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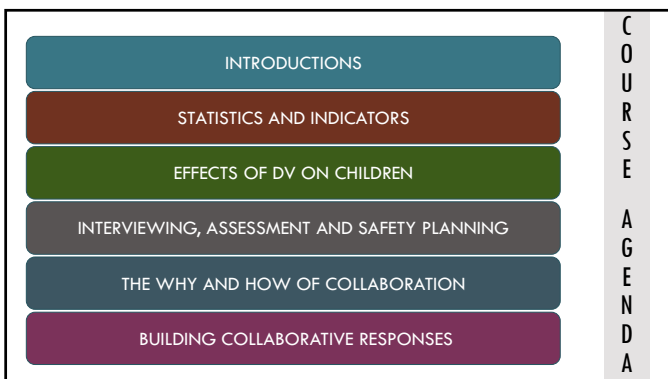
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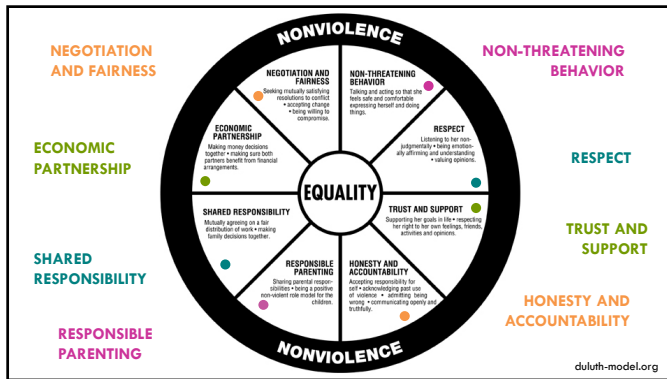
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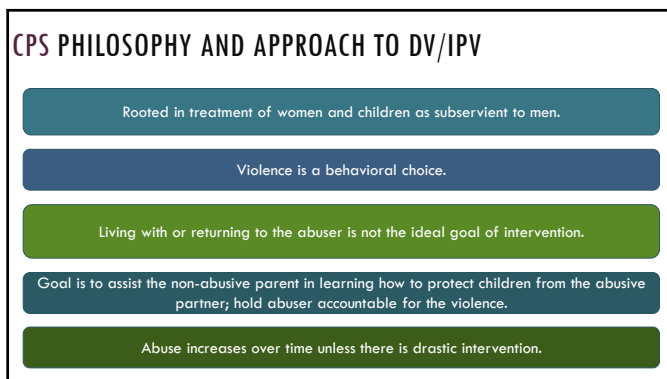
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## CPS PHILOSOPHY AND APPROACH TO DV/IPV

All cases of abuse are seen as crimes and treated as such.

Hold abuser accountable for violence through legal interventions; shelter for victims and children.

Assist victim in planning for self and children.

Services targeted for victim to empower, educate, and support in exercising rights and options.

Remove abuser from home. Emergency shelter for victim and children as needed.

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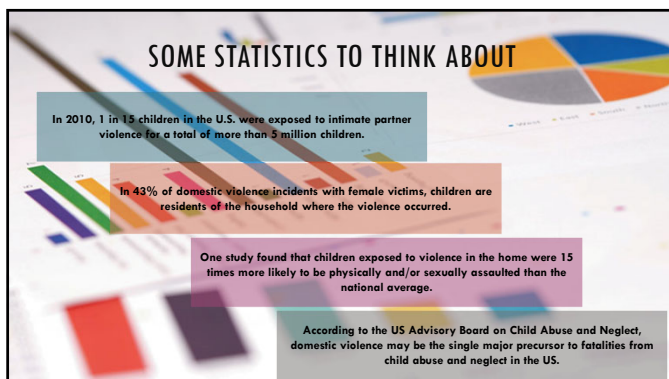
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**HOW HAVE YOU SEEN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AFFECT CHILDREN?**

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**EXPOSURE      EFFECTS      REACTIONS**



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**HOW CHILDREN ARE EXPOSED**

- Hearing threats of physical harm
- Hearing/seeing assault on their parent
- Being forced to watch or participate in violence against their parent
- Seeing aftermath of violent incident
- Feeling tension building in home prior to assault
- Having their relationship with their non-violent parent undermined



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### HOW CHILDREN ARE EXPOSED

- Being enlisted by violent parent to align against victimized parent
- Being hit/threatened while in parent's arms
- Being denied care because parent is injured or depressed
- Being taken hostage to force victimized parent to return home
- Experiencing the loss of a parent due to murder/suicide

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### ONE WAY CHILDREN ARE TRAUMATIZED

Abuser intentionally injures child to control the adult victim of DV.

