

# TOOL | KIT



TANF Training Project



# TOOL | KIT

TOOLS

ATTACHMENTS

RESOURCES

TANF Training Project



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**We also acknowledge and honor the contribution of all those who have survived and are still surviving abuse and have been part of the Battered Women's Movement. This material reflects the accomplishments of the courageous women in this movement. What we have learned we owe to them.**

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## Note On Language

We acknowledge that victims and abusers come from all backgrounds. They may be older, young, male, female, heterosexual or homosexual. We also know that women are at a much greater risk of being victimized and that sexism promotes violence against women in our society. In 2001 women accounted for 85% of the victims of intimate partner violence (Bureau of Justice Statistics Crime Data Brief, Intimate Partner Violence, 2003). For these reasons, we describe victims as females and abusers as males throughout this tool-kit. This is not intended to deny or minimize other abusive situations but rather to reflect the majority of domestic violence cases.

## Introduction

The 2006 reauthorization of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 and the Ohio Works First (OWF) legislation created changes that focused policy and practice on moving recipients from welfare to work and increasing the collection of child support. Most victims of domestic violence want to access the available economic opportunities and want to have child support enforced. However, there will be some victims of domestic violence who are unable to meet program requirements because their abusive partner who, in order to further his control, will sabotage their efforts to meet TANF requirements. Other victims may experience mental health or physical health issues that prevent them from meeting TANF requirements. TANF responses should be built around the range of factors those victims of domestic violence experience. The opportunities TANF offers may well be the vehicle that a victim uses to free her and her family from abuse. In Ohio, individual counties may adopt policies that assist victims of domestic violence. Even though some counties have no such policies, there are still ways OWF staff can aid victims of domestic violence.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services funded the Ohio Domestic Violence Network TANF Training Project because together we realized the challenges OWF staff encounter when working with victims and the frustration of the reality that many of these victims do not disclose abuse. One in four women report that they have been physically abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives (Lieberman Research Inc., 1996). We know that many of these victims sit in front caseworkers every day. Among welfare recipients, it is estimated that 50% to 60% have experienced domestic violence over their lifetimes, and 20% to 30% are current victims of abuse (Toloman & Raphael, 2000).

As a result of ODVN's focus groups of OWF staff, several areas of concern came to light. How to safely approach domestic violence issues when a family who lives in the same household or has a child in common is interviewed together is one example. Significant power is placed in the hands of the father whose cooperation with the Work Experience Program (WEP) is mandatory or the family will lose their money is another example. Many OWF staff related frustration about only learning of abuse when the woman is sanctioned. In addition, limits on the length of time a family can receive cash assistance, residency requirements, work requirements and enhanced enforcement on establishing paternity and child support place increased pressures on battered women and new demands on OWF staff.

The intent of this tool-kit is to provide OWF staff with resources to assist in working with victims of domestic violence while at the same time taking into account the realities faced by the OWF worker. The goal is to further the collaboration between OWF workers and the domestic violence community. Through the integration of resources, we can become crucial allies in aiding women on the road to self-sufficiency and offering them resources to take back their lives.

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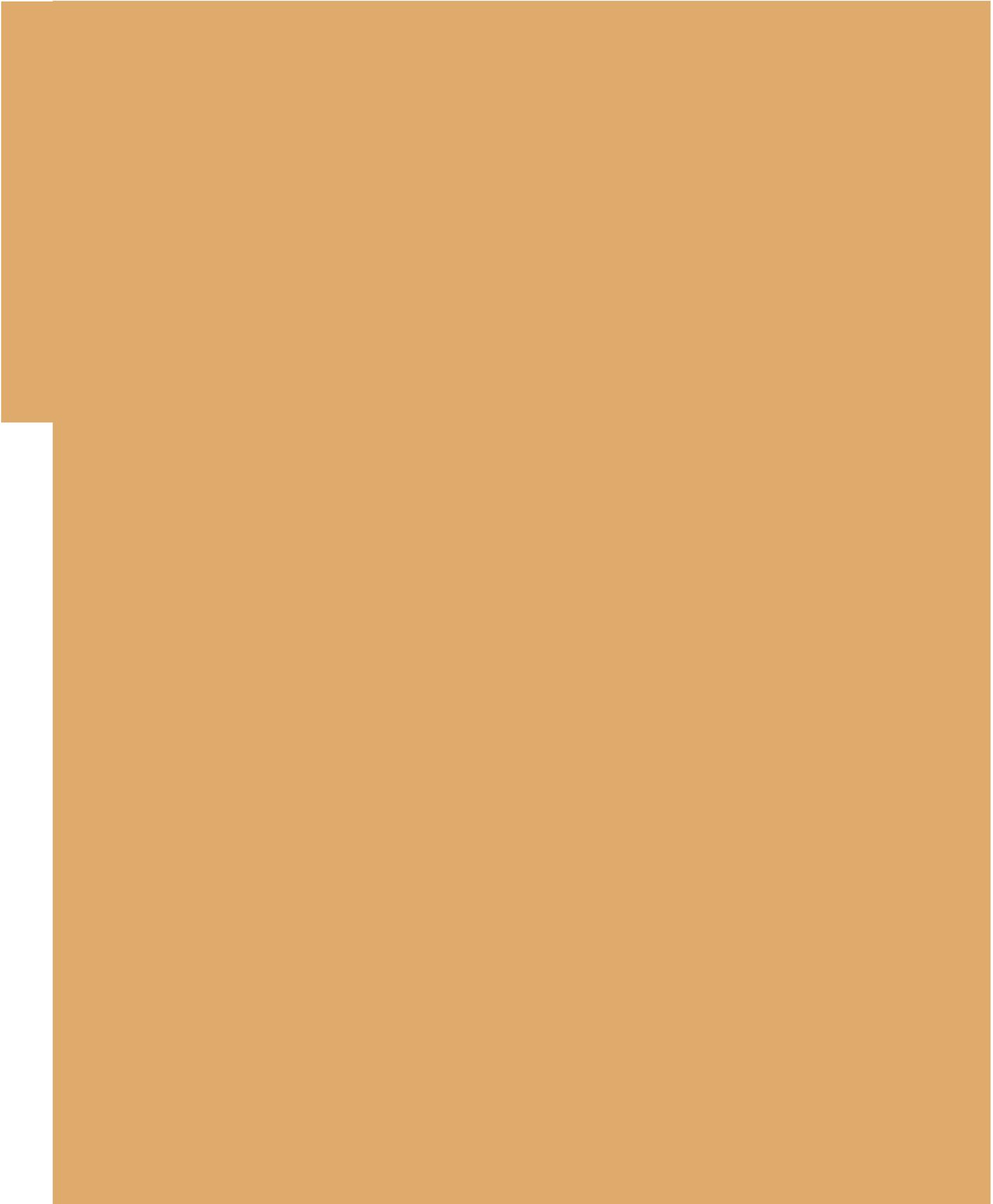
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### Recommended Reading

