

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



**GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON
DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROTOCOL
COMMUNITY REPOSE:**

A Guide to Helping Friends and Family

June 1999

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PREFACE

Nationwide, domestic violence is an enormous public safety problem, as it is in New Hampshire. Each year in our state, over 5,700 victims of domestic violence seek assistance from crisis centers, and it is currently the leading cause of homicide in the state. Recognizing the need to proactively address this critical social problem, the State of New Hampshire has made a strong commitment to work to reduce the incidence of domestic violence in our society and to meet the needs of those most affected.

Domestic violence includes physical, sexual, verbal or emotional abuse used by one partner in a relationship to maintain power and control over the other partner. It occurs in families from all economic, educational, racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds. Ninety-five percent of the victims of spousal abuse are women, and it is estimated that three to four million women are beaten each year in our country. Violence in one generation encourages violence in the next generation, creating a cycle of abuse. Almost two-thirds of the men who abuse their partners witnessed abuse or were abused as children, and witnessing domestic violence is the single best predictor of juvenile delinquency and adult criminality for males.

In September 1993, then New Hampshire Governor Stephen Merrill created the Governor's Commission on Domestic Violence, representing all branches of government and those agencies and individuals who work with victims of domestic violence. The mission of the Governor's Commission was to develop and implement a program to bring about a reduction in the level and seriousness of domestic violence incidents and to increase awareness among the public, governmental and private agencies and the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches of government, of the causes, effects and magnitude of domestic violence.

The Commission created four committees, each focusing on separate goals; Public Education, Protocol, Victim Services and Batterer Intervention. The Public Education Committee conducted statewide public hearings and recognized that there were significant inconsistencies in the handling of cases and in the treatment of victims of domestic violence throughout the state. In response, the Protocol Committee was charged with developing and implementing multidisciplinary protocols to standardize the handling of cases among all of the disciplines that work with domestic violence cases. In 1996, thirteen protocols were introduced at six regional trainings, where over 1500 professionals were trained.

In 1997, the Committee began working on a second set of protocols addressing other disciplines. This protocol is a part of that project. Each protocol outlines the responses within various professions that would best help break the cycle of violence, by offering safety and support for victims and accountability for abusers. Within each of the professional disciplines addressed in these protocols, however, it is important to remember that there could be acknowledged victims and batterers. Therefore it is essential, when reviewing these protocols, that organizations also realize they have a responsibility to not only screen for victims and abusers among their clients, and those with whom they work, but also among themselves. Domestic violence knows no boundaries, and occurs among all racial, ethnic, socio-economic, religious and occupational groups. Assumptions about who could possibly be a victim or an abuser can be dangerous, and could put victims seeking services from your organization in danger. When developing your own guidelines or procedures for the handling of domestic violence, based on these protocols, it is important to include guidelines for handling domestic violence among your own staff.

Throughout these protocols, there are many references to agencies in New Hampshire that deal directly with domestic violence. These include domestic violence service programs (crisis centers), domestic violence coordinating councils, and batterer intervention programs. A complete listing of some of these programs are included in each individual protocol.

If you have any questions regarding the protocols, please contact:

Sandra Matheson, Director
Office of Victim/Witness Assistance
Department of Justice
33 Capitol Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-6397
(603) 271-3671

The Commission encourages duplication and distribution of these protocols among all professions. In 1998, Governor Jeanne Shaheen expanded the scope of the Commission to include sexual assault and it officially became the Governor's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence. The Commission members view this project as only a beginning and will continue their efforts to reduce the trauma experienced by victims of domestic and sexual violence by improving available services and by encouraging enhanced collaboration and support.

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INTRODUCTION AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This protocol is intended for members of the community who are witness to, hear about, or suspect domestic abuse of their friends, neighbors, co-workers or other members of the community. Once a secret kept among families, domestic violence is now recognized as a serious crime, one that often has severe consequences for the survivors, their children and the community. Stopping the cycles of this vicious crime requires not only the resolve and courage of the survivors, the cooperation and understanding of community professionals (medical, legal and law enforcement), but also the support and involvement of all of us. Everyone must play a role in demonstrating zero tolerance for battering and abuse.