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### A SECOND WAY CHILDREN ARE TRAUMATIZED

Abuser unintentionally injures child during attack on the DV victim – child gets hurt by being in range of violence or trying to intervene.

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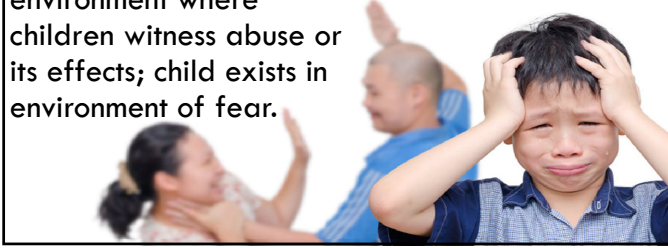
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### A THIRD WAY CHILDREN ARE TRAUMATIZED

Abuser creates an environment where children witness abuse or its effects; child exists in environment of fear.



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### A FOURTH WAY CHILDREN ARE TRAUMATIZED

Abuser uses children overtly to coerce the adult victim of DV, both while living with the abuser and often after they are separated.



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"When making a founded disposition of mental abuse or mental neglect, the CPS worker must obtain documentation supporting a nexus between the actions or inactions of the caretaker and the mental dysfunction demonstrated by the child or the threat of mental dysfunction."

**MENTAL ABUSE**

**MENTAL NEGLECT**

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### DEFINITION: FAMILY ABUSE

"Family abuse" means:

Any act involving violence, force, or threat that results in bodily injury or places one in reasonable apprehension of death, sexual assault, or bodily injury and that is committed by a person against such person's family or household member.

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### DEFINITION: ABUSED OR NEGLECTED CHILD

"Abused or neglected child" means any child:

1. Whose parents or other person responsible for his care **creates or inflicts, threatens** to create or inflict, or **allows** to be created or inflicted upon such child a physical or mental injury by other than accidental means, or creates a substantial risk of death, disfigurement or impairment of bodily or mental functions..."

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### HOW CHILDREN REACT

#### Behaviorally

- Act out or withdraw
- Overachiever or underachiever
- Refusal to go to school
- Caretaking/Parent substitute
- Aggressive or passive
- Rigid defenses
- Excessive attention seeking
- Bedwetting and nightmares
- Out of control behavior
- Unable to set own limits/follow directions
- Aggression towards victimized parent



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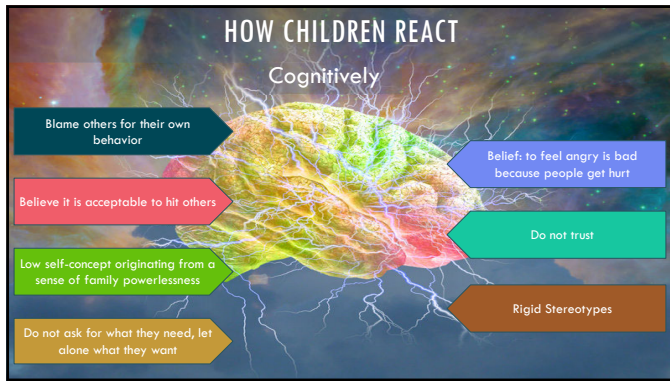
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### HOW CHILDREN REACT

#### Emotionally

- Feel guilty for the abuse and for not stopping it
- Grieve for family and personal losses
- Confusion or conflicting feelings toward parents
- Fear of abandonment, of expressing emotions, of the unknown, and/or personal injury
- Angry about violence and chaos in their lives
- Depressed, feelings of helplessness/powerlessness
- Embarrassed by the effects of abuse and dynamics at home

