

Batterers As Partners, Batterers as Parents



Recognizing Batterer's Tactics and How They Affect the Family

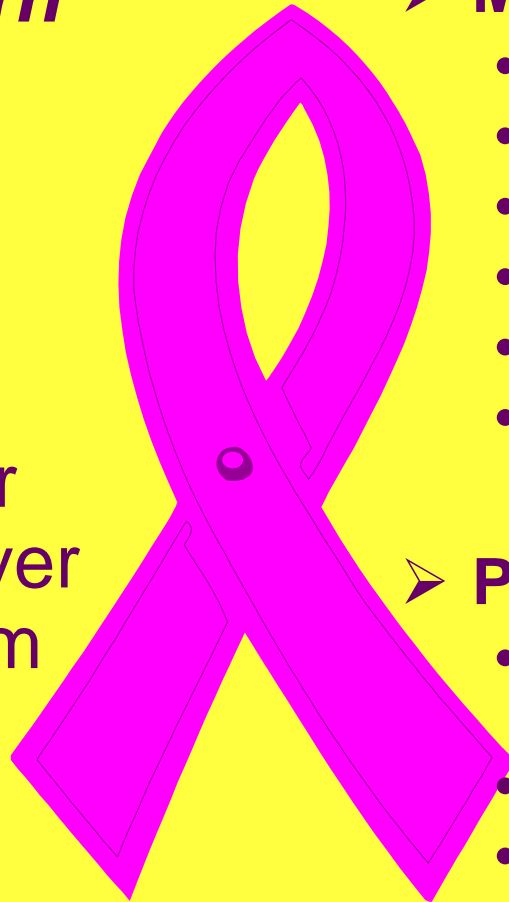
Credits

- This presentation is based on ***“The Batterer as Parent: Addressing the Impact of Domestic Violence on Family Dynamics,”*** by Lundy Bancroft and Jay Silverman, Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks, CA, 2002
- The development of this training was made possible by the Grafton County Greenbook Project, funded by the Office on Violence Against Women, US Department of Justice grant #2004-WE-AX-KO35.
- Editing and presentation layout by Kathy Jones, DVS.
- Special thanks to Ruth Houte, Michelle Rosenthal, and the DCYF Training Coordinators for their guidance in developing this training series.