The purpose of this protocol is to provide suggestions and guidelines for members of the community who come into contact with domestic violence. It is designed to address the ways a person, who identifies an abusive relationship, can support and assist the victim of that abuse. It is meant to demonstrate boundaries and limitations, as well as appropriate interventions with someone who is showing signs of abusive behavior.

GOALS OF FRIENDLY INTERVENTION

- To stop the abuse. Caution: if intervening during an incident, it is recommended to call the police rather than endangering oneself.
- To protect the victim from additional acts of violence.
- To deter the batterer from committing continued acts of violence in the community.
- To create a general deterrence in the community to acts of violence.
- To help the victim find the necessary resources to protect herself and her children.

DEFINITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Everyone has experienced tension in his or her relationships. Domestic violence is not a disagreement, a marital spat or an anger management problem. Domestic violence is a pattern of assaults and controlling behavior, including physical, sexual and psychological attacks, and economic control, between family members. Family members, for the purposes of defining domestic violence, in addition to relatives, are those persons who reside together or are/were involved in an intimate relationship. Domestic violence also refers to abusive behavior between people who are dating and those involved in same sex relationships. Domestic violence cuts across socioeconomic, ethnic, racial and religious boundaries. It can happen in any family.

Domestic violence is the willful infliction of physical pain, injury and/or mental anguish for the purpose of restricting the activity and independence of another individual. It is a problem that usually escalates over time in both severity and frequency. Without some kind of help or intervention, the violence usually gets worse. The end result can be death, either at the hands of the perpetrator or through suicide. Domestic violence threatens the well being of all family members, including the elderly and children, as well as that of the whole community.

RESOURCES

New Hampshire has fourteen crisis centers throughout the state providing supportive services to victims of domestic and sexual violence. (For information about client services and accessibility of these centers see Appendix A) All of these groups have written literature, training materials and speakers available. They all provide an intensive volunteer training program that is open to the community.

STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTION

- Educate yourself on the issue. Attend a volunteer training program given by your local crisis center. Check the bibliography for reading material (see Appendix G).
- Educate any group in which you participate – church, workplace, service organizations (Rotary, etc.), PTA. Arrange educational seminars through your local crisis center for these groups.
- Post information about available resources in restaurants, doctors' offices, public restrooms in gas stations or workplaces, or anywhere it is allowed. Ask your local crisis center for materials.
- Support legislative initiatives to address issues regarding domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Push for Public Service Announcements (PSA) on local radio and cable stations. Broadcasts of local sports events provide a good opportunity. Write letters to the editor about current events or issues of domestic and sexual violence. Urge your local news media to cover local anti-violence rallies and events.
- Involve local sports heroes (e.g. high school quarterbacks) in rallies and events which bring attention to the problem of domestic violence.
- Highlight commitment to these issues by giving awards, citations and certificates to exceptional organizations and individuals for their continued commitment to addressing domestic violence.
- Support your local crisis center with financial aid and material donations (check their needs). Sponsor events.
- Support a social agenda that provides quality childcare, affordable housing and equal employment opportunities for women.

STRATEGIES FOR INTERVENTION

These strategies are provided as suggestions, but it is crucial to remember the safety of yourself, the victim and any children involved when intervening in a violent relationship. The most you may be able to do is listen to a victim and refer her to local services. If there is immediate danger, call the police.

- Attend your local crisis center's volunteer training. The information will be useful even if you cannot volunteer on a regular basis. The training you receive from your crisis center will help you to understand the dynamics of domestic violence. You will learn about the often deep state of denial that both the batterer and the victim can have regarding the violence and the abuse. Because of this denial, intervention can sometimes be frustrating and difficult. Your intervention may not be wel-

comed. Know when to back off – for your own safety or if you can see the timing is bad. When possible make sure that the victim has a reliable safety plan (see Appendix B). This may be all you can do, but it is important.

