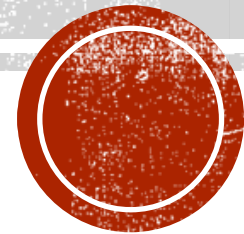


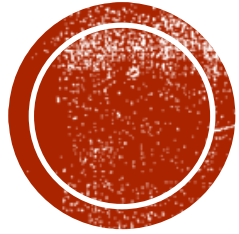
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

...BREAKING IT DOWN

November 2021

UM System Title IX & Equity All Staff Meeting





“STEVE DID NOT MEAN TO HIT ME. I GOT IN THE WAY OF HIM HITTING HIMSELF BECAUSE HE WAS UPSET AT SOMETHING I SAID TO HIM WHICH I SHOULDN’T HAVE SAID.” (VICTIM OF A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASE, BCSD, CIRCA 2010-2019)

WHY DOES A VICTIM STAY?

- Financial dependence
- Children in common (unable to leave them with abuser)
- No access to vehicles
- No access to another residence (nowhere to go)
- Isolation (no access to friends or support network)
- Victim is breadwinner and abuser is babysitter (or vice versa)
- Substance abuse or dependence (abuser has access to drugs & victim is addicted)
- Religious reasons (no divorce)
- No access to call for help (abuser has the phone)
- Afraid to leave (concerns that abuser will follow/find them)
- Lack of trust/confidence in the criminal justice system (re-offending)
- Being victimized becomes normal



TYPES OF ABUSE

- Emotional/Psychological Abuse
 - Financial Abuse
 - Sexual Abuse



EMOTIONAL/PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE

- Emotional abuse often starts very early in the relationship.
- It is a key element of power and control.
- Telling a victim that they deserve to be abused is one of the most successful ways an offender establishes emotional control.

- Separation Violence:
 - Intimidation, threats, or coercion surrounding a victim's attempt to leave the abusive relationship
 - This is generally the most dangerous time for a victim.
 - Who blames the victim? Their friends? Their parents? Themselves?

- Have you ever blamed a victim?
 - “Why don't you just leave?”



FINANCIAL ABUSE

- Controlling a victim's finances is one of the next steps an offender does to continue the abuse.
- Controlling purchases, withholding funds, or demanding the victim's money be spent a certain way.



SEXUAL ABUSE

- Sex offenses that occur during an ongoing abusive relationship are some of the most difficult crimes to investigate.
- Many victims do not initially disclose sexual abuse by their intimate partner. Why?
 - Integral part of the relationship
 - Shame or embarrassment when discussing sexual activities
 - Normalized behavior (“That’s how he treats having sex with me”)
 - Victim’s awareness of difficulties with a hearing; victim’s concerns about their own credibility



COMMON STATEMENTS OF ABUSERS... AND VICTIMS?

- Show a minor injury and exaggerate the other person attacked on them.
- One person says the other has a mental disorder (ex., “I’m sorry they reported this. They’re bi-polar.”).
- One person claims the other was jealous and attacked them.
- One person says they were acting in self-defense.
- One person says the other fabricated their story.
- One person claims the other caused their own injuries.
- One person claims the other asked them to do it.



COMMON BEHAVIORS OF A VICTIM

Let's discuss!



COMMON BEHAVIORS OF ABUSERS

- Individuals who engage in domestic abuse may perform a variety of manipulative, coercive acts to keep a victim in the relationship, such as:
 - controls the finances
 - uses the children to control the victim
 - threatens to kill themselves if victim leaves
 - extorts the victim (e.g., threaten to call their work or their parents, to post explicit photos/videos of them online)
 - threatens to abuse the victim's pets
 - mentions access to or possession of a weapon to hurt the victim
 - follows the victim or looks through their phone (“Who have you been talking to?”)
 - keeps the victim from calling for help (takes their phone or keeps them from using one)



CAUTION FLAGS...

- Involved in other relationships
- Pending divorce, custody or paternity action
- Made similar allegations against another in the past



INTERVIEW TECHNIQUES

- **Let people talk**
 - Tell their story
 - Go back and review – hitting on key words
- **Trauma Informed approach**
 - “How did it make you feel?”
 - “What did you think would happen to you?”
 - “What did you think would happen if you [did/did not]...?”
 - “Tell me what was going through your mind when it was happening”
 - “What did you see/smell/hear/taste? What was the room like?”
 - “What happened during the experience that you can’t forget?”
- **Forensic Interviewing tip**
 - Give options (ex: “A, B, or something else”)



EVIDENCE COLLECTION

- Text messages, emails, social media messages
 - Request from each person that was a part of the communication
- Video of incident, if applicable
- Zoom vs. In-Person Interviews: Pros & Cons

[VIDEO](#)



EVIDENCE COLLECTION: PHOTOS

■ Quality

- Start big and go small – frame the scene and the object of your photograph in context, and then move closer.
- Overlap areas of the scene when taking multiple establishing shots (to clearly indicate each part of the scene's relationship to another).
- Take photographs of injury (or scene, or other evidence) both with scale and without.
- Absence of injury is also evidence. Take photographs even if you cannot see what is reported.

■ Quantity

- When in doubt, take more photographs.
- Things that may seem insignificant at one time, may become significant later in the investigation.



REPORTS: FACTS VS. CONCLUSIONS

- A factual statement is not necessarily one that's true or false.
- It is something you either (a) directly observe, or (b) someone's account of their observation that you record as accurately as possible.

- “D.F. had cuts on her forehead from where Johnson struck her with the broken glass bottle.” (Conclusory statement)

- “I saw four lacerations across D.F.’s forehead, each approximately 1” long with swelling around them. I saw red stains on her skin near the lacerations that D.F. said was blood she had dried off with a towel. D.F. told me Johnson, whom she identified as her boyfriend, had struck her once in the face while he was holding the glass bottle, and said it caused her injury.” (Factual statement)



REPORTS

Multiple Agencies may see your report!

Relevancy:

“The final investigative report will fairly summarize the relevant evidence.”

CRRs 600.030(L), 600.040(L), 600.050(M)



QUESTIONS?

