

Domestic violence is currently referred to as intimate partner violence (IPV) in social science literature. The occurrence of IPV cuts across the communities that are served by the juvenile court from birth families to foster families, domestic partnerships (including same sex partners) and adolescent partner violence. Research indicates that both males and females can be victims, but the majority of victims of abuse are female. However, children, both male and female, are often times secondary victims of IPV and suffer trauma as witnesses to adult abuse.

Domestic violence, also referred to as intimate partner violence, is a pattern of coercive behaviors, often including physical, sexual and psychological attacks as well as economic coercion, that adults and adolescents use against their intimate partners. See Anne L. Ganley & Susan Schechter, Family Violence Prevention Fund, *DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: A NATIONAL CURRICULUM FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES*, (1996) as referenced in the National Council for Juvenile and Family Court Judges, *Child and Family Service Review Outcomes, Strategies to Improve Domestic Violence Responses in CFSE Program Improvement Plans* (revised Sept. 2011).

According to Susan Schechter, one of the early and continuing leaders in the field of domestic violence defines domestic violence as: Battering is a pattern of coercive control that one person exercises over another. Abusers use physical and sexual violence, threats, emotional insults and economic deprivation as a way to dominate their partners and get their way. Relationships in which one partner uses assault and coercion can be found among married and unmarried heterosexuals, lesbians, and gay males. Battering is a behavior that physically harms, arouses fear, prevents an individual from doing what she/he wishes or forces her/him to behave in ways she/he does not want to.

A pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors that operate at a variety of levels – physical, emotional, financial, or sexual- that one parent uses against the other parent. The pattern of behaviors is neither impulsive or out of control, but is purposeful and instrumental in order to gain compliance or control. It can include assault, destruction of property, isolation, and acts or threats of abuse against the victim parent, children and pets. Abuse is likely to increase at the time of separation. See NFJFCJ Checklist to Promote Perpetrator Accountability in Dependency Cases Involving Domestic Violence.

Adolescent partner violence is a pattern of power and control used by or against an adolescent. It includes, but is not limited to, sexual and physical violence, stalking behaviors, and verbal and emotional manipulation, such as threats and intimidation, that occur as part of the pattern of controlling behavior. Isolation features prominently as part of the perpetrator's arsenal of tools. Adolescent partners are more likely to sue non-physical abuse against their victims including threats, peer pressure, and other forms of intimidation. See *In Love or In Trouble: Examining Ways Court Professionals Can Better Respond to Victims of Adolescent Partner Violence* by Judge Eugene M. Hyman, Wanda Lucibello and Emilie Meyer, *Juvenile and Family Court Journal* 61, no 4 (Fall 2010).