## TOOLS

- Empowerment Model
- Your County Department's Role
- Your Role
- Tips for Supportive Communication
- Domestic Violence Screening Tool
- Barriers that Prevent Disclosure
- What to do if a Woman Discloses Abuse
- Meeting the State and Federal Mandates

# 01



## 01 | 01 The Empowerment Model

The empowerment model is the foundation of working with victims of domestic violence. It is different from the approach of many social service providers. The empowerment model is based on the concept that women, even in domestic violence situations, are experts on their own life situation and have the right to be supported in their decisions about their life choices.

The empowerment model holds that victimization is not something that happens to an individual because of characteristics, family background, psychological profile or family of origin. Family violence can happen to *anyone* who has the misfortune of becoming involved with a person who seeks to maintain power and control over intimate partners or family members.

When using the empowerment model it is important to work with the victim of domestic violence to help her regain control over her life and respect her for her ability to make her own choices. It is important to not judge decisions she has made in the past and recognize the fact that she has made the best decisions she could under the given circumstances. The empowerment model recognizes a victim's individualized responses and provides flexibility as the situation and/or the victim's perspectives change.

## 01 | 02 Your County Department's Role

Your county department can play a role in aiding victims.

- Contract with a local domestic violence program to provide on-site safety planning and technical assistance.
- Contract with a domestic violence program to provide domestic violence information at a job training site.
- Work with Child Support Enforcement to identify ways a victim may safely pursue child support.
- Collect statistics on the number of clients that disclose domestic violence.

### Examples found in Ohio:

- Job training for victims of domestic violence at the local shelter.
- Domestic violence advocates located in the county department office to aid victims.
- OWF staff available to assist victims at the local shelter one day a week.
- OWF staff offer the opportunity for the victim to call the local shelter from the TANF office.
- OWF staff "flag" all domestic violence files as confidential.
- Domestic violence advocates offer a 1-hour relationship seminar as an alternative work activity for TANF requirements.

Through extensive research it has been determined that the best practice response to elicit domestic violence disclosure includes:

- **Communicating in a way that is positive and supportive.**
- **Knowing how to explain all options and resources that are available from TANF.**
- **Knowing how to provide meaningful referrals.**
- **Avoiding increasing the risks to battered women and their children.**

Victims of domestic violence have consistently experienced the effects of someone who abuses power. When assisting victims to meet TANF requirements the reality is that you have power over the victim. Therefore it is essential that your communication with the victim acknowledges her situation and reflects your expertise on TANF options.

For many reasons battered women do not disclose the abuse to strangers. How screening is conducted and information is presented can make a difference as to whether or not a victim feels empowered to disclose and/or get help. Repeated opportunities to disclose are essential for the following reasons:

- The victim begins to build trust and confidence in the fact that you care and have resources that can help.
- The victim may have suffered trauma that may affect her memory and her ability to process information.

A victim of domestic violence may be much more aware of the environment and how it impacts her comfort level and safety. The following should be considered:

- How relaxing is the setting?
- Can other people overhear what she is saying?
- Is she able to disclose at any point in the TANF process?
- Are you interviewing her alone or is this a family interview in which the abuser may be present?
- Has she been informed of exceptions to confidentiality and mandatory reporting?

## 01 | 04 Tips for Supportive Communication

- **Validate what the woman is saying during disclosure.**  
Believe her story and support her.
- **Give her multiple opportunities to ask questions and encourage her to ask if she does not understand.**  
Begin each contact by telling the woman to ask if she has any questions. Pause and take time during the contact. She may need to put things in her own words to understand the process.
- **Communicate in a positive way.**  
Give examples if it will make the information clearer. Give the information in a way that does not seem critical or condescending. Allow her to ask questions without assuming she is a victim. Don't criticize the victim who has been in an abusive relationship for years. Some victims leave right away, but many others do not. All deserve to be treated with respect.
- **Respect her right to make decisions for herself and her children.**  
Validating, being positive and supporting the victim does not mean that you are making decisions for her. It is important to respect the woman's perspective and provide relevant information about TANF options and community resources. With knowledge about resources she can make her own empowering decisions.
- **Consider the victim's safety at all times.**  
Ask the victim how to safely communicate with her. It could be dangerous to mail information to her home, leave a message on her answering machine or give her written information without her knowledge. She has to decide the best way for you to safely communicate with her and if it is safe for her to take the information.
- **Be informed!**  
Always stress it is her choice to come forward. No matter how strongly you believe she has been abused, do not force her to disclose. Giving her resources and information allows her to be the one to decide what to do. If someone discloses abuse, know who to refer to in your community.
- **Don't provoke the abuser!**  
Don't try to talk to the abuser about the abuse. This can result in escalation of violence against the woman and possibly put yourself in danger.