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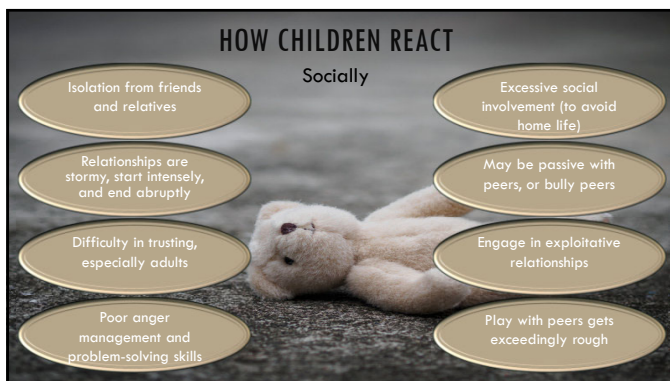
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### HOW CHILDREN REACT

Physiologically



- Somatic complaints (headaches, stomachaches)
  - Nervous, anxious, and short attention span (frequently misdiagnosed as having ADHD)
    - Tired, lethargic
    - Frequently ill
  - Poor personal hygiene
- Regression in development
  - Desensitization to pain
- High risk play and activities
  - Self abuse

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### VARIABLES TO THE EXPERIENCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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### AGE & DEVELOPMENTAL STAGE



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SEVERITY
PROXIMITY
DURATION
FREQUENCY
GENDER
PERSONALITY
ROLE

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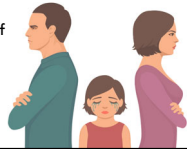
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### ROLES CHILDREN INTERNALIZE

- ❖ Caretaker: child acts as a parent or protector to siblings and victim parent
- ❖ Adult Victim's Confidant: child who is **privy** to adult victim's feelings, concerns and plans; may provide a "reality check" for the adult victim when the perpetrator later minimizes abuse
- ❖ Perpetrator's Confidant: child is favored by the perpetrator; may be rewarded for reporting back on the adult victim's behavior, and may discover the usefulness of spying and tattling on others to avoid harsh punishment
- ❖ Perpetrator's Assistant: child is forced or co-opted to assist in abusing the adult victim



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### ROLES CHILDREN INTERNALIZE

Perfect Child: child who tries to prevent violence by reducing triggers through excelling in school, never arguing/rebelling/misbehaving, or seeking help with problems

Referee: child who mediates and tries to keep the peace

Scapegoat: child is identified as the "cause" of the family's problems, whose behavior is used to justify violence; often a special needs child or a step-child to the perpetrator.



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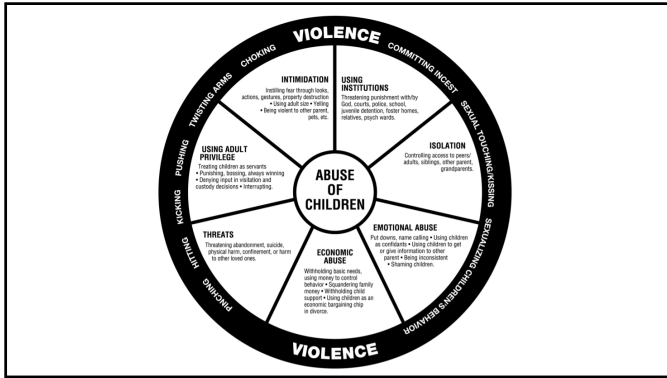
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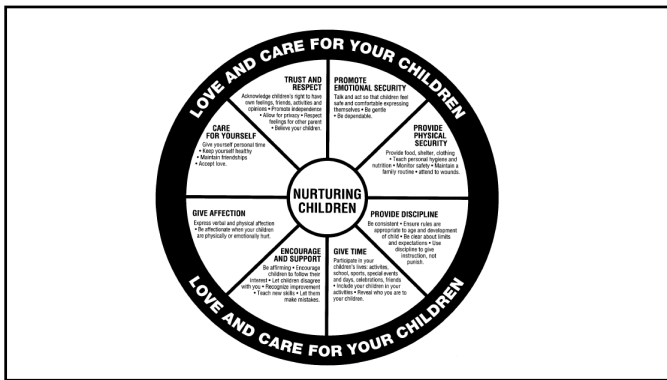
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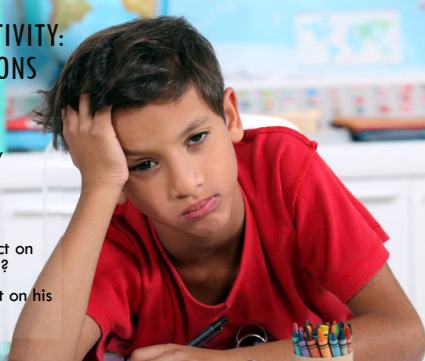
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### SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY: JOHNNY'S QUESTIONS