- Be alert to possible signs of domestic violence: changes in behavior and work performance, lack of concentration, increased or unexplained absences, placing or receiving harassing phone calls, bruises or injuries that are unexplained or come with explanations that don't seem to add up.
- If you suspect violence is occurring in a relationship, do not attempt speaking to the couple together. Refer the victim to a crisis center for assistance and help her to plan for her safety. Do not assume there is no danger, even if you believe you know both partners well. If she believes he will hurt her, she probably has a reason for that belief. You can not know what happens when no one else is there.
- Do not interrogate the abuser if you sense resistance or danger. If conversation seems possible, refer to a batterers' group. Do not say anything that could put the victim in danger, such as suggest that if he doesn't do something, she will leave.
- Do not tell him anything the victim has revealed to you. Remember, the victim is not responsible for the batterer's behavior. It is important for the batterer to take responsibility for getting assistance.
- If someone confides in you that she is being abused, believe it.
- Listen without judging. People often believe their abuser's negative messages and feel responsible, ashamed and afraid she will be judged.
- Tell the victim she doesn't have to stay with an abusive partner and that help is available.
- Discuss safety planning with the victim, it could save her life. (see Appendix B). It is important to know that the most dangerous time for a victim is when she is making attempts to leave her batterer.
- Know the available resources for both batterers and victims.
- Know your own limitations. Do not feel you have to invite a victim to stay with you. It is usually best for the victim to stay where the abuser cannot find her. There may be significant safety and living arrangement issues. There are shelters available for victims. The healing process for domestic violence is very long and often done best when surrounded by people who understand the complexities of the issue. It is best to refer to your local crisis center.
- When making referrals, remember that an understanding of the underlying issues is essential. Refer to professionals who have this understanding.
- If the victim finds that a service was not provided appropriately, advise her to notify the proper authority, to pursue other service providers and not to give up. You can be a source of strength as obstacles block the path to freedom.
- Finally, don't be angry or discouraged if the victim doesn't do what you think she should. Leaving an abuser is a process that often takes numerous attempts. Each positive experience that victim has with a supportive person brings her closer to breaking free.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS

APPENDIX B: SAFETY PLAN FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

APPENDIX C: LETHALITY ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX D: 50+ REASONS WHY VICTIMS STAY

APPENDIX E: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FACT SHEET

APPENDIX F: EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON CHILDREN

APPENDIX G: BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDIX A

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT SERVICES IN N.H.

NH COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

P.O. Box 353, Concord, NH 03302-0353
(603) 224-8893 (Office)

The N.H. Coalition is comprised of 14 programs throughout the state that provide services to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. The services are free, confidential, and available to all victims regardless of age, race, religion, sexual preference, class, or physical ability. The services include:

- 24-hour crisis line
- Emergency shelter and transportation
- Legal advocacy in obtaining restraining orders against abusers
- Hospital and court accompaniment for rape survivors
- Information about and help in obtaining public assistance

RESPONSE to Sexual & Domestic Violence

c/o Coos County Family Health Service
54 Willow Street
Berlin, NH 03570
1-800-852-3388 (crisis line)
752-5679 (Berlin office)
237-8746 (Colebrook office)
788-2562 (Lancaster office)

Women's Supportive Services

11 School Street
Claremont, NH 03743
1-800-639-3130 (crisis line)
543-0155 (Claremont office)
863-4053 (Newport office)

Rape and Domestic Violence Crisis Center

P. O. Box 1344
Concord, NH 03302-1344
1-800-852-3388 (crisis line)
225-7376 (office)

Starting Point: Services for Victims of Domestic & Sexual Violence

P.O. Box 1972
Conway, NH 03818
1-800-336-3795 (crisis line)
356-7993 (Conway office)
539-5506 (Ossipee office)

Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention Program (SHARPP)

University of New Hampshire
Huddleston Hall, Room 202
Durham, NH 03824
862-3494 (crisis line & office)

Women's Crisis Service of the Monadnock Region

12 Court Street
Keene, NH 03431-3402
352-3782 (crisis line)
352-3844 (Keene office)
532-6800 (Jaffrey office)

New Beginnings

A Women's Crisis Center

P.O. Box 622
Laconia, NH 03246
1-800-852-3388 (crisis line)
528-6511 (office)

Women's Information Service (WISE)