The Batterer: In Adult Relationship

➤ ***Uses a pattern***
of multiple
coercive and
controlling
behaviors

➤ To gain power
and control over
the adult victim

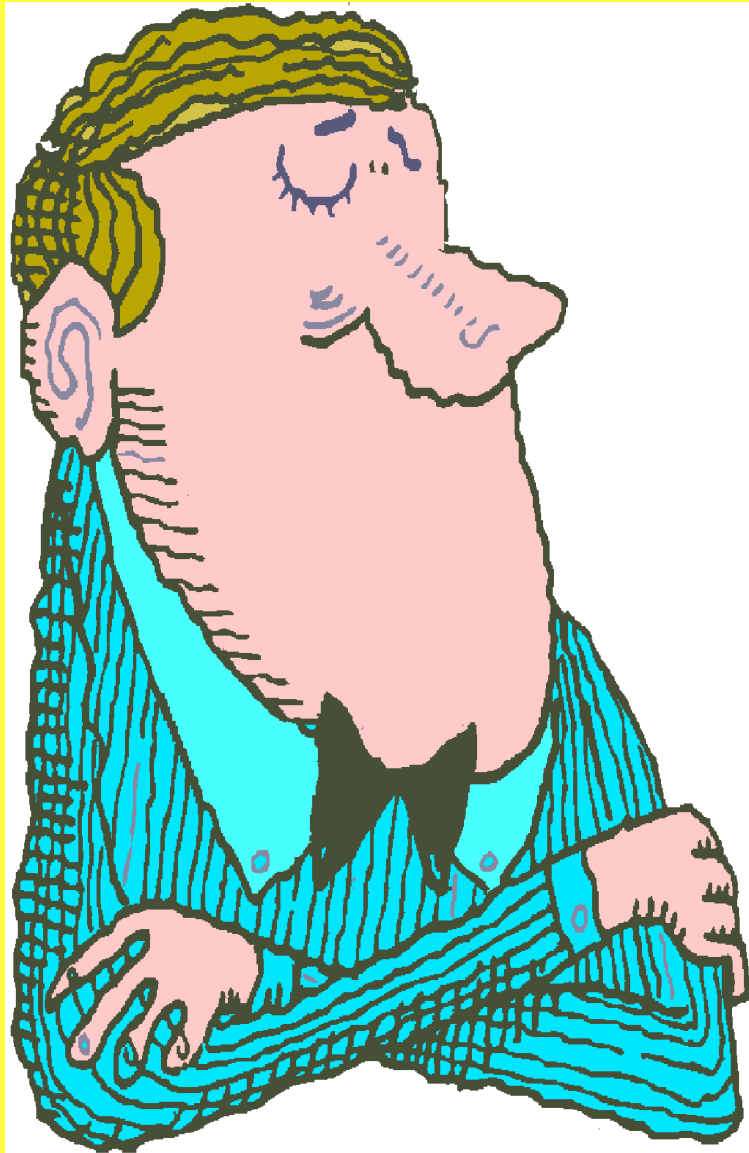


➤ **May include:**

- *Verbal abuse*
- *Emotional control*
- *Medical neglect*
- *Economic control*
- *Legal intimidation*
- *Stalking/monitoring/isolation*

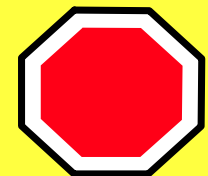
➤ **Punctuated by:**

- *Credible psychological threats and intimidation*
- *Sexual assault*
- *Physical violence*

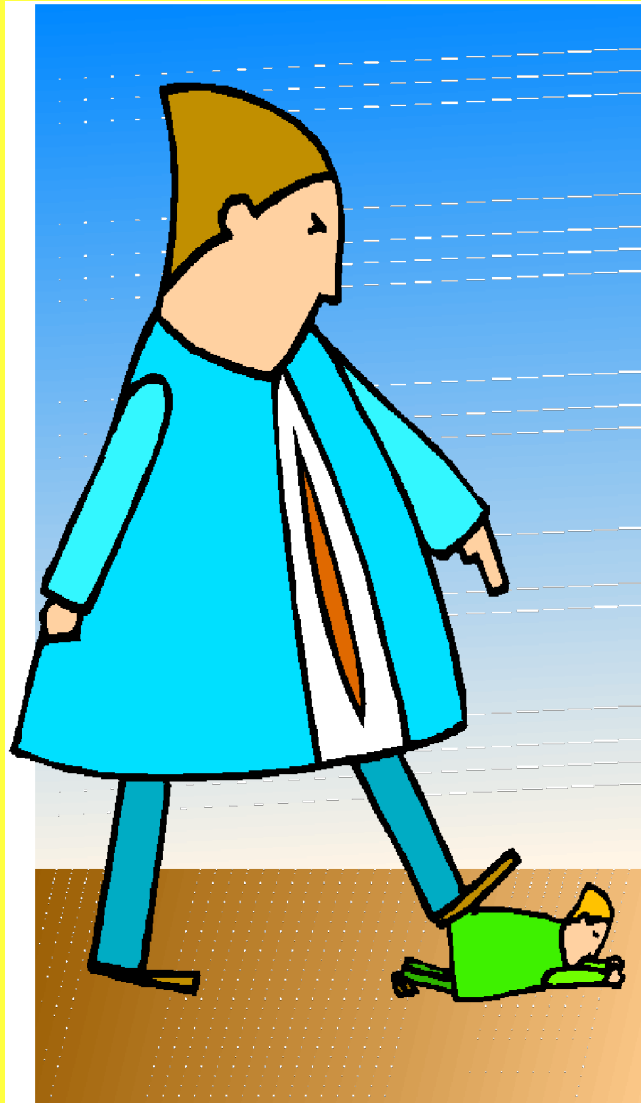


Entitlement: Rights without Responsibilities

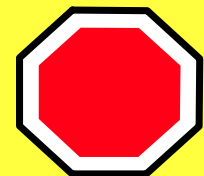
- Feels justified using any means to protect “special” status
- Expectation: “When I say ‘jump...’”
- Reversal of “abuse” and “self-defense”



