

An illustration in a comic book style with a yellow background and purple horizontal stripes. On the left, a woman with long dark hair and a blue jacket looks down at a young child with red hair. To the right, a man with dark hair and a black jacket looks towards the woman and child. The overall mood is somber and protective.

Living Domestic Violence

**PRISONERS OF A
VERY PRIVATE WAR**

Credits

- The final draft 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.
- Outline, 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.

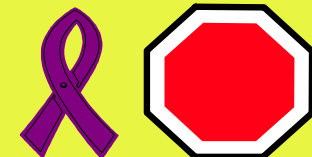
Domestic Violence

- ***Pattern*** of multiple coercive behaviors
- Used by ***one person*** to gain ***power and control over another*** in an intimate relationship



- May include:
 - ***Verbal abuse***
 - ***Emotional control***
 - ***Medical neglect***
 - ***Economic control***
 - ***Legal intimidation***
 - ***Psychological intimidation***
 - ***Stalking/monitoring/isolation***
 - ***Sexual assault***
 - ***Physical violence***

*(See "Shades of Gray" handout)

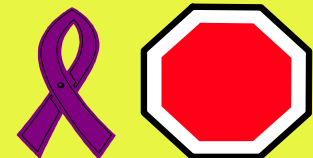


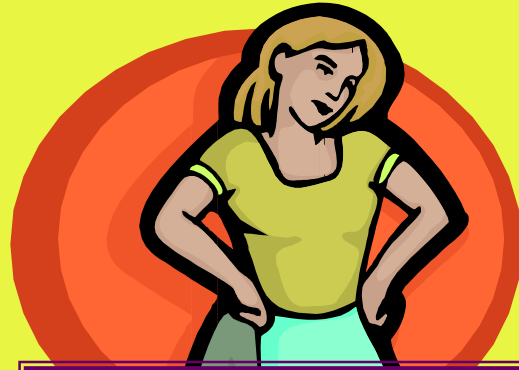
Domestic Violence *is not...*

- ***Resistance Violence***
- ***Pre-emptive Violence***
- ***Situational Violence***
- ***Pathological Violence***
- ***Mutually Toxic***



BY DEFINITION, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
CANNOT BE MUTUAL!





**“But if my partner hit *me*,
I wouldn’t take it...*I’d leave!*”**

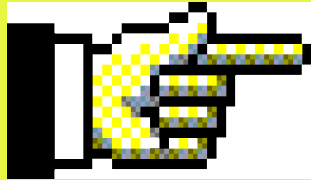
Assumes:

- ❖ Only physical violence is abuse
- ❖ Lack of connection to the abuser
- ❖ The victim’s community supports separation
- ❖ The victim has all necessary resources for safety/independence

Ignores:

- ❖ Conditioning from non-physical forms of abuse
- ❖ Social conditioning to “fix” relationships
- ❖ “Prison guard” vested in victim’s imprisonment and:
 - Social allies
 - Institutional allies





ONE IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE

Prisoners of War **know**
the **potential risks** of
going to war...



**Victims of Intimate
Partner Violence DO NOT!**

The **Kiss** of the **Frog Prince**



If you put a frog in boiling water, it is going to jump out...



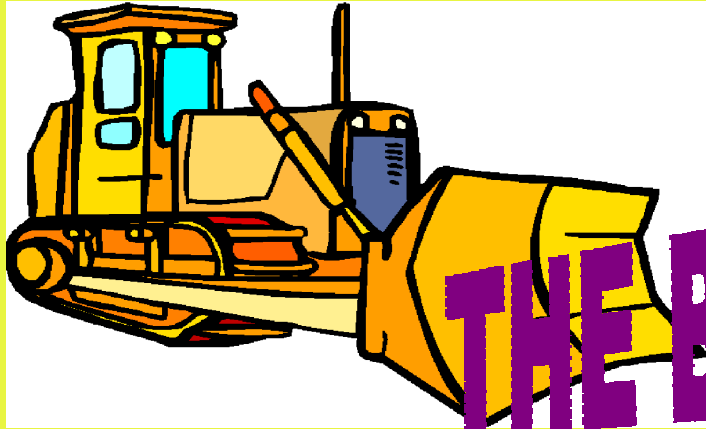
If you put the frog in a pot of water, then slowly bring the water up to boil...