## 01 | 05 Domestic Violence Screening Tool

Screening for domestic violence involves providing a safe environment for her to disclose the abuse and to offer accurate resources and information that ultimately allow her to make her own decisions. Research has found that detailed questions about specific aspects of domestic violence may be considered overly intrusive which can put the woman on the defensive and make disclosure less likely. A screening tool should avoid intrusive questions about the specific actions of the abuser or injuries she has suffered as such questions can be too personal or shaming. The following are useful in helping the victim feel more comfortable and safe if they choose to disclose.

**Please make sure you are alone with the victim before asking the screening tool questions!**

1. Has your partner done anything to sabotage your work, job training or school appointments?

**Note:** You may want to provide specific examples such as making her late for work or other appointments, not being available for childcare, following her to work or persistently calling work.

2. Do you believe your partner will interfere with your ability to meet the OWF requirements?
3. Are you concerned that by addressing issues of paternity it may place you or your children at risk of harm?

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**If you are experiencing physical or sexual abuse at this time you may be eligible for legal remedies.** In addition, if anything else may prevent you from meeting TANF requirements you need to let OWF staff know as there may be other options and resources available to you.

**Make sure the victim is aware she needs to let you know if the situation changes at anytime.**

## 01 | 06 Barriers that Prevent Disclosure

- The victim may be in denial and may not recognize what is happening to her as abuse.
- The victim may have fear of retribution if the abuser learns the violence has been disclosed.
- The victim may be ashamed and humiliated that this is happening to her.
- The victim may think she deserves the abuse.
- She may feel protective of her partner. He could be the child's sole support, her main source of love and affection when he is not abusing her, she hopes he will change.
- The system's response may further her abuser's control over her life.
- She believes disclosure may lead to inaccurate and negative assumptions about her and her children.
- She may think OWF staff cannot help her.
- She may feel the information is too personal making her uncomfortable with disclosure.
- She may fear that her disclosure will not be kept confidential.
- She may simply believe that she can meet TANF requirements without disclosure.

## 01 | 07 What to do if a Woman Discloses the Abuse

### **Know how to provide meaningful referrals to other sources of assistance and information.**

In most cases you should only elicit the information you need in order to help a victim of domestic violence access services. The referrals should address the needs communicated by the victim. Information necessary to the victim includes phone numbers, intake procedures, eligibility requirements and possibly the agency location and contact person.

### **Avoid increasing risks to the victim of domestic violence or her children.**

Never disclose information such as current location or address to anyone not directly involved in the case. Even providing information about a job training program or childcare may increase the risks to a victim or her family. Always ask if it is safe to mail her information or call her and if not, ask for an alternative address or phone number. Do not require or assume any particular safety option will work for *every* or even *any* victim.

**Do not assume that leaving a relationship, seeking legal protection or going to shelter will keep a victim safe or allow her to work safely. Victims of domestic violence will need to access diverse resources and varying time limits to achieve goals. It is also important to remember that the available domestic violence resources may not have the capacity to respond to every referral or to meet the needs of each victim of domestic violence.**

### **Aid women in removing barriers.**

As an OWF worker you have resources to help women remove barriers. Few women will readily disclose abuse to you, but those who do have options available to them. Not all of these examples are available to every woman or offered by every agency. The following are some examples of ways to assist – ask your supervisor for other options that may be available at your agency. **Do not blame the woman for not making a decision or not trying an option you feel would work for her.**

- Explain to her different options for employment, job training and educational opportunities. For example, she may be able to talk to a domestic violence advocate about options or safety planning as an alternative work activity.
- Provide resources or referrals to aid her in meeting her daily living needs such as transportation, child care, healthcare, etc. This may reduce her dependence on an abuser for reliance on meeting work requirements.
- If needed, try to find her a flexible schedule.
- Offer her referrals to a shelter or other safe place to stay. Your county may allow attendance at a support group, counseling or residing in a shelter as an alternative work activity.
- Offer her referrals and resources to aid in effective enforcement of criminal laws and protection orders. For example, she may be able to talk to a justice systems advocate or legal aid attorney about her legal options as an alternative work activity.
- Remind her of the available resources, including the **24-hour National Hotline and local hotline numbers at 1-800-799-SAFE.**
- Give her information on good cause for not complying with the self-sufficiency plan.
- Explain the good cause exception to child support/paternity cooperation requirements and the documentation your county requires.
- Provide information on hardship and good cause extensions for time limits.

## **When Women Disclose After Being Sanctioned**

Frequently women will not disclose abuse for a variety of reasons until they are sanctioned. Do not take this personally.

If sanctioned, a woman may make up the hours of participation at the discretion of the county. Any missed hours of participation that are not made up by the woman may be considered good cause if she meets one of the good cause reasons. For each failure, refusal or absence, the county shall determine if good cause exists.