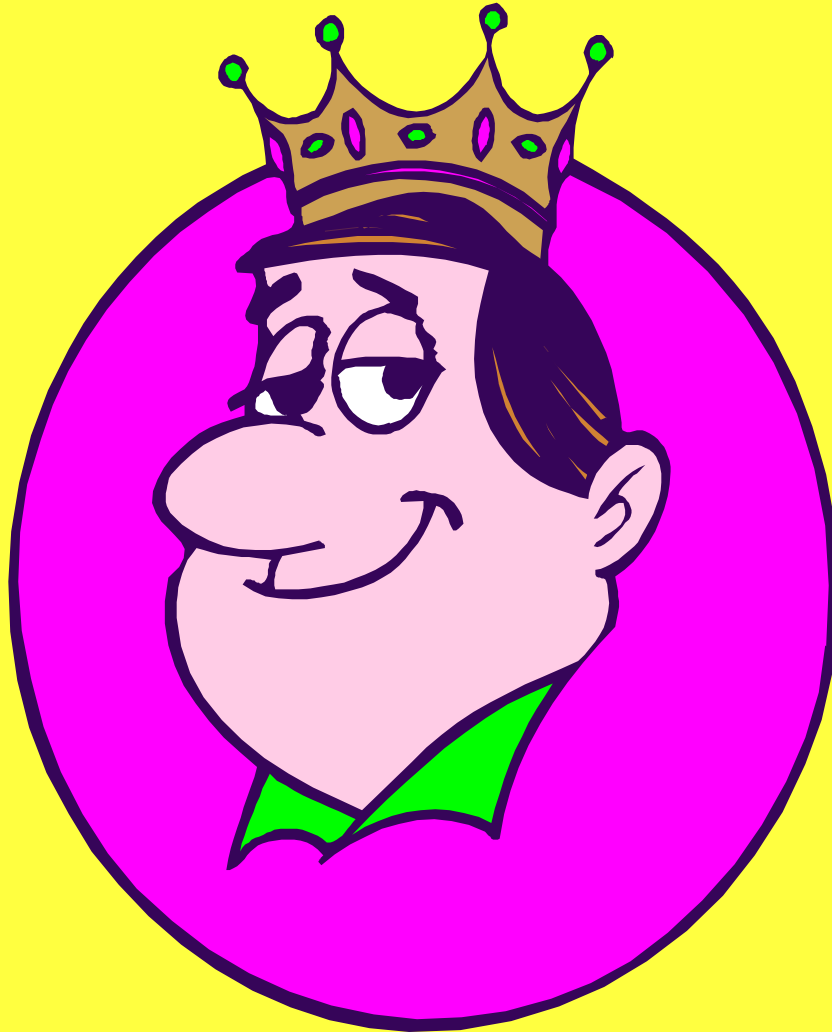
Controlling



- Escalates when intimate partner resists
- Resistance = “evidence” of
 - Victim’s “mental instability”
 - Victim’s “volatility”
 - Victim’s “desire to control”
- All family functions/ tasks are arenas to demonstrate control



Self-Centeredness



- Batterer's needs take precedence
- Lack of emotional support for family
- Expectation: "King of the Castle"

Superiority

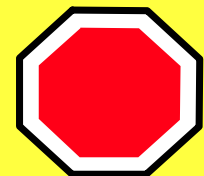


- Partner is inferior
- Possibly hostile to women in general
- Dehumanizes or objectifies partner



Possessiveness

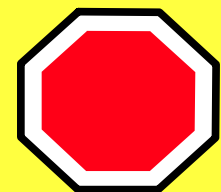
- Partner is an OWNED OBJECT
- Partner does not have right to resist