IT WILL BOIL TO DEATH!

(No frogs were harmed in the making of this slide.)



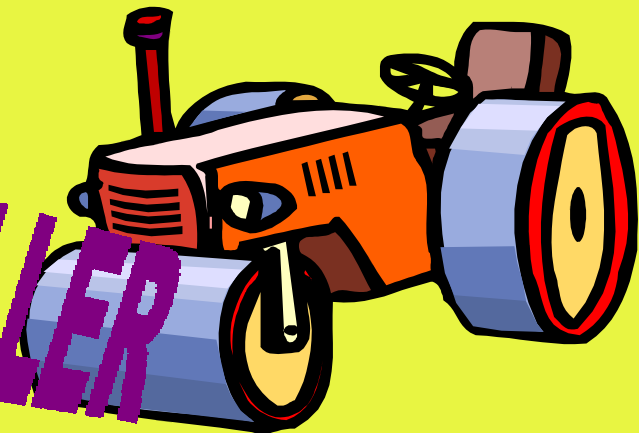


THE BOUNDARY BULLDOZER

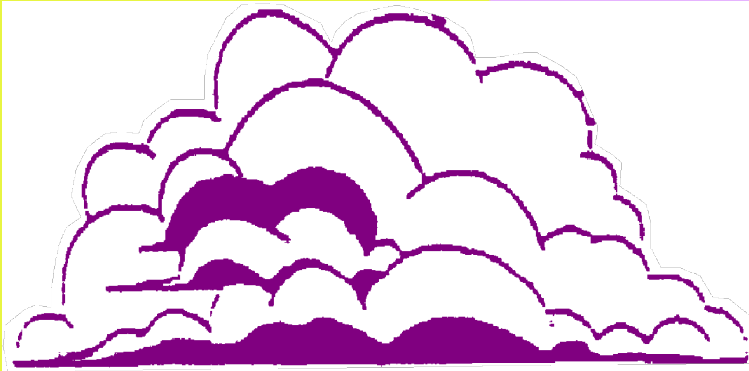
The Abuser is particularly expert at:

- 1) Ignoring the victim's personal boundaries
- 2) Ignoring the victim's personal feelings