**In Ohio** good cause exemptions that may aid victims of domestic violence include:

- Court ordered appearance – if the victim of domestic violence needs to go to court for the abuse;
- Appointment with another social service agency or program – if the victim has a counseling appointment, support group or other advocacy or case management session with a domestic violence agency;
- Lack of childcare – in a two-parent family where the childcare provider is the abuser, sabotaging childcare could be a way to control the victim and not allow her to complete work activities;
- Failure of the county to provide supportive services – if the victim of domestic violence discloses and supportive services are not identified;
- Other absences excused at the discretion of the county Director - ODJFS states that domestic violence is not specifically identified as good cause for non-compliance but can be considered under the Director's discretion (O.A.C. 5101:1-3-12 (H)).

The following are also ways in which the victim may be able to substantiate the abuse and relieve the sanction:

- Police report
- Protection order
- Written verification from a domestic violence advocate or mental health professional
- Medical documentation

**It is also important to inform her of her right to file for an appeal and explain to her the appeal process.**

## 01 | 08 Meeting Work Requirements

As the victim of domestic violence gains more independence and autonomy, the threats and abuse may escalate. This pattern can have tragic results. It is important for workers to inform victims of domestic violence about waivers, alternative work activities or other options that may be available to them. Remember when a victim takes any steps towards independence the lethality increases for the victim and children.

**In Ohio:** Counties may provide federal or alternative work activities for individuals facing temporary or permanent barriers to participating in a work activity, including imminent danger of suffering continued domestic violence. Alternative work activities may include residing in a shelter, receiving counseling or treatment related to domestic violence and participating in civil or criminal justice proceedings against the offender.

Remember that as of October 1, 2006 the 20% limit of a county's caseload that can be assigned to alternative work activities is gone; therefore, there is some flexibility to the counties in screening and assigning work activities.

### **Meeting Child Support Cooperation and Paternity Establishment Requirements**

Within the context of domestic violence, child support cooperation and paternity establishment can be very dangerous.

Examples of a dangerous situation:

- Abuser says he will kill her if she tries collecting child support.
- A battered woman fears identifying the father of her child, because he is not her current partner. Her current partner is extremely abusive and jealous and acts as a father to her child. She knows her abuser will hurt her and her child if she cooperates.
- A battered woman fled her abuser because a child protection agency told her he sexually assaulted her child. If she pursues support he will fight for visitation with the child.
- A battered woman is told if she ever goes for child support he will kidnap her children. If she fights for child support she knows he will carry out his threat.
- Contact with the abuser in the courtroom can often lead to renewed violence or stalking.
- Abusers may raise custody and visitation issues as ways of continuing to have contact or as a way to control or terrorize their partner (Raphael, 1996).

Ways to reduce the risk of danger to the victim include but are not limited to:

- “Flagging” the child support file as a domestic violence case.
- Scheduling different dates for meeting with the victim and alleged abuser on paternity issues.
- Maintaining confidential information on the victim.

The Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) determines if the family has good cause for non-cooperation to avoid a sanction. Good cause includes domestic violence and is defined as:

A caretaker has good cause for failure or refusal to cooperate with CSEA if the CSEA determines cooperation is not in the best interest of the child because of the following:

- Cooperation is reasonably expected to result in physical or emotional harm to the child.
- Cooperation is reasonably expected to result in physical or emotional harm to the caretaker which would reduce the caretaker’s ability to adequately care for the child.
- Child was conceived as a result of incest or forcible rape.
- Legal adoption proceedings are pending before a court.
- A public or private social agency is helping the caretaker decide whether to keep the child or relinquish him/her for adoption and the discussions have not gone on for more than three months (O.A.C. 5101:12-10-31.3).

**In Ohio:** Cooperation is defined as providing the most current information about where the non-custodial parent resides and is working.

### **Meeting State and Federal Time Limits**

Victims may need to move for safety reasons from county to county or even to another state. Many victims have to leave their county of residence in order to reside in a domestic violence shelter. After 10 days, the victim is forced to change the county in which she receives benefits. Many domestic violence shelters have a restricted length of stay resulting in the victim returning to the county of origin. It is not uncommon during this process for benefits to be delayed. We recommend maintaining communication with the domestic violence shelter and the victim, expediting paperwork and taking all possible steps to reduce the risk of benefit delay. The reality is, TANF benefits are often the only way women can afford to leave an abusive situation.

**In Ohio:** It may be possible to get either a hardship or good cause extension of the 36-month time limit for cash assistance; each county sets its own policy for extensions. Your county has developed a hardship policy and may have included domestic violence as one of the hardship criteria. State law specifically suggests that good cause can include domestic violence considerations.

## ATTACHMENTS

- Definition of Domestic Violence
- Types of Abuse
- Confidentiality and Mandatory Reporting
- Legal Information
- Safety Planning Chart

02



## 02 | 01 Definition of Domestic Violence

**Domestic violence is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors, including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion, that adults or adolescents use against their intimate partners.**

From “Understanding Domestic Violence: Preparatory Reading for Trainers” by Anne L. Ganley, Ph.D. in Domestic Violence Child Protection Curriculum by Susan Schechter, MSW 1995.

### **Understanding the Definition of Abuse**

People often think of domestic violence only in terms of the visible, physical injuries. Domestic violence is actually a pattern of behaviors used to control another person. In fact, victims often talk about psychological abuse as the most painful memory they have of the abusive relationship. Constant verbal abuse can diminish self-esteem and stay with her long after bruises or broken bones have healed.

Domestic violence is an on-going complex web of control over another person, not a single isolated act of violence. Abusers will use different tactics of control, tactics that can vary in frequency and severity. Commonly an abuser will increase the control tactics when a victim makes an attempt to leave the abusive situation or begin to move away from dependence on the abuser.

