicked, choked or burned you?
- Threatened to use a weapon or used a weapon?
- Threatened to kill you?
- Hurt your pets?
- Engaged in reckless behavior (e.g., driven too fast with you and the children in the car)?
- Behaved violently in public?
- Been arrested for violent crimes?
- Forced you to perform sexual acts that made you feel uncomfortable?
- Prevented you from using birth control?
- Withheld sex?
- Hurt you during pregnancy?
- Forced you to engage in prostitution or pornography?
- Forced you to use alcohol or drugs?

The next group of questions will help assess the level of risk to children.

Has your partner:

- Called your children degrading names (e.g., “stupid”)?
- Threatened to take children from your care?
- Called, or threatened to call, a child protection agency?
- Accused you of being an unfit parent?
- Threatened to hurt or kill your children?
- Hurt you in front of the children?
- Hit your children with belts, straps or other objects?
- Touched your children in a way that made you feel uncomfortable?
- Assaulted you while you were holding your children?
- Asked your children to tell him what you do during the day?
- Treated one child significantly differently than another?
- Forced your children to participate in or watch his abuse of you?

Have your children:

- Overheard yelling and/or violence?
- Behaved in ways that remind you of your partner?
- Physically hurt you or other family members?
- Tried to protect you?
- Tried to stop the violence?
- Hurt themselves?
- Hurt pets?
- Been fearful of leaving you alone?
- Exhibited physical/behavioral problems at home/school/daycare?

The next group of questions will help understand adult victims' histories of seeking help.

Have you:

- Told anyone about the abuse? What happened?
- Seen a counselor? What happened?
- Left home as a result of the abuse? Where did you go? Did you take the children? If not, why not?
- Called the police? What happened?
- Pressed criminal charges? What happened?
- Filed a restraining order? What happened (e.g., did your partner respect the order)?
- Used a battered women's group or shelter? Was it helpful?
- Fought back? What happened?

General questions:

- How dangerous do you think your partner is?
- What do you think he's capable of?
- Do you have any current injuries or health problems?
- How has this relationship affected how you feel about yourself, your children, the future?
- How do you explain the violence to yourself?
- How do you think your children understand the violence?
- What do you believe would help keep you and your children safe?

Once adult victims' interviews are complete, there should be an understanding of the power structure within families. If there is extreme danger for adult victims, and children have learned to survive by identifying with the offender (e.g., cannot keep confidentiality from the offender), then postpone direct questioning of children until safety can be achieved. This same thinking applies to interviewing abusers. If victims are fearful of the consequences of questioning abusers, then it should not be done until safety can be achieved. Safety always comes first.

Interviews of Children

Questions in this section will focus on three areas:

- Children's account of what they saw and how they understand the violence
- Impact of witnessing violence
- Children's concern about safety.

Children's account of what they saw

Consider starting an interview with children with: Sometimes when parents fight they get angry, maybe too angry, and they may start to yell at each other or even hit each other. We know this is scary for children. I want to ask you a few questions about when your parents fight and what you think about it.

Note: Older children are more likely to minimize reports of parental fighting out of loyalty to parents. They will protect parents. Younger children may be more spontaneous and less guarded with their reports.

Questions:

- What kinds of things do Mom and Dad (boyfriend, partner) fight about?
- What happens when they fight?
- Do they yell at each other?
- Do they hit each other?
- How does the hitting usually start?
- What do you do when this is going on?
- What do you think about when this is happening?
- Do you ever get hit or hurt when Mom and Dad are fighting?

Assessment of impact of exposure

- Do you think about your parents fighting a lot?
- When do you think about it?
- What do you think about?

- Do these thoughts ever come in school or while you are playing?
- Do you ever have trouble sleeping at night? Do you have nightmares?
- Why do you think Mom and Dad (boyfriend, partner) fight so much?
- What would you like them to do to make it better?