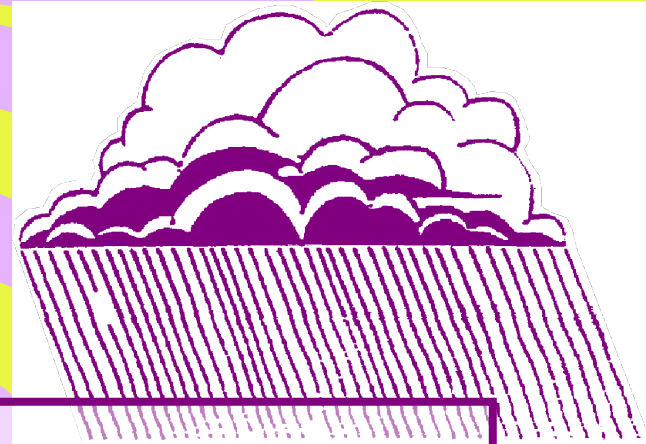
THE EMOTIONAL STEAMROLLER



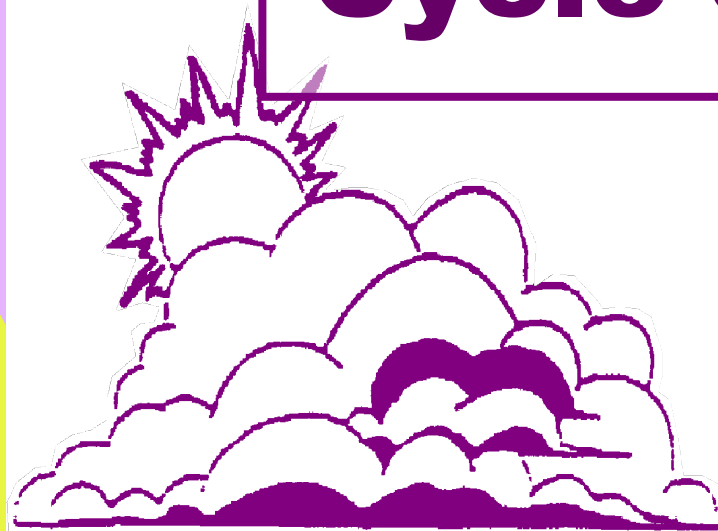
Calm Phase



Tension-Building Phase



Cycle of Violence



Contrition Phase



Explosion Phase

Co-occurring Issues

Domestic Violence

Child Abuse

Substance Abuse

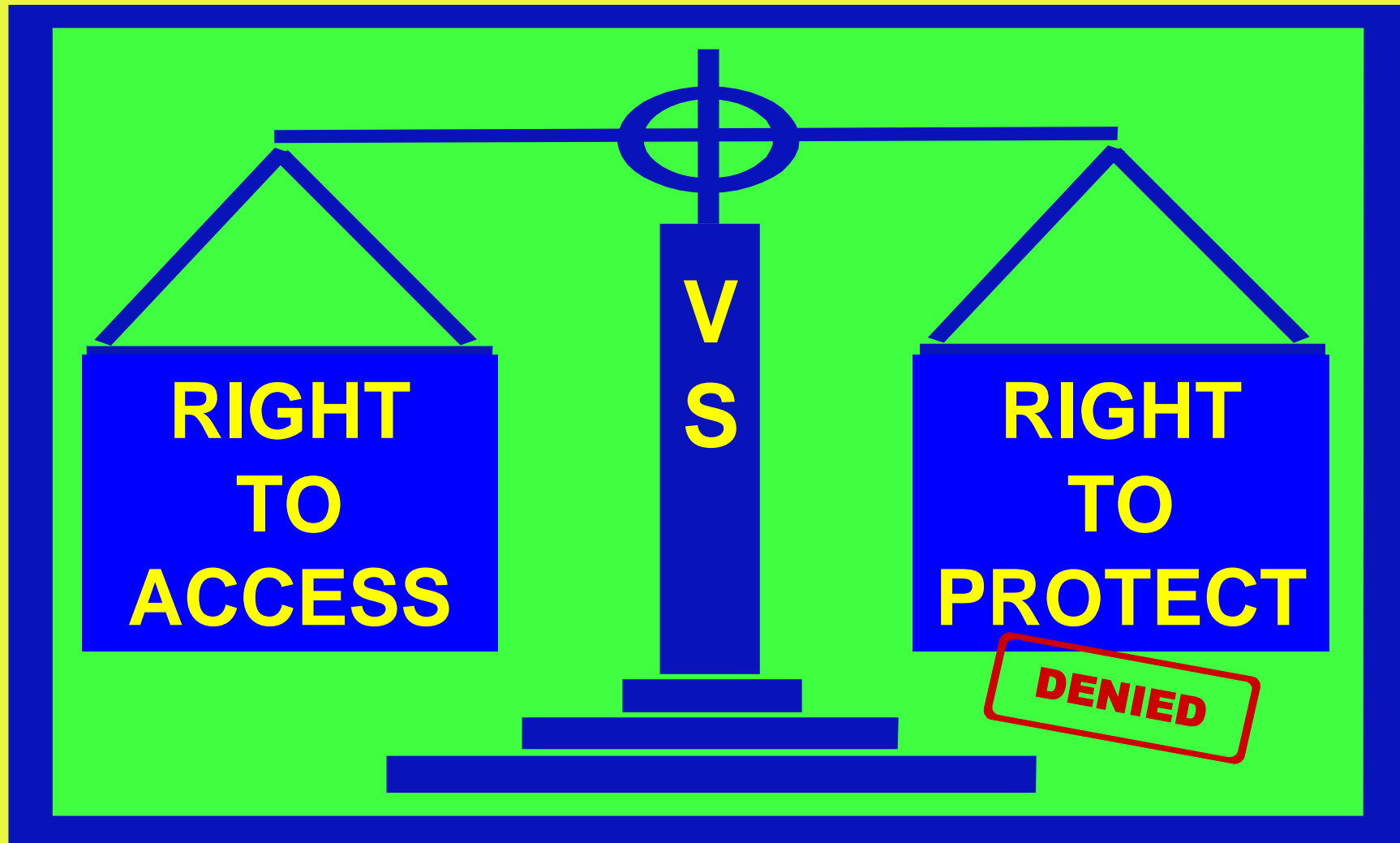
Mental Illness



Making the break...



Courts: The Final Barrier, The Ultimate Authority



“You Can’t Legislate Emotional Abuse!”

The **Geneva Convention** set up to protect POW’s:

- RIGHTS
- PROHIBITIONS
- Including protections against forms of emotional abuse...



PROTECTIONS THAT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THEIR CHILDREN!!



The Casualties of this Very Private War

Intimate Partner Homicides

- From 1976-2002, FBI reports:
 - **20%** decrease in female victims (down to ~ **1200/year**)
 - **71%** decrease in male victims (down to ~ **400/year**)
 - **Total of 61,605 homicides (a small army!)**

“Other Family” Homicides

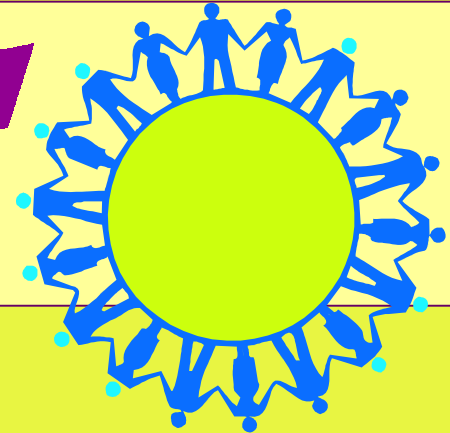
- From 1976-2002, FBI reports:
 - **Total of 42,614 homicides (another small army!)**



Children are the

Collateral Damage of this

Very Private War



American Psychological Association:

- ❖ An estimated **3.3 million children** are exposed to **violence** by family members against their primary caretakers each year.
- ❖ **40-60%** of batterers **also abuse children**.
- ❖ Batterers are **2 times more likely to seek sole physical custody of their children** than are non-violent parents.