Many victims are actively strategizing on how to safely leave the abusive situation, weighing options and resources and trying to determine the potential lethality of the abuser. It is also important to note that it may be difficult for some women to identify themselves as victims of domestic violence, particularly if they are still in the relationship. Denial of the abuse may be one type of defense mechanism of serial victimizations and the effects of trauma may make it difficult for a victim to see the danger of her current situation. It is critical to keep this in mind when you are giving your clients information about domestic violence.

## 02 | 02 Types of Abuse

- Physical Abuse:** Acts that cause injury or threaten to cause injury, such as pushing, grabbing, slapping and hitting.
- Emotional Abuse:** Being insulted, put down, being called names or told she is worthless, made to feel crazy.
- Economic Abuse:** Withholding money, food, clothing or other needs such as medical care, not allowing to go to school or training, or ruining credit.
- Sexual Abuse:** Forcing unwanted sexual acts.
- Using Children:** Making her feel guilty about the children, using the children as pawns, threatening to take the children away, using visitation as a way to harass her, undermining her parental authority.
- Using Animals:** Abusing or killing family pets to get back at her and the children, harming pets to send the message that “you are next,” using the animal as a way to keep the woman from leaving or forcing her to return to the home.
- Threats:** Making and/or carrying out threats to do something to hurt her, the children or the animals. Threatening to commit suicide or report her to welfare.
- Using Male Privilege:** Treating her like a servant, making all the “big” decisions or acting like “master of the house.”
- Intimidation:** Putting her in fear by using looks, actions, a threatening voice, smashing things or destroying property.
- Isolation:** Not allowing her to see people or leave the house. Creating rules around when, where, how and who she spends her time.
- Stalking:** Monitoring day-to-day activities and phone conversations, following her, showing up at her place of work or other inappropriate places. Making harassing phone calls both during the relationship and after it is over.

**Other types of abuse may include but are not limited to:**

Withholding medications or denying access to mobility devices, threatening immigration status or threatening to reveal sexual orientation.

## 02 | 03 Agency Confidentiality and Mandatory Reporting

Each agency has a Confidentiality and Mandatory Reporting Policy. Before the victim discloses, it is important to inform her of any reason her confidentiality may be broken. For example, if a woman discloses her abuser is living in the home and he is not on her case plan, your duty to sanction her could cause her to lose her benefits and put her in a financially desperate and/or potentially lethal situation. **Check your agency's policy regarding confidentiality and mandatory reporting. It is important to understand it fully and be able to explain it.**

### Legal Mandatory Reporting

**Child Abuse/Neglect:** When you suspect that a child is being abused or neglected, you have the responsibility to report this to the local child protective services and/or the police. Know your agency policy on a child witnessing abuse as well.

- When making a report, give her the notice that you must report the abuse and give her an opportunity to report the abuse herself. Check your program policy and discuss with your supervisor how to make such reports.

**Suicide:** When a client is suicidal, you are also responsible to make a report to the appropriate authorities (i.e. the police or mental health crisis program).

- Make the person aware of your responsibility to make a report and give an opportunity to seek services voluntarily. Check your program policy and discuss this with your supervisor.

**Homicide:** When you believe a woman is serious in threats to commit homicide, you are responsible to make a report to the appropriate authorities as well.

- Make the woman aware of your responsibility to make a report and give her the opportunity to seek services voluntarily. For some, there may be a “duty to warn” a potential victim or to notify authorities of potential danger. Notify your supervisor before taking action to notify victim/authorities.

**Elder Abuse/Neglect and Abuse of Person with MR/DD:** When you suspect that an elderly person (age 60 or above) with a mental and/or physical impairment is being abused or neglected, you have a responsibility to report this to the local adult protective services and/or the police. Reporting is also required with individuals who have mental retardation or developmental disabilities when abuse or neglect is suspected.

- When making a report, give the client advance notice of your requirement to report abuse and an opportunity to report the abuse herself. Check your program policy for making such reports.

**Overview of ORC 2919.25**

Ohio law defines domestic violence as doing any of the following to a “Family or Household Member:”

1. Knowingly cause or attempt to cause physical harm.
2. Recklessly cause serious physical harm.
3. By threat of force, knowingly causing a family or household member to believe the offender will cause imminent physical harm.

Ohio law defines Family or Household Member as:

1. The natural parent of any child of whom the offender is the other natural parent or putative\* natural parent, or
2. Any of the following who resides with or has resided with the offender (at any time):
  - a. Spouse, former spouse or “person living as a spouse,”
  - b. Parent or child of the offender or another person related by blood or marriage to the offender,
  - c. Parent or child of a spouse, “person living as a spouse” or former spouse of the offender, or another person related by blood or marriage to a spouse, former spouse or “person living as a spouse” of the offender.

“Person living as a spouse” means:

- a. A person who is living with or has lived with the offender in a common law marriage. **Note:** Common law marriage is no longer recognized in Ohio.
- d. A person who otherwise is cohabitating with the offender or has otherwise cohabitated with the offender within the five years **pervious** to the incident in question.

\*Putative – supposed, reputed, presumed, alleged, commonly believed

**Note:** As of December 1994, parties who have children together have no residency requirement – therefore, it does not matter if the parents ever lived together.

There are four different protection orders in the state of Ohio that are enforceable by arrest. Temporary Protection Orders and Anti-Stalking Protection Orders are available through the criminal system only if there is a criminal case pending. The Civil Protection Order and Civil Anti-Stalking Protection Order are available through either Domestic Relations Court or the Court of Common Pleas. Brochures are provided as a part of the tool-kit for more information about these options. Please feel free to copy the brochures as needed.