Child's worries about safety

- What do you do when Mom and Dad (boyfriend, partner) are fighting?
 - Stay in the same room
 - Go to older sibling
 - Leave/hide
 - Ask parents to stop
 - Phone someone
 - Run out/get someone
 - Other
- When Mom and Dad are fighting, what do you worry about the most?
- Have you talked to any other grownups about this problem?
- In an emergency, who would you call?
- What is their phone number?
- What would you say?

If children don't have some idea of whom to call, give them basic information or help them think of where they could go if their parents are fighting or engaged in assaultive behavior. Could they go to another room? A neighbor's house? Information gathered from

this interview should always be shared with the mother to help her understand the effects of domestic violence on her children, as long as children's safety will not be compromised.

Reprinted from Domestic Violence Initiative for Child Protective Services, Massachusetts Department of Social Services



Lethality Assessment Tool

Lethality Assessment Questions

Assessing the dangerousness of abusers is important in order to protect social workers, and to lessen the risk for children and adult victims. Lessening the risk will mean safety planning. (See Safety Plan Tool). If an interview with abusers is too dangerous, consult with a supervisor before proceeding. Document reasons in the case record. Third party reports are critical in these instances. If abusers can be safely interviewed, proceed with the following preliminary line of questioning to determine abusers' perception of the problem.

- Tell me about your relationship.
- How does your family handle conflict?
- What kinds of things do you expect from your partner/family?
- What do you do when you don't get your own way?
- Have you ever been so angry that you wanted to physically hurt someone?
- Can you think of any times in your life that you have been emotionally abusive?
- If yes, do you think you have a pattern of being emotionally abusive?
- Can you think of any times in your life that you have been verbally abusive?
- If yes, do you think you have a pattern of being verbally abusive?
- Can you think of any times in your life that you have been physically abusive?
- If yes, do you think you have a pattern of being physically abusive?
- Can you think of any times in your life that you have been sexually abusive?
- If yes, do you think you have a pattern of being sexually abusive?

Reprinted from Domestic Violence Initiative for Child Protective Services, Massachusetts Department of Social Services, and from Couple Conflict Inventory used by Wilder Community Assistance Program

Abuser Lethality Indicators

All abusers are potentially lethal. The following is a list of indicators to assess abusers' potential to kill:

- Threats/attempts of homicide or suicide
- Fantasies of homicide/suicide (seen as the only solution)
- Depression (especially if loss of a partner represents total loss of hope for a positive future)
- Use, threat of use, possession or access to weapons
- Criminal activity/violation of Temporary Restraining Order (TRO), which may indicate little concern for consequence of arrest/jail time, or hostility towards authority
- History of violence with partner/children/pets; evaluate severity, frequency, duration (the longer, more frequent, and/or severe, the higher the risk)
- Status of the relationship; most life-endangering rage erupts when the abusers believes victims have just left the relationship or are about to leave
- Drug or alcohol consumption (risk of lethality may increase).

Abusers' characteristics relevant to lethality:

- Is obsessive about partner or family (e.g., to the point of monitoring partners' calls, questioning children)
- Is possessive and uses jealousy to monitor, control, and isolate the victim; fears losing victim ("If I can't have you, no one will.")
- Cannot tolerate separation from victim
- Inflicts severe pain or torture (such as burning, starving, or beating for hours) without warning or apparent provocation
- Derives pleasure out of creating pain

- Takes offense easily (e.g., from a look, a question or even reasonable/mild attempt at limits set by others, which can trigger a violent response)
- Has criminal history of violence
- Has generally violent personality
- Is conflicted and belligerent relationships with authority figures.

Reprinted from the Domestic Violence Protocol, County of San Diego, Department of Social Services, Children's Services Bureau, October 1996

Services

For Children/Adolescents

- Assist non-abusive caretakers to develop and implement a safety plan for children/adolescents at risk of child maltreatment.
- Help non-abusive caretakers refer children/adolescents for services. Appropriate services include support groups and individual counseling. Services should provide education and support concerning the dynamics of domestic abuse.
- Use out-of-home care to protect children/adolescents when safety planning with adult victims and/or criminal intervention with abusive partners does not provide for the children's/adolescents' safety.
- Ensure that an out-of-home care provider, if used, is aware of the family violence and will cooperate with plans to protect children/adolescents and adult victims.

