

Home Visitor Safety



Training Companion to Home
Visitation Safety Guidelines
Domestic Violence



Presenter

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Important Note

When utilizing the guidelines provided in this training and the entire Safety Manual, it is important to remember the context in which they will be used. Safety considerations may vary from location to location as well as from situation to situation. For example, safety issues in rural areas may differ somewhat from safety issues in urban areas. Because each community is unique, the safety issues encountered in that community may also be unique. With regard to safety issues, there are other factors, in addition to context, that may need to be considered. Those factors include agency policies and procedures as well as current state laws.

Safety guidelines often need to be adapted and/or expanded to address the specific concerns of each location or situation. Supervisory sessions provide an appropriate venue for discussion of specific safety concerns and fine-tuning of safety procedures. The supervisor should be available and immediately informed if the home visitor fears for his/her safety. The safety of the home visitor is of utmost importance. The focus of this manual and training is to provide general guidelines to enhance understanding and awareness of safety issues for home visitors.



Training Objectives

Participants will identify and understand:

- The power and control tactics used by batterers.
- The importance of safety planning for both domestic violence victims and the services provider.
- How to access local resources for domestic violence victims or how to make proper referrals for domestic violence victims.



Domestic Violence 1

Definition:

- *Families in which the adults' and/or children's relationship is violent, abusive, and/or characterized by power and control tactics, with one person being victimized by the other.*
- *May be a man controlling a woman, a woman controlling a man, or one person controlling another of the same sex.*
- *Occasionally, there is mutual battering or violence by a victim trying to defend her/himself or fight back.*



Domestic Violence 2

Characteristics (See Safety Manual for definitions):

- Emotional Abuse
- Intimidation
- Coercion and Threats
- Isolation
- Using Children
- Economic Abuse
- Male Privilege
- Minimizing, Denying and Blaming
- Physical and Sexual Abuse



Domestic Violence 3

- Determine any immediate danger to you or others.
- D.V. work should not be conducted in the home - potential danger for home visitor, victim & children.
- Staff should not transport families to shelters.
- Consult with supervisor about all DV matters.
- Continue to provide support (if safe), whether the victim stays, leaves or returns after leaving.
- Any threats should be well documented and reported.



Domestic Violence 4

- *If imminent danger, leave the home & follow General Safety Guidelines.*

- If no imminent danger, but domestic violence is an issue:
 - Refer to DV service providers, i.e. safe shelter, counseling.
 - Provide Safeline (1-800-522-SAFE).
 - Encourage victim to contact local community resources.
 - If appropriate, refer to child counseling services.
 - If abuser admits problem and wants help, make referrals to state certified abuser treatment programs.



Domestic Violence 5

Oklahoma Laws:

- Report child abuse if children present in home with D.V.
(See Manual Appendix C)

- Not mandatory for health professionals to report D.V. to law enforcement unless victim requests it. It is required to document & refer victim to services.
 - Providing Safeline # (1-800-522-SAFE) will satisfy requirement.
 - Providing local shelter or crisis intervention service info is helpful.
 - (See Manual Appendix D)



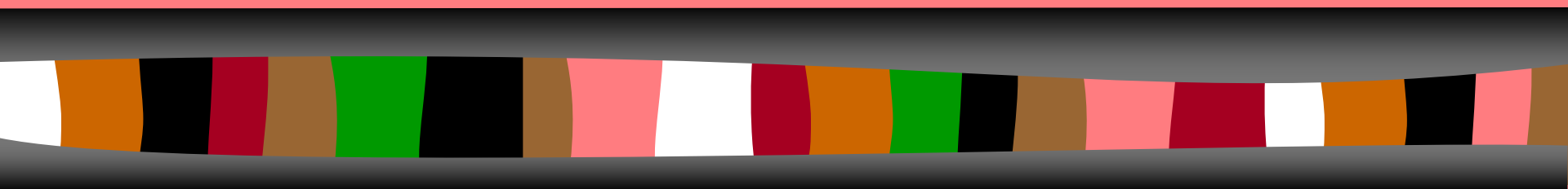
Final Thought on Domestic Violence

Victims of domestic violence are at greatest risk of death when they try to leave.

Do not pressure him or her.

Victims leave an average of 7 times before finally ending a relationship.

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