## 02 | 05 Safety Planning Chart

Only a staff person who has received in-depth domestic violence training or a liaison with the local domestic violence program may be in a position to work with the victim regarding basic safety planning.

Safety planning seeks to build a partnership between the victim and the professional assisting her with a safety plan. The goal is to understand the victim's perspective and to integrate your own knowledge and resources into the victim's analysis and plans. Safety planning focuses on the immediate needs of the victim and addresses the level or risk of danger. Safety planning also takes into consideration that leaving is not always the safest strategy for the victim and failure to access or follow through with services is not always an indication that victims are not interested in protecting themselves.

For victims, physical violence is not the only, or for some, even the primary risk. Other risks can include loss of financial support/security or loss of the relationship/family. Safety planning is fluid as circumstances change and victims' analysis and decisions are complex and change over time. It is also important to understand that with every action taken, there are consequences for victims and using any option may result in an escalation of violence toward the victim.

Information the professional brings to the table:

- Community Resources
- Agency Processes
- Likely Outcomes
- Pros and Cons of certain options

Information the woman brings to the table:

- What risks she faces
- Information about her partner
- What has helped her in the past
- What hasn't helped
- What she is not willing or able to do
- What are her resources
- What are her coping mechanisms
- What are her children's resources and coping mechanisms

Together with the victim, the following chart may be used to identify those places where she most frequently encounters danger. If these locations do not apply, just fill in those that make sense to her. For each of these places, talk through the following:

- What are the *risks* in this location?
- Who are your *allies* in this setting (a person who can help you be safe there)?
- What *action* can you take to increase your safety in this setting?
- What are the *barriers* to your safety in this place?
- What *solution* can we come up with that will increase your safety there?

<i>Venue</i>	Home	School	Work	Church	Car
<i>Risk</i>					
<i>Ally</i>					
<i>Action</i>					
<i>Barrier</i>					
<i>Solution</i>					

**Note:** Caution victims about keeping written safety plans where batterers may have access to them.

## RESOURCES

- Domestic Violence Shelters
- Domestic Violence Non-Residential Programs
- Sexual Assault Programs
- Law Enforcement
- Prosecutor's Office and Victim Assistance
- Civil Legal Remedies
- Domestic Violence Culturally Specific Programs
- Batterer Intervention Programs

03



## 03 | 01 Domestic Violence Shelters

Domestic violence shelters offer temporary safe housing for victims. Some domestic violence shelters in Ohio maintain a confidential location, while some have a public location. To be accepted into a program, women are interviewed and must demonstrate need. Most shelters are accessed by their 24-hour hotline; which is anonymous and not limited to shelter intake. Hotline workers listen to the victim's story and provide options and referrals.

If a woman is seeking shelter they are interviewed over the phone and, if space is available, arrangements are made to meet the woman at a neutral location or transportation to the shelter is arranged. Each shelter has different living arrangements and policies such as length of stay, communal or dorm living, chores, acceptance of clients with alcohol/drugs or mental health problems, accessibility for disabilities, curfew, etc. Shelters also have different programs and services available. Most shelters provide referral to and advocacy with community resources and assistance in accessing the judicial system, including court accompaniment. Some shelters offer individual counseling and support groups both for shelter residents and in the community, transitional housing, job readiness, GED preparation or other services.

For children, group and individual counseling, education and play-therapy services, along with case management services are often available.

## 03 | 02 Domestic Violence Non-Residential Programs

Services may include justice system advocacy, support groups, vocational counseling and job training, outreach to schools and the community and mental health services or referrals. Many agencies have funding for practical matters such as locating temporary shelters and, if none are available, putting women and their children in a hotel for a few days. Some programs offer culturally specific programs for victims of domestic violence.

### 03 | 03 Sexual Assault Programs

Sexual assault programs are non-residential programs and may be part of a domestic violence program or a stand-alone program. They may offer 24-hour support, including hospital advocacy, counseling, justice system advocacy, support groups, resources and referrals. There is a growing trend for hospitals to have Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) who provide a forensic exam for sexual assault victims and testimony at legal proceedings.

### 03 | 04 Law Enforcement

Law enforcement officers are the first responders when called to the scene of an alleged domestic violence incident. It is the officer's responsibility to determine if there was probable cause that a domestic violence incident occurred, determine the primary aggressor and make an arrest. In Ohio arrest is the preferred course of action in domestic violence cases. Law enforcement officers also make a report detailing the evidence that a crime of domestic violence has occurred and may provide resources to the victim.

### 03 | 05 Prosecutor's Offices and Victim Assistance

The prosecutor's office may be where a victim of domestic violence would go to report a crime of domestic violence if law enforcement was not called to the actual incident. In some counties the prosecutor will direct the victim back to law enforcement to make an incident report. A prosecutor will determine if there is sufficient probable cause for a domestic violence charge to be filed and an arrest warrant to be issued. A victim assistance program, which may be operated out of the county prosecutor's office is responsible for assisting victims of crime through the criminal process. They can assist victims in accessing temporary protection orders, inform victims of the process of a criminal case and accompany victims to court proceedings. Some municipal courts also have victim assistance programs; however, many municipal courts use the local domestic violence program for victim assistance.