79 Hanover Street, Suite 1
Lebanon, NH 03766
448-5525 (crisis line)
448-5922 (office)

The Support Center Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

P. O. Box 965
Littleton, NH 03561
1-800-774-0544 (crisis line)
444-0624 (Littleton office)
747-2441 (Woodsville office)

YWCA Crisis Service

72 Concord Street
Manchester, NH 03101
668-2299 (crisis line)
625-5785 (Manchester office)
432-2687 (Derry Office)

Rape and Assault Support Services

P.O. Box 217
Nashua, NH 03061-0217
883-3044 (crisis line)
889-0858 (Nashua office)
672-9833 (Milford office)

Task Force Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

P.O. Box 53
Plymouth, NH 03264
536-1659 (crisis line)
536-3423 (office)

A Safe Place

P. O. Box 674
Portsmouth, NH 03802
1-800-852-3388 (crisis line)
436-7924 (Portsmouth office)
330-0214 (Rochester office)
890-6392 (Salem office)

Sexual Assault Support Services

7 Junkins Avenue
Portsmouth, NH 03801
1-888-747-7070 (crisis toll free)
436-4107 (Portsmouth office)
332-0775 (Rochester office)

APPENDIX B

PERSONALIZED SAFETY PLAN

Name: _____

Date: _____

Review Dates: _____

The following steps represent my plan for increasing my safety and preparing in advance for the possibility for further violence. Although I do not have control over my partner's violence, I do have a choice about how to respond to him/her and how to best get myself and my children to safety.

Step 1: Safety during a violent incident. Women cannot always avoid violent incidents. In order to increase safety, battered women may use a variety of strategies.

I can use some or all of the following strategies:

A. If I decide to leave, I will _____. (Practice how to get out safely. What doors, windows, elevators, stairwells or fire escapes would you use?)

B. I can keep my purse and car keys ready and put them (place) _____ in order to leave quickly.

C. I can tell _____ about the violence and request they call the police if they hear suspicious noises coming from my house.

D. I can teach my children how to use the telephone to contact the police and the fire department.

E. I will use _____ as my code word with my children or my friends so they can call for help.

F. If I have to leave my home, I will go to _____.
(Decide this even if you don't think there will be a next time.)

If I cannot go to the location above, then I can go _____ to
or _____.

G. I can also teach some of these strategies to some/all of my children.

H. When I expect we are going to have an argument, I will try to move to a space that is lowest risk, such as _____.

(Try to avoid arguments in the bathroom, garage, kitchens, near weapons or in rooms without access to an outside door.)

I. I will use my judgment and intuition. If the situation is very serious, I can give my partner what he/she wants to calm him/her down. I have to protect myself until I/we are out of danger.

Step 2: Safety when preparing to leave. Battered women frequently leave the residence they share with the battering partner. Leaving must be done with a careful plan in order to increase safety. Batterers often strike back when they believe that a battered woman is leaving a relationship.

I can use some or all of the following safety strategies:

- A. I will leave money and an extra set of keys with _____ so I can leave quickly.
- B. I will keep copies of important documents or keys at _____.
- C. I will open a savings account by _____, to increase my independence.
- D. Other things I can do to increase my independence include: _____

- E. The domestic violence program's hotline number is _____. I can seek shelter by calling this hotline.
- F. I can keep change for phone calls on me at all times. I understand that if I use my telephone credit card, the following month the telephone bill will tell my partner those numbers that I called after I left. To keep my telephone communications confidential, I must either use coins or I might get a friend to permit me to use their telephone credit card for a limited time when I first leave.
- G. I will check with _____ and _____ to see who would be able to let me stay with them or lend me some money.
- H. I can leave extra clothes with _____.
- I. I will sit down and review my safety plan every _____ in order to plan the safest way to leave the residence. _____ (Domestic violence advocate or friend) has agreed to help me review this plan.
- J. I will rehearse my escape plan, and as appropriate, practice it with my children.

Step 3: Safety in my own residence. There are many things that a woman can do to increase her safety in her own residence. It may be impossible to do everything at once, but safety measures can be added step by step.

Safety measures I can use include:

- A. I can change the locks on my doors and windows as soon as possible.
- B. I can replace wooden doors with steel/metal doors.
- C. I can install security systems including additional locks, window bars, poles to wedge against doors, an electronic system, etc.
- D. I can purchase rope ladders to be used for escape from second floor windows.
- E. I can install smoke detectors and purchase fire extinguishers for each floor in my house/apartment.
- F. I can install an outside lighting system that lights up when a person is coming close to my house.