Lydia Walker, national trainer on child advocacy issues:

- ❖ **1/3** of batterers **also sexually abuse the children in their home**



The Domestic Violence Specialist (DVS) Program

DCYF statistics indicate that, **30-35%** of all “founded” cases of child abuse and neglect *have a known co-occurrence of domestic abuse.*

The purpose of the DVS program is three-fold:

- 1) Educate DCYF about the dynamics of domestic abuse, how it affects both parents, and how children are affected by their exposure to it;
- 2) Educate local crisis centers about child protection and the DCYF system;
- 3) Support victims of domestic abuse who are DCYF-involved through the child protection process.

Join us next time for...

Batterers As Parents



**Recognizing Batterer's Tactics and
How They Affect the Family**

References

- Definition of Domestic Violence by *Family Violence Prevention Fund*, “*Model Policy on Domestic Violence in the Workplace*”
- Types of Violence by Ellen Pence, Executive Director, Praxis International, *Strengthening Advocacy for Children Conference*, Duluth, MN
- Common Emotional Abuse Tactics by Patricia Evans, “*The Verbally Abusive Relationship*”
- The Cycle of Violence by Lenore Walker, “*The Battered Woman Syndrome*”
- “*Power and Control Wheel,*” Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, Duluth, MN
- Geneva Convention Accord: www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/91.htm
- FBI Statistics: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/homicide/intimates.htm