Answer these questions:

- How might DV affect Johnny emotionally?
- How might DV affect him developmentally?
- What is the expected impact on this ability function at school?
- What is the expected effect on his view of his mother/women?



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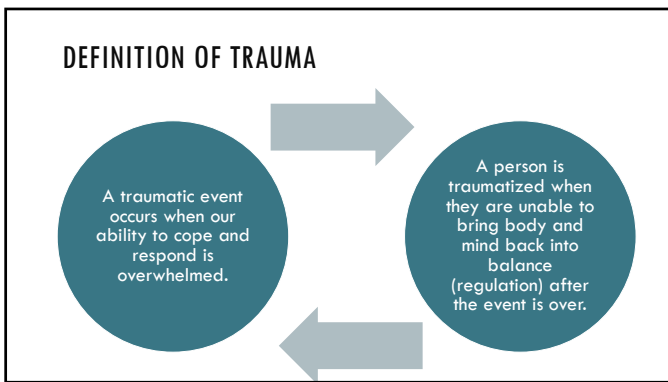
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**ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES**

- The impact of DV may include additional ACEs.
- Domestic Violence (direct experience and exposure) is an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE).

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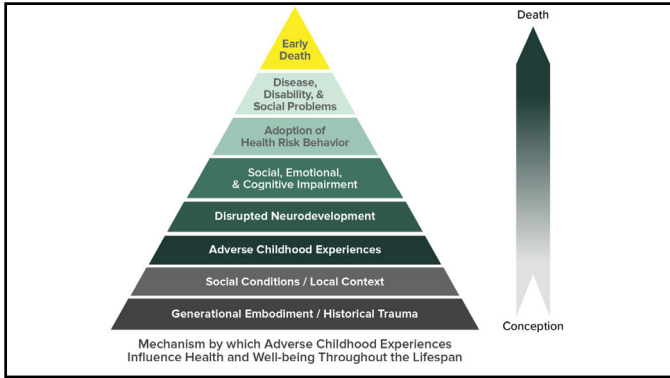
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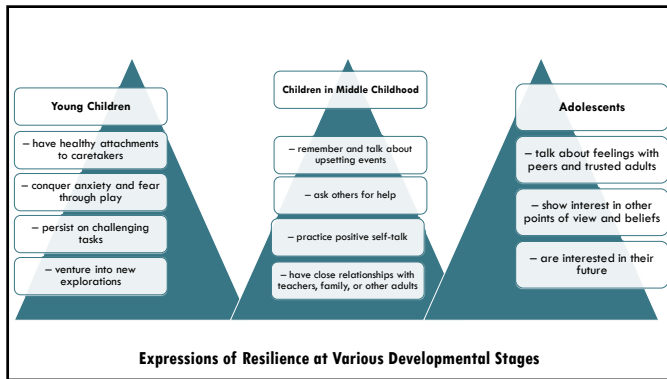
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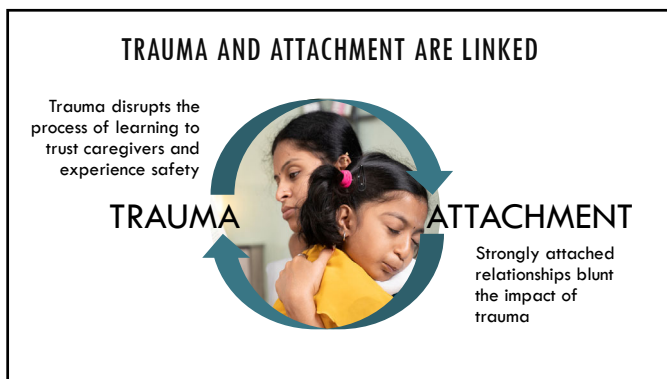
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**IMPORTANT REMINDERS:**