- G. I will teach my children how to use the telephone to make a collect call to me and to _____ (friend/minister/other) in the event that my partner takes the children.
- H. I will tell people who take care of my children which people have permission to pick up my children and that my partner is not permitted to do so. The people I will inform about pick-up permission include:
 _____ (school),
 _____ (day care staff),
 _____ (babysitter),
 _____ (Sunday school teacher),
 _____ (teacher),
 _____ (and),
 _____ (others).
- I. I can inform _____ (neighbor),
 _____ (pastor), and
 _____ (friend) that my partner no longer resides with me and they should call the police if he is observed near my residence.

Step 4: Safety with a protection order. Many people who batter obey protection orders, but one can never be sure which violent partner will obey and which will violate protection orders. I recognize that I may need to ask the police and the courts to enforce my protection order.

The following are some steps that I can take to help the enforcement of my protection order:

- A. I will keep my protection order _____ (location). (Always keep it on or near your person. If you change purses, that's the first thing that should go in.)
- B. I will give my protection order to police departments in the community where I work, in those communities where I usually visit family or friends, and in the community where I live.
- C. There is a state registry of protection orders that all police departments can call to confirm a protection order. I can check with the police department to make sure that my order is in the registry.
- D. For further safety, if I often visit other cities/towns/counties in New Hampshire, I might file my protection order with the court in those areas. I will register my protection order in the following localities:
 _____, _____, and _____.
- E. I can call the local domestic violence program if I am not sure about B., C., or D. above or if I have some problem with my protection order.
- F. I will inform my employer, my minister, my closest friend _____ and _____ and that I have a protection order in effect.
- G. If my partner destroys my protection order, I can get another copy from the courthouse where I received the original order.
- H. If my partner violates the protection order, I can call the police and report a violation, contact my attorney, call my advocate, and/or advise the court of the violation.

- I. If the police do not help, I can contact my advocate or attorney and will file a complaint with the chief of the police department.
- J. I can also file a private criminal complaint with the district justice in the jurisdiction where the violation occurred or with the district attorney. I can charge my battering partner with a violation of the protection order and all the crimes that he commits in violating the order. I can call the domestic violence advocate to help me with this.

Step 5: Safety on the job and in public. Each battered woman must decide if and when she will tell others that her partner has battered her and that she may be at continued risk. Friends, family and co-workers can help to protect women. Each woman should consider carefully which people to invite to help secure her safety.

I might do any or all of the following:

- A. I can inform my boss, the security supervisor and _____ at work of my situation.
- B. I can ask _____ to help screen my telephone calls at work.
- C. When leaving work, I can _____
- D. When driving home if problems occur, I can _____
- E. If I use public transit, I can _____
- F. I can use different grocery stores and shopping malls to conduct my business and shop at hours that are different than those when residing with my battering partner.
- G. I can use a different bank and take care of my banking at hours different from those I used when residing with my battering partner.
- H. I can also _____ .

Step 6: Safety and alcohol or other drug use. Most people in this culture use alcohol. Many use other mood-altering drugs. Much of this use is legal and some is not. The legal outcomes of using illegal drugs can be very hard on a battered woman, may hurt her relationship with her children and put her at a disadvantage in other legal actions with her battering partner. Therefore, women should carefully consider the potential cost of the use of illegal drugs. But beyond this, the use of any alcohol or other drugs can reduce a woman’s awareness and ability to act quickly to protect herself from her battering partner. Furthermore, the use of alcohol or other drugs by the batterer may give him/her an excuse to use violence. Therefore, in the context of alcohol or other drug use, a woman needs to make specific safety plans.

If alcohol or other drug use has occurred in my relationship with the battering partner, I can enhance my safety by some or all of the following:

- A. If I am going to use, I can do so in a safe place and with people who understand the risk of violence and who are committed to my safety.
- B. I can also _____ .

- C. If my partner is using, I can _____ .
- D. I might also _____ .
- E. To safeguard my children, I might and _____ .

Step 7: Safety and my emotional health. The experience of being battered and verbally degraded by partners is usually exhausting and emotionally draining. The process of building a new life for myself takes much courage and incredible energy.