For Adult Victims

- Consult with adult victims about the impact of the intervention on their safety and the safety of their children.
- Assist adult victims to develop and implement a safety plan for themselves and their children. If preventive services or criminal interventions cannot maintain the safety of non-abusive parents and their children, help them enter an emergency shelter or another safe living situation with their children.

- Address identified child maltreatment concerns related to adult victims' behavior with appropriate interventions, recognizing the effects of domestic violence on adult victims' parenting.
- Refer adult victims to domestic violence services, when appropriate and consistent with victims' wishes, such as individual counseling, advocacy services and victim support groups. Interventions should include education and support concerning the dynamics of domestic abuse. Interventions, such as couples counseling, and mediation that may victimize abused partners should not be offered.
- Help adult victims make child visitation arrangements that ensure the safety of children and adult victims.
- Help adult victims access agency or community resources to replace the loss of income, home, belongings, transportation, child care, and other basic needs and services if victims separate from abusive partners.
- Thoroughly document all reports of abusive and controlling behavior.
- Manage information concerning adult victims to prevent abusive partners from making unwanted contact or using information to continue the pattern of abuse and control.

Safety Plan Tool

Whenever possible, safety planning should be done with victims of abuse. This safety plan may not be appropriate for all victims to take home because it contains information that may increase risks to families if abusers become aware of the plan.

Safety Plan to Prepare to Leave

- Keep important phone numbers near the phone, and teach children when and how to use them.
- Tell neighbors about the violence and instruct them to contact the police if they see or hear anything suspicious.
- Make a list of safe places to go in case of emergency: families' or friend's homes, shelter or police department.

- Remember a list of important items (see Items to Remember) when leaving the house.
- Try to put money aside: for phone calls or to open a separate savings account (in a different bank if adult victims and abusive partners have a joint account).
- Create a code word for children or friends so they can call for help.
- Keep copies of important documents or keys in a safe place outside the home.

Items to Remember

- Identification
- Adults' and children's birth certificates
- Social Security cards
- School and medical records
- Money, bank books, credit cards
- Driver's license and registration
- Medications
- Minnesota Family Investment Program information and materials
- Passports(s), green cards, work permits
- Divorce papers
- Lease/rental agreement, house deed
- Insurance papers
- Address book
- Picture of abuser
- Change of clothes and personal items
- Keys to house/car/office
- Items of sentimental value, jewelry
- Children's favorite toys and/or blankets.

Safety Plan When the Relationship is Over

- Change locks, install security system or an outdoor lighting system. Install smoke detectors.
- Inform people that abusive partner no longer lives at residence and to notify adult victims or police if abuser is seen in the area.
- Tell people who take care of children who has permission to pick them up. Supply them with copies of any court papers ordering the abuser to stay away.
- Avoid locations where abuser may be, including bank, stores and restaurants.
- Obtain a protective order from the court; keep it at all times; put an additional copy in a safe place or with someone; and notify police of violations.
- Make a plan to contact someone for support, such as a friend or family member. Call a hotline and/or attend a support group if risking return to a potentially abusive situation.

Important Phone Numbers

Police_____

Local battered women's program_____

Local child protection agency_____

Friends_____

This safety tool is an excerpt from the Domestic Violence Initiative for Child Protective Services, Massachusetts Department of Social Services

Follow-up Plan with Abusive Partners

Hold abusive partners accountable by:

- Expecting them to acknowledge and address the impact of their behavior on their children, and demonstrate nonviolent parenting skills
- Creating a separate child protection case plan specific to abusive partners' behaviors and responsibilities (abusive partners should not be included in case plans for victims)
- Supporting legal/criminal actions that hold abusive partners accountable
- Supporting orders in family court that make detailed findings, explaining how a custody or visitation award is consistent with the well-being and physical safety of children and non-abusive parents
- Considering a petition alleging abusive partners are contributing to the need for protection status of children (Minnesota Statute 260C.335)
- Coordinating services with law enforcement, court services and adult corrections
- Referring abusive partners to services such as men's domestic violence treatment programs, domestic violence education groups, and Fathering after Violence classes, where indicated or requested.