- Identify it early
- Screen at every contact
- Be supportive and, to the extent possible, non-punitive
- Change approach if necessary

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**ASSESSING AND PLANNING  
WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH**

- Cope with your own strong emotions
- Handle the victimized adult's ambivalence
- Involve a domestic violence professional in the interview
- Involve law enforcement, if necessary

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**Handout D**



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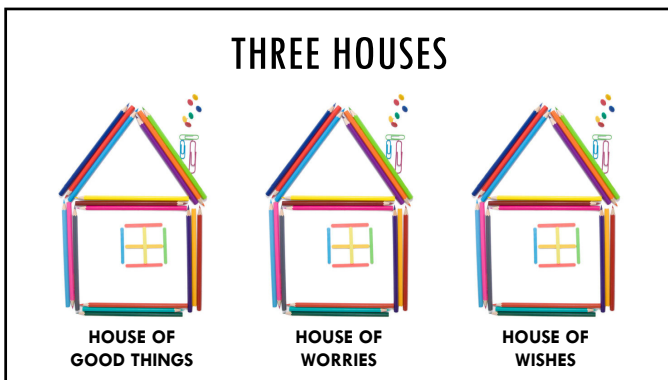
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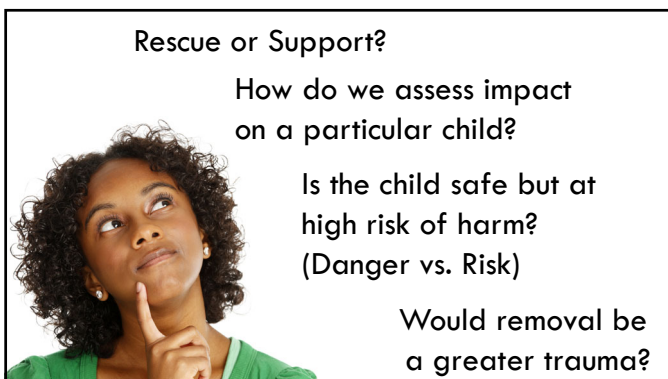
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**SAFETY PLANNING  
(THREE WAYS)**

**CPS Safety Plan** is required when danger exists and there is sufficient protective capacity to control the danger. This includes the Non-Offending Caretaker, the Safety and Support Network, and the Offender.

Safety plan for the adult survivor of DV. This includes the Safety and Support Network.

Safety plan for the child(ren) living in the home with DV. This includes the Safety and Support Network.

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**CPS Safety Plan** is required when danger exists and there is sufficient protective capacity to control the danger. This includes the Non-Offending Caretaker, the Safety and Support Network, and the Offender.

- We have an obligation to assess for danger and risk.
- Domestic violence situations are dangerous to children in many ways; when determining the need for a CPS intervention we observe **immediate harm or threat of harm, severity and frequency** of the situation, the child's **vulnerability, access** by the abuser, and **history**.
- When danger is present we *must intervene*: either with a Safety Plan or removal.
- Assess **Protective Capacity** and use the **Safety and Support Network** to plan.

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**SAFETY SPECTRUM**

NOT  
SAFE  
AT  
ALL

TOTALLY  
SAFE

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# SAFE

- S**tay out of the way.
- A**void getting trapped.
- F**ind a phone.
- E**scape to a safe place.

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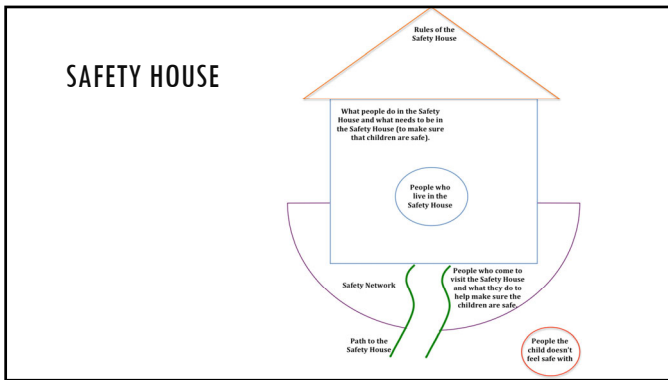
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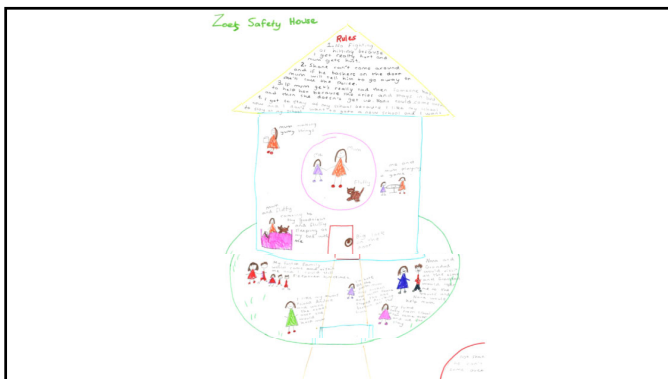
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## SAFETY HAND



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WARNING  
SIGNS

- ⚠ Warning sign
- ⚠ Warning sign
- ⚠ Warning sign
- ⚠ Warning sign

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When my mum and dad are fighting I will not get in between them.  
I will call my neighbour or call my \_\_\_\_\_  
who will make me feel safe.

My neighbour's name & number is \_\_\_\_\_  
My \_\_\_\_\_ name & number is \_\_\_\_\_

If I start to get my 'Early Warning Signs' I can call five people on my safety plan.



Safety plan for the child(ren) living in the home with DV. This includes the Safety and Support Network.

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**(YOUTH/TEEN)**

In an emergency I will trust my instincts or my 'warning signs' and I will call the Police.


When my parents are fighting I will not get in between them. I will call my neighbour or call my \_\_\_\_\_ who will make me feel safe.

My neighbour's name & number is \_\_\_\_\_  
My \_\_\_\_\_ name & number is \_\_\_\_\_

If I need to contact someone else, I can call these five people:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

These people know that they are on my safety plan and I can call them anytime I need to.

 **Safety plan for the child(ren) living in the home with DV. This includes the Safety and Support Network.**

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<p><b>Keep us safe</b></p> <p>Domestic violence is an almost stranger danger and the safety... we need you to talk to us about how to stay safe when violence is happening in our homes.</p> <p>Here is an idea of a kid's Safety PLAN:</p> <p><b>Prepare</b> Talk to us about how to be safe and how to practice our plan with an adult we trust.</p> <p><b>Leave</b> Explain where we can go to be safe: like a safe place in our house or neighborhood.</p> <p><b>Ask for help</b> Teach us how to call 911 and how to talk to adults we trust when we need help.</p> <p><b>Never get in the middle</b> Help us understand that it is not our job to stop the fight.</p> <p><b>The Child Advocacy Task Force of the Action Alliance</b> The Child Advocacy Task Force is a statewide collaboration to promote a healthy environment free of sexual and domestic violence for all children. For more information, call 800.377.6335 or visit <a href="http://www.vcdalliance.org">www.vcdalliance.org</a>.</p>	<p><b>For more information</b></p> <p> <b>1.800.838.8238</b> (V/T) Toll-free, confidential, 24 hours a day</p> <p><b>National Domestic Violence Hotline</b> 1.800.798.SAFE (7233) 1.800.787.3224 (TTY)</p> <p><b>Resources in your area:</b></p> <p><small>This brochure was developed by the Virginia Sexual &amp; Domestic Violence Action Alliance Child Advocacy Task Force through funding provided by the Virginia State Office of Children.</small></p>	<p><b>Kids and domestic violence</b></p> <p>A look at domestic violence from a kid's perspective and what we all can do to help keep kids safe.</p> <p><i>"We need your help. We've been hurt. We've seen and heard bad things. We need you to help us and make us feel safe once more."</i> — 9-year-old survivor of domestic violence</p> <p></p>
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<p><i>I know I should call 911 but he is my dad. I don't know what to do.</i> • <i>I wanted to protect him, but I didn't know how.</i> • <i>I'm afraid of what might happen when I go to school.</i> • <i>My friends can't come over anymore.</i> • <i>I hate it when they yell.</i></p> <p>• <i>Why do you let her tell you what to do?</i> • <i>I don't know why we don't just leave.</i> • <i>He said he's not gonna do it again.</i></p>	<p><b>Did you know?</b></p> <p>We are here, remember and worry about each other. These grown-ups think we do. You may believe that we are sitting or watching TV, but we know where you're fighting.</p> <p>We are never likely to be abused in a home where someone else is being abused.</p> <p><b>We know domestic violence is happening when...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hitting/kicking</li> <li>• Name-calling/put-downs</li> <li>• Stopping/locking the door</li> <li>• Throwing things</li> <li>• Screaming/throwing words</li> <li>• Screaming/throwing words or weapons</li> </ul> <p><b>Listen to us...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If we tell you there's fighting at home or if you're worried about us, please help.</li> <li>• Don't be afraid to ask us what's going on at home.</li> <li>• Tell your teacher or another adult you can talk to.</li> <li>• Think us for being the courage to tell you.</li> <li>• Don't be the violence in our heads.</li> <li>• Call the numbers on the back of this brochure for more help.</li> <li>• Help us make a "Safety PLAN" (see back for more help).</li> </ul>	<p><b>What it's like for us...</b></p> <p><b>We SEE It...</b> "She couldn't breathe. I thought he was going to hit my mom."</p> <p><b>We HEAR It...</b> "I didn't realize my dad because the noise was so loud."</p> <p><b>We GET It...</b> "I wish they wouldn't be about what's happening, like I don't know."</p> <p><b>We FEEL It...</b> "I worry about it all the time and feel like it's my fault."</p> <p><b>How many children are exposed to domestic violence?</b></p> <p>In the United States, approximately 7 to 14 million children are exposed to domestic violence each year.</p> <p>In Virginia, based on national data and our population, we estimate 100,000 children are exposed to domestic violence every year.</p> <p><small>© Virginia S.D. 2009. Values expressed in original version: violence, children, families and children. All rights reserved.</small></p>	<p><b>And for you grown-ups out there...</b></p> <p>Some of us respond differently to violence, but these are some of the ways we might react:</p> <p><b>In our bodies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have trouble sleeping</li> <li>• We have nightmares</li> <li>• We can't concentrate</li> <li>• We have stomach aches/headaches</li> <li>• We get lost sometimes by getting in the middle</li> </ul> <p><b>In our feelings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We get frustrated</li> <li>• We get very angry</li> <li>• We get lost/guided</li> <li>• We get into trouble</li> <li>• We need the dad</li> </ul> <p><b>In our confidence:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are angry</li> <li>• We are confused</li> <li>• We feel different</li> <li>• We are sad and lonely</li> <li>• We feel like hurting ourselves</li> <li>• We feel guilty</li> <li>• We feel afraid for you and for ourselves</li> </ul>
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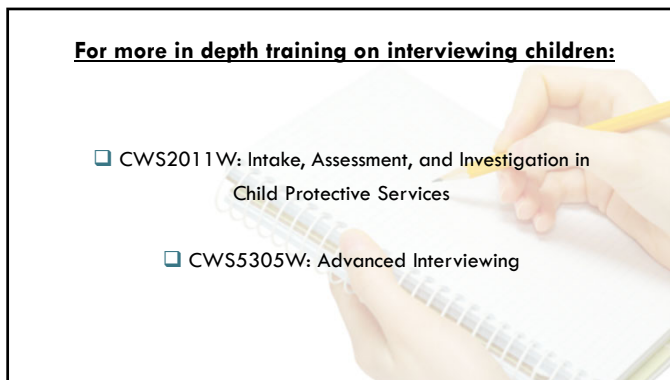
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