Manipulative



- Seeks to change family's reality
- Public vs. Private persona



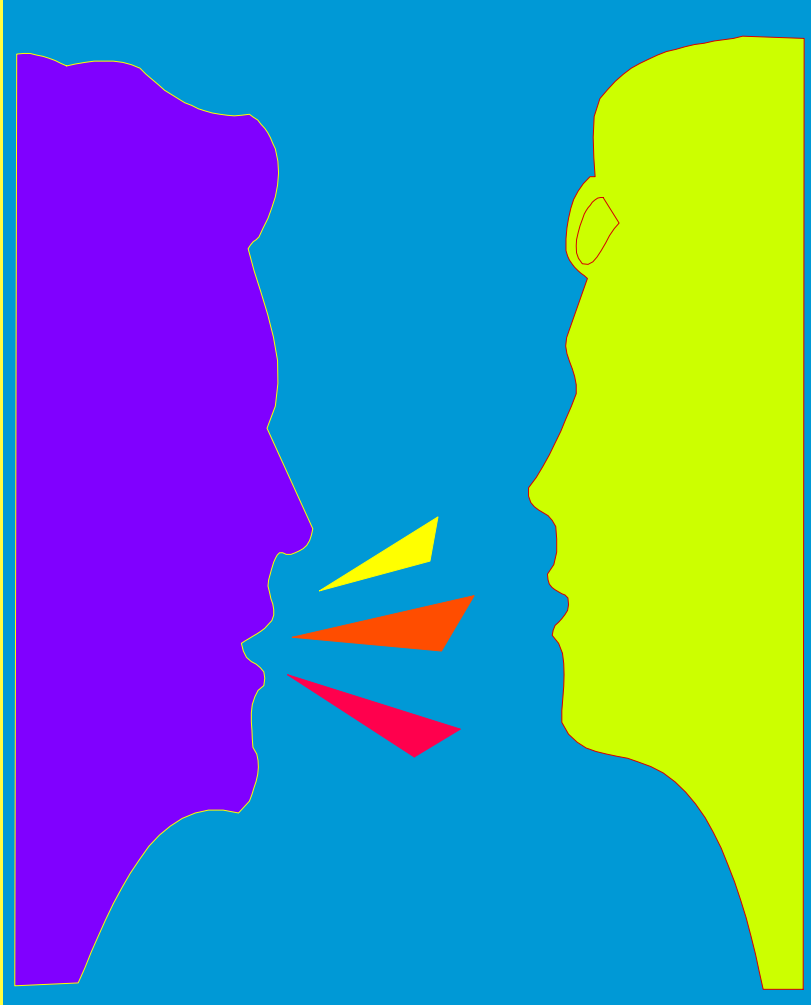


Confuses “Love” and “Abuse”

- Sees abuse as “proof” of love

Contradicts:

“Do As I Say, Not As I Do”



- Behavior contradicts statements
- Different standards for:
 - “man vs woman”
 - “strong vs weak”
 - “adult vs child”

Externalizes Responsibility: “Not me!”



- Justifies actions and makes excuses
- Shifts blame to partner or other causes
- Shifts responsibility for effects of abuse

Denies, Minimizes: “No, not really...”



- Will not acknowledge extent of abuse
 - Reports less violence
 - Minimizes threatening behavior
- Denies the effects of abuse on family
- Aggressive violence mischaracterized

The Batterer: In Parent/Child Relationships

➤ ***Uses a pattern***
of multiple
coercive and
controlling
behaviors

➤ To gain power
and control over
***all relationships
in the home***



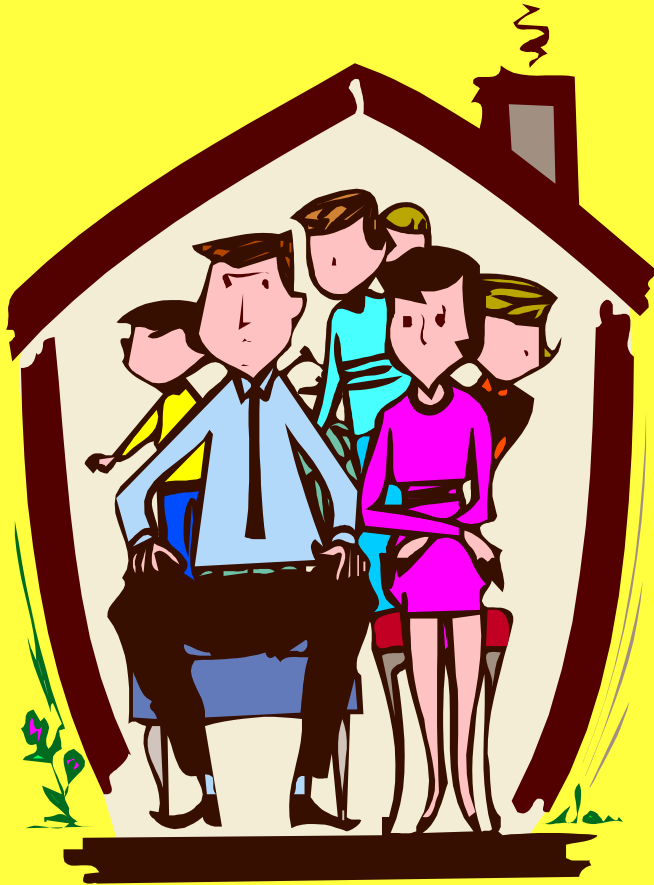
➤ **Characterized by:**

- *Authoritarian parenting*
- *Under involved, neglectful or irresponsible parenting*
- *Self-centeredness*
- *Manipulation*
- *Undermining adult victim's authority/parenting*
- *Ability to perform in public/ under observation*