## 03 | 06 Civil Legal Remedies

Victims may seek relief through a Civil Protection Order; divorce or juvenile court if they are not married and have a child in common. Many domestic violence shelters and programs will assist domestic violence victims with the process for obtaining a Civil Protection Order. In addition, victims may file their own petition for a protection order. The Clerks of Courts in the Domestic Relations Court or the Common Pleas Court should have copies of standardized petitions for victims to fill out to request a hearing for a Civil Protection Order. Many of the Legal Aid offices in Ohio provide priority service to victims of domestic violence in obtaining Civil Protection Orders. In addition many shelters have referrals for private attorneys who are willing to assist domestic violence victims with Civil Protection Orders or divorces at reduced rates.

## 03 | 07 Batterer Intervention Programs

Some counties offer services specifically for batterers, usually in a group setting. These programs may be housed in a local mental health agency, in the domestic violence program, in the probation department or in a stand-alone agency. The goal is to try to help batterers accept responsibility for their violence, as well as understand and change their controlling and abusive behavior. The groups are led by certified batterer intervention counselors trained in dealing with domestic violence offenders. The programs work in collaboration with the courts to hold batterers accountable and are frequently offered in lieu of jail or other sanctions especially for first time offenders.

**Disclaimer:** Legal information is being provided as information only and should not be construed as legal advice or convey any expectation of OWF staff to offer legal advice.

03 | 08 Domestic Violence Resources in Ohio

<b><u>County</u></b>	<b><u>Shelter</u></b>	<b><u>City</u></b>	<b><u>Phone Number</u></b>
Adams	Reach Out, Inc.	Manchester	800-448-2273
Allen	Crossroads Crisis Center	Lima	877-228-HELP
Ashland	Domestic Violence Shelter	Mansfield	800-931-7233
Ashtabula	Homesafe, Inc.	Ashtabula	800-952-2873
Athens	My Sister's Place	Athens	800-443-3402
Auglaize	Auglaize County Crisis Center	Wapakoneta	419-738-5511
Belmont	Tri-County Help Center	St. Clairsville	800-695-1639
Brown	YWCA House of Peace	Batavia	800-540-4764
			513-753-7281
Butler	Dove House	Hamilton	800-618-6523
Carroll	Harbor House, Inc.	New Philadelphia	888-214-3927
			330-364-1974
	Carita's House	Carrollton	330-627-5765
Champaign	Project Woman	Springfield	800-634-9893
Clark	Project Woman	Springfield	800-634-9893
Clermont	YWCA House of Peace	Batavia	800-540-4764
			513-753-7281
Clinton	Highland/Clinton DV Program	Wilmington	866-296-5415
	Family Violence Prevention Center of Greene County		
	Xenia	937-372-4552	
	YWCA House of Peace	Batavia	800-540-4764
			513-753-7281
Columbiana	Christina House	Lisbon	330-420-0036
Coshocton	First Step	Coshocton	740-622-9533
Crawford	Turning Point	Marion	800-232-6505
Cuyahoga	Domestic Violence Center	Cleveland	216-391-HELP
	Jewish Family Services Assoc.	Cleveland	216-691-SAFE
	West Side Catholic Center	Cleveland	216-631-4141
	East Side Catholic Shelter	Cleveland	216-641-8989
Darke	Shelter From Violence	Greenville	937-548-2020
Defiance	House of Ruth	Defiance	800-782-8555
	Women & Family Services	Defiance	800-782-4906

<b><u>County</u></b>	<b><u>Shelter</u></b>	<b><u>City</u></b>	<b><u>Phone Number</u></b>
<b>Delaware</b>	CHOICES	Columbus	614-224-4663
	Turning Point	Marion	800-232-6505
<b>Erie</b>	Safe Harbour DV Shelter	Sandusky	800-953-2207
			419-626-2200
<b>Fairfield</b>	The Lighthouse	Lancaster	740-687-4423
<b>Fayette</b>	My Sister's House	Washington C.H.	740-572-2919
<b>Franklin</b>	CHOICES	Columbus	614-224-4663
<b>Fulton</b>	House of Ruth	Defiance	800-782-8555
	Women & Family Services	Defiance	800-782-4906
<b>Gallia</b>	Serenity House, Inc.	Gallipolis	800-942-9577
<b>Geauga</b>	WomenSafe, Inc.	Chardon	888-285-5665
<b>Greene</b>	Family Violence Prevention Center	Xenia	937-372-4552
<b>Guernsey</b>	Haven of Hope	Cambridge	800-304-HOPE
<b>Hamilton</b>	YWCA Battered Women's Shelter	Cincinnati	888-872-9259
		Rape Crisis & Abuse Center	Cincinnati
<b>Hancock</b>	Open Arms DV & Rape Crisis Services	Findlay	419-422-4766
<b>Hardin</b>	Crossroads Crisis Center	Lima	877-228-HELP
<b>Harrison</b>	Tri-County Help Center	St. Clairsville	800-695-1639
<b>Henry</b>	House of Ruth	Defiance	800-782-8555
	Women & Family Services	Defiance	800-782-4906
<b>Highland</b>	Highland/Clinton DV Program	Hillsboro	800-339-5066
<b>Hocking</b>	My Sister's Place	Athens	800-443-3402
<b>Holmes</b>	Every Woman's House	Wooster	800-686-1122
<b>Huron</b>	Domestic Violence Shelter, Inc.	Mansfield	800-931-7233
	Safe Harbour DV Shelter	Sandusky	800-953-2207
			419-626-2200
<b>Jackson</b>	Serenity House, Inc.	Gallipolis	800-942-9577
<b>Jefferson</b>	ALIVE, Inc.	Steubenville	888-611-7233
<b>Knox</b>	New Directions	Mt. Vernon	740-397-4357
<b>Lake</b>	Forbes House	Painesville	440-357-1018
			440-953-9779