To conserve my emotional energy and resources and to avoid hard emotional times, I can do some of the following:

- A. If I feel down and ready to return to a potentially abusive situation, I can _____
- B. When I have to communicate with my partner in person or by telephone, I can _____
- C. I can try to use “I can ...” statements with myself and to be assertive with others.
- D. I can tell myself-“_____” - whenever I feel others are trying to control or abuse me.
- E. I can read _____ to help me feel stronger.
- F. I can call _____ , and as other resources to be of support to me.
- G. Other things I can do to help me feel stronger are _____ , _____ , and _____ .
- H. I can attend workshops and support groups at the domestic violence program or _____ , _____ or _____ to gain support and strengthen my relationships with other people.

Step 8: Items to take when leaving. When women leave partners, it is important to take certain items with them. Beyond this, women sometimes give an extra copy of papers and an extra set of clothing to a friend just in case they have to leave quickly.

Items with asterisks on the following list are the most important to take. If there is time, the other items might be taken, or stored outside the home.

These items might best be placed in one location, so that if we have to leave in a hurry, I can grab them quickly.

When I leave, I should take:

- Identification for myself
- Children’s birth certificates
- My birth certificate
- Social Security Cards
- School and vaccination records
- Money
- Checkbook, ATM (Automatic Teller Machine) Card
- Credit Cards

- Keys - house/car/office
- Driver's license and registration
- Medications
- Welfare identification
- Green Cards
- Passport(s)
- Divorce papers
- Medical records - for all family members
- Lease/rental agreement, house deed, mortgage payment book
- Bank books
- Insurance papers
- Small saleable objects
- Address book
- Pictures
- Jewelry
- Children's favorite toys and/or blankets
- Items of special sentimental value

Telephone numbers I need to know:

Police department - home _____

Police department - school _____

Police department - work _____

Battered women's program _____

County registry of protection orders _____

Work number _____

Supervisor's home number _____

Minister _____

Other _____

Adapted from Barbara Hart and Jane Stuehling, PCADV, McKnight Street, Reading, PA 19601, PCADV, 1992, which was adopted from "Personalized Safety Plan," Office of the City Attorney, City of San Diego, California, April, 1990.

APPENDIX C

LETHALITY ASSESSMENT

(Or indicators that a “batterer” might kill)

- Threats of homicide or suicide
- Fantasies of homicide or suicide
- Depression
- Weapons
- Obsessiveness about partner or family
- Centrality of battered victim
- Rage
- Drug or alcohol consumption
- Pet or property abuse
- Access to battered victim or family
- Escalation of risk taking
- History of violence
- She is the best judge

APPENDIX D

50+ REASONS A WOMAN DOESN'T LEAVE HER ABUSIVE PARTNER

1. She's tried to leave before
2. Her partner found her before
3. The children
4. Money
5. Fear
6. Relatives blame her
7. Therapists blame her
8. Police blame her
9. Clergy blame her
10. Her batterer blames her
11. She blames herself
12. No one believes she is being abused
13. She doesn't think she is being abused
14. Her partner was abused as a child
15. Her partner says, "I Love You."
16. Her Partner says, "I'm Sorry."
17. Her partner says, "I'm the best thing that 's ever happened to you."
18. Her partner says, "I'll never do it again."
19. Her partner says, "I'll kill you if you leave."
20. Her partner says, "I'll take the children."
21. Her partner says, "I'll kill myself if you leave."
22. She'll be homeless
23. The shelters are full
24. She believes the welfare system will abuse her worse
25. She loves her partner, not the abuse
26. Her partner loves her
27. The children love them both
28. Her father abused her
29. Her mother abused her
30. Her partner is an alcoholic
31. Her partner is a drug addict
32. She's an alcoholic
33. She's a drug addict
34. She can't speak English
35. She doesn't have papers to be in this country
36. She uses a wheelchair
37. She's deaf
38. She's developmentally disabled
39. She's blind
40. Her partner is her personal care attendant
41. Her partner is a public figure
42. She's a public figure
43. She can't read
44. She's afraid of the unknown
45. She's isolated
46. She's depressed
47. Her partner threatens to expose her as a lesbian
48. She's never told anyone
49. It's not the right time yet
50. She may be deported
51. Her childhood
52. Dissociation
53. Embarrassment
54. Religious beliefs
55. Leaving doesn't guarantee safety
56. She feels she has to "go along' with it, try to put it behind her and forget about it