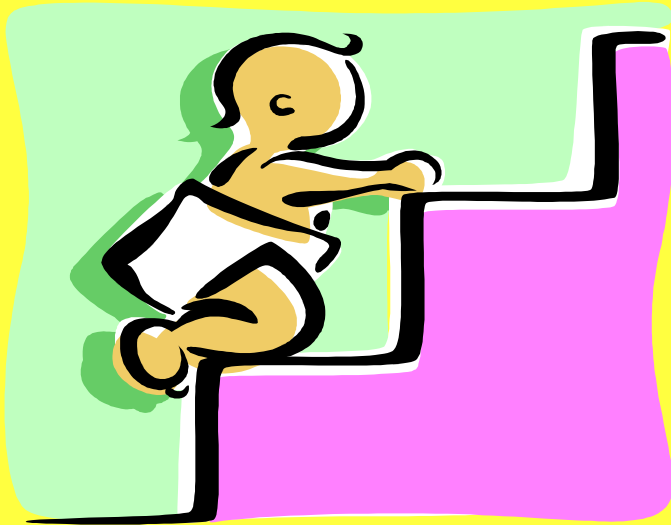
➤ **Punctuated by:**

- *Credible psychological threats and intimidation*
- *Physical violence*
- *(Possibly sexual assault)*

Authoritarian



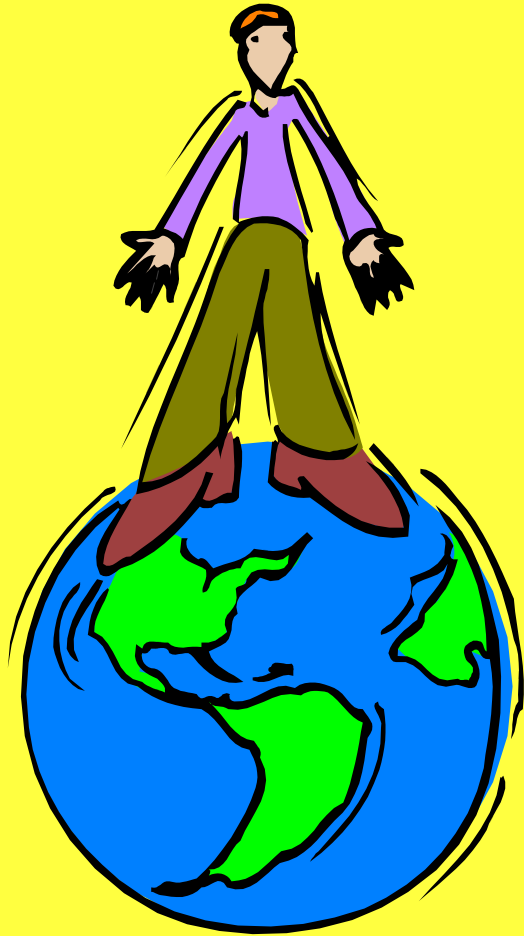
- Rigid, uncompromising
- Expects unquestioned obedience
- Intolerant of resistance
- Inflexible
- “Power-assertive” in conflicts with children



Under-involved, Neglectful, Irresponsible

- Children are batterer's "domain" but partner's responsibility
- Children viewed as hindrance or annoyance
- Avoids parenting responsibilities
- Unwilling to make sacrifices for children
- Limited knowledge of children or their needs
- Fails to keep promises, except during litigation

Self-Centered



- Unwilling to modify life to fit children's needs
- Insensitive to children's feelings/experiences
- Intolerant of infant distress
- Role reversal
- Retaliates against children if they "slight" him
- Makes children responsible for his well-being



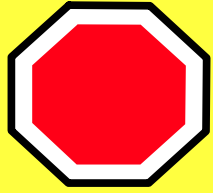
Undermines Adult Victim's Parenting

- Ridicules victim in front of children
- Physically abuses victim in front of children
- Denies victim's ability to make or enforce rules
- Prevents victim from meeting children's needs
- Blames victim for inability to spend on children
("If I didn't have to pay child support...")

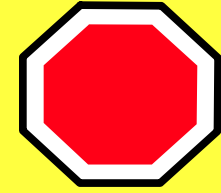
Ability to Perform under Observation

- Batterers typically have great ability to “charm” (think *manipulate*)
- Batterers know how to modify behaviors under observation
- Supervised visits do not challenge a batterer’s parenting skills





Practice Implications



Outlined by Doug Gaudette, MA, LMHC

- *Most batterers cannot provide a healing environment for children:*
 - Children do not feel safe
 - Children feel responsible for batterer
 - Continual undermining of parent/child bond
 - Lack of limits/rules (to gain favor)
 - Lack of parenting experience
- **Close monitoring of contact is REQUIRED**

Join us next time for...

Children Living Domestic Violence

Understanding the Harm Done
to Children Who Witness
Coercive Control