Anger management interventions are not sufficient to address the dynamics of domestic violence. Services must be directed toward holding abusive partners responsible for their behavior and eliminating their abusive behavior in all family relationships. When traditional psychotherapy is used as a treatment option, it should be under the conditions that abusive partners authorize release of pertinent information and waive confidentiality to child protection, and the psychotherapist agrees to notify child protection of treatment outcomes.

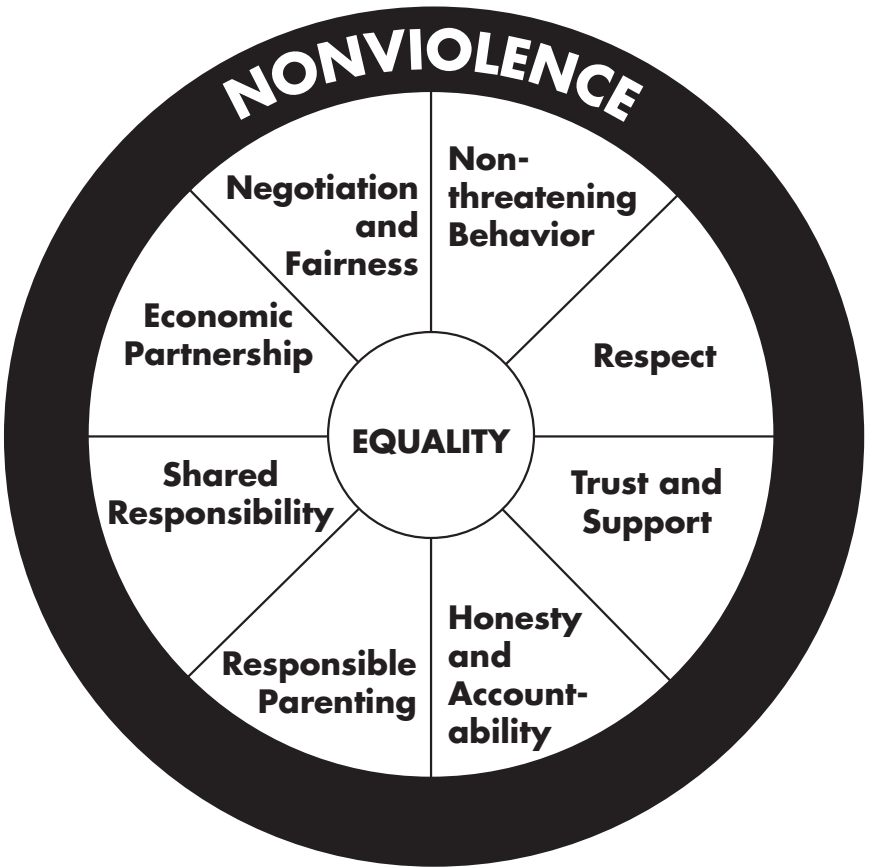
Although chemical abuse may be a contributing factor to domestic violence, chemical dependency treatment alone is not sufficient to address domestic violence.

Case Closing

- Assess whether abusive partners have completed treatment, and the degree to which the risk of domestic abuse and child maltreatment has been lessened to adult victims and children.
- Consider the safety of adult and child victims when closing cases. When the risk of child maltreatment remains high, continue services until the risk is lowered or removed. The period of time in which there has been a reduction in risk should be of sufficient duration to suggest that safety has been well established.
- Engage informal supports and/or offer community referrals to address any ongoing safety needs or concerns.



Nonviolence Graph



Domestic Abuse Intervention Project
202 East Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 722-2781

Violence Graph



Domestic Abuse Intervention Project
202 East Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 722-2781

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