APPENDIX E

A FACT SHEET ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- **Domestic Violence:** A pattern of coercive behavior that is used by one person to gain power and control over another, which may include physical violence, sexual, emotional and psychological intimidation, verbal abuse, stalking, and economic control.
(Family Violence Prevention Fund. "Model Policy on Domestic Violence in the Workplace".).
- Nearly 1 in 3 adult women experience at least one physical assault by a partner during adulthood.
(Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report: Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey (NCJ-154348), August 1995, p. 3).
- Ninety to ninety-five percent (90-95%) of domestic violence victims are women.
(Bureau of Justice Statistics Selected Findings: Violence Between Intimates, November 1994).
- As many as 95% of domestic violence perpetrators are male.
(A Report of the Violence against Women Research Strategic Planning Workshop sponsored by the National Institute of Justice in Cooperation with the US Department of Health and Human Services, 1995).
- Approximately 17% of the 1.4 million people treated in hospital emergency rooms for violence related injuries were injured by an intimate partner.
(U.S. Department of Justice, August 1997. "Violence-related Injuries Treated in Hospital Emergency Departments". Michael R. Rand. Bureau of Justice Statistics).
- Fourteen percent (14%) of married women said their husbands had used physical force or threat to try to have sex with them. Sexual assaults can and do occur within marital relationships. Most often, these assaults occur within a context of on-going domestic violence.
(American Medical Association: "Sexual Assault in America", " Guidelines on Sexual Assault", 1995).
- In 1996, approximately 1,800 murders were attributed to intimates; nearly three out of four of these had a female victim.
(Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-1996).
- Much of female violence is committed in self-defense, and inflicts less injury than male violence.
(Chalk & King, eds., Violence in Families: Assessing Prevention & Treatment Programs, National Resource Council and Institute of Medicine, p.42 1998).
- Ninety-two percent (92%) of women who were physically abused by their partners did not discuss these incidents with their physicians; 57% did not discuss the incidents with anyone.
(The Commonwealth Fund, "First Comprehensive National Health Survey of American Women Finds Them at Significant Risk", (News Release). New York: July 14, 1993).
- Each year, at least 6% of all pregnant women, about 240,000 pregnant women, in this country are battered by the men in their lives.
(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The Atlanta Journal and Constitution, 1994).
- One out of every four American women report that they have been physically abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives. Thirty percent (30%) of Americans say they know a woman who has been physically abused by her husband or boyfriend in the past year.
(Lieberman Research Inc., "Tracking Survey Conducted for the Advertising Council and the Family Violence Prevention Fund," July-October, 1996).

APPENDIX E (continued)

- The U.S. Department of Justice reported that 37% of all women who sought care in hospital emergency rooms for violence-related injuries were injured by a current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend.
(U.S. Department of Justice, August 1997. Violence-related Injuries Treated in Hospital Emergency Departments. Michael R. Rand. Bureau of Justice Statistics).
- While women are less likely than men to be victims of violent crimes overall, women are five to eight times more likely than men to be victimized by an intimate partner.
(U.S. Department of Justice, March 1997, Violence by Intimates: Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and Girlfriends).
- Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women between ages 15 and 44 in the United States, more than car accidents, muggings, and rapes combined.
(Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1991, Uniform Crime Reports).
- By the most conservative estimate, each year 1 million women suffer nonfatal violence by an intimate.
(Bureau of Justice Statistics. Special Report: Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey (NCJ-154348), August 1995, p. 3).
- Substance abuse increases the risk that men will batter their partners, although the substance, per se, is not the key factor. *(Pernanen, K. (1991) Alcohol in human violence. quoted by Bennett, Larry W. (1997). Substance Abuse and Women Abuse by Male Partners, VAWnet, a project of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence).*
- A study conducted at Rush Medical Center in Chicago found that the average charge for medical services provided to abused women, children, and older people was \$1,633 per person per year. This would amount to a national annual cost of \$857.3 million.
(Meyer, H. "The Billion Dollar Epidemic". American Medical News, January 6, 1992).
- Eighty-eight percent (88%) of victims of domestic violence fatalities had a documented history of physical abuse.
(Florida Governor's Task Force on Domestic and Sexual Violence, Florida Mortality Review Project, 1997, pp.46-48, tables 14-21).
- The 14 member groups of the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence assist survivors of sexual assault, and domestic violence, and members of their families, with 24-hour crisis lines, emergency shelter, counseling, support groups and help dealing with police, medical and court personnel. In 1997 Coalition member groups assisted 7,742 battered women, 322 men, and provided shelter to 902 women and children. They helped hundreds of women obtain restraining orders against their abusers.
- Printing financed with funds provided in part or in whole by the State of NH and/or United States, Department of Health & Human Services.

For information or help, within New Hampshire call 1-800-852-3388

outside NH call (603) 225-9000

NEW HAMPSHIRE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

PO BOX 353 CONCORD, NH 03302-0353 603-224-8893

APPENDIX F

A FACT SHEET ON THE EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON CHILDREN

- Each year, an estimated 3.3 million children are exposed to violence against their mothers or female caretakers by family members.

(American Psychological Association, Violence and the Family: Report of the APA Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family (1996), p. 11).

- In homes where domestic violence occurs, fear, instability, and confusion replace the love, comfort, and nurturing that children need. These children live in constant fear of physical harm from the person who is supposed to care for and protect them. They may feel guilt at loving the abuser or blame themselves for causing the violence.

(Domestic Violence, Understanding a Community Problem, National Woman Abuse Prevention Fund).

- Studies find child witnesses to exhibit more aggressive and antisocial, as well as, fearful and inhibited behaviors, and to have lower social competence.

Christophopoulos et al., (1987) Children of abused women, Journal of Marriage and the Family, 49, 611-619.

- Children who witness violence were also found to show more anxiety, aggression, depression and temperamental problems, less empathy and self-esteem, and lower verbal, cognitive, and motor abilities than children who did not witness violence at home. There is also some support for the hypothesis that children from violent families of origin carry violent and violence-tolerant roles to their adult intimate relationships.

Susan Schechter and Jeffrey Edleson, "In the Best Interest of Women and Children: A Call for Collaboration Between Child Welfare and Domestic Violence Constituencies". Protecting Children, The American Humane Association, 1996.

- Forty to sixty percent (40-60%) of men who abuse women also abuse children.

(American Psychological Association, Violence and the Family: Report of the APA Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family (1996), p. 40).

- Children in homes where domestic violence occurs are physically abused or seriously neglected at a rate 1,500% higher than the national average in the general population.

(National Woman Abuse Prevention Project, Washington, D.C.)

- Sixty-two percent (62%) of young men between the ages of 11 and 20 serving time for homicide, killed their mother's batterer.

(New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women, Spring Issue, May 1998).

- Boys who witness family violence are more likely to batter their female partners as adults than are boys raised in non-violent homes.

Georgia Department of Human Resources, Family Violence Teleconference Resource Manual, (Battered Families . . . Shattered Lives, January, 1992).

- Girls who witness their mother's abuse have a higher rate of being battered as adults.

Georgia Department of Human Resources, Family Violence Teleconference Resource Manual (Battered Families . . . Shattered Lives, January 1992).

APPENDIX F (continued)

- In one study, 27% of domestic homicide victims were children.

(Florida Governor's Task Force on Domestic and Sexual Violence, Florida Mortality Review Project, 1997, p. 45, table 11).

- When children are killed during a domestic dispute, 90% are under age 10, 56% are under age 2.

(Florida Governor's Task Force on Domestic and Sexual Violence, Florida Mortality Review Project, 1997, p. 51, table 28).

The 14 member groups of the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence assist survivors of sexual assault, and domestic violence, and members of their families, with 24-hour crisis lines, emergency shelter, counseling, support groups and help dealing with police, medical and court personnel. The member programs provide speakers and educational programs to community groups. In 1997 Coalition member groups assisted 7,742 battered women, 322 men, and provided shelter to 902 women and children. They helped hundreds of women obtain restraining orders against their abusers.

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APPENDIX G

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