<b><u>County</u></b>	<b><u>Shelter</u></b>	<b><u>City</u></b>	<b><u>Phone Number</u></b>
<b>Lawrence</b>	Lawrence County Helping Hands Task Force	Ironton	888-372-7433 740-532-7111
<b>Licking</b>	Center for New Beginnings	Newark	800-686-2760
<b>Logan</b>	Project Woman	Springfield	800-634-9893
<b>Lorain</b>	Genesis House	Elyria	866-213-1188 440-323-3400
<b>Lucas</b>	YWCA Battered Woman Shelter	Toledo	419-241-7386 888-341-7386
<b>Madison</b>	A Friend's House	London	800-301-1447 740-852-7761
	CHOICES	Columbus	614-224-4663
<b>Mahoning</b>	Sojourner House	Youngstown	330-747-4040
<b>Marion</b>	Turning Point	Marion	800-232-6505
<b>Medina</b>	Battered Women's Shelter	Medina	877-414-1344
<b>Meigs</b>	Serenity House, Inc.	Gallipolis	800-942-9577
<b>Mercer</b>	Family Crisis Network	Celina	419-586-1133
<b>Miami</b>	Family Abuse Shelter	Troy	800-351-7347
<b>Monroe</b>	Tri-County Help Center	St. Clairsville	800-695-1639
<b>Montgomery</b>	Artemis Center	Dayton	937-222-SAFE
	YWCA Shelter & Housing Ntwk.	Dayton	937-222-SAFE
<b>Morgan</b>	Transitions	Zanesville	740-454-3213
<b>Morrow</b>	Turning Point	Marion	800-232-6505
<b>Muskingum</b>	Transitions	Zanesville	740-454-3213
<b>Noble</b>	Haven of Hope	Cambridge	800-304-HOPE
	EVE, Inc.	Marietta	800-974-3111
<b>Ottawa</b>	Safe Harbour DV Shelter	Sandusky	800-953-2207 419-626-2200
<b>Paulding</b>	House of Ruth	Defiance	800-782-8555
	Women & Family Services	Defiance	800-782-4906
<b>Perry</b>	Transitions	Zanesville	740-454-3213
<b>Pickaway</b>	Haven House of Pickaway Co.	Circleville	740-477-9113
<b>Pike</b>	Pike County Partnership Against DV		
		Waverly	740-947-1611

<b><u>County</u></b>	<b><u>Shelter</u></b>	<b><u>City</u></b>	<b><u>Phone Number</u></b>
Portage	Safer Futures	Kent	330-673-2500
Preble	Preble County DV Shelter Services	Eaton	937-456-6891
Putnam	Crime Victim Services	Ottawa	877-274-7471
	House of Ruth	Defiance	800-782-8555
Richland	Domestic Violence Shelter, Inc.	Mansfield	800-931-7233
Ross	Ross County Coalition/Phoenix House	Chillicothe	866-828-2273 740-775-5396
Scioto	Southern Ohio Shelter	Portsmouth	800-570-1819
Shelby	New Choices	Sidney	937-498-7261
Stark	Alliance Area DV Shelter	Alliance	330-823-7223
	Domestic Violence Project, Inc.	Canton	330-453-7233
Summit	Battered Women's Shelter	Akron	888-395-HELP
Trumbull	Someplace Safe	Warren	330-393-1565 330-393-3003
Tuscarawas	Harbor House, Inc.	New Philadelphia	888-214-3927 330-364-1374
Union	Turning Point	Marion	800-232-6505
Van Wert	Crisis Care Line	Van Wert	419-238-4357
Vinton	My Sister's Place	Athens	800-443-3402
	A Shepherd's House	McArthur	866-596-9271
Warren	Abuse & Rape Crisis Shelter	Lebanon	888-860-4084
Washington	EVE, Inc.	Marietta	800-974-3111
Wayne	Every Woman's House	Wooster	800-686-1122
Williams	House of Ruth	Defiance	800-782-8555
	Sarah's House	Bryan	419-636-7272
	Women & Family Services	Defiance	800-782-4906
Wood	VITAL	Perrysburg	800-472-9411 419-352-1545
	Cocoon Shelter	Bowling Green	800-472-9411
Wyandot	Turning Point	Marion	800-232-6506

## Recommended Reading

Davies, J. *Safety Planning with Battered Women Complex Lives/Difficult Choices*. Greater Hartford Legal Assistance, Inc. Sage Series on Violence Against Women. 1998.

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Lieberman Research Inc., *Domestic Violence Advertising Campaign Tracking Survey* (Wave IV) Conducted for the Advertising Council and the Family Violence Prevention Fund, July, October 1996).

Lyon, E. *Building Comprehensive Solutions to Domestic Violence. Welfare, Poverty and Abused Women; New Research and its Implications*. National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and Building Comprehensive Solutions. October 2007.

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McKean, L. Ph.D. *Addressing Domestic Violence as a Barrier to Work. Building Collaborations between Domestic Violence Service Providers and Employment Service Agencies*. Center for Impact Research. Chicago, IL. October 2004.

Raphael, J. *Saving Bernice. Battered Women, Welfare and Poverty*. Northeastern University Press. 2000.

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United States Government Accountability Office. *TANF State Approaches to Screening for Domestic Violence Could Benefit from HHS Guideline*. GAO-05-701. August 2005.

**Please contact the Ohio Domestic Violence Network Resource Library for more information or a copy of these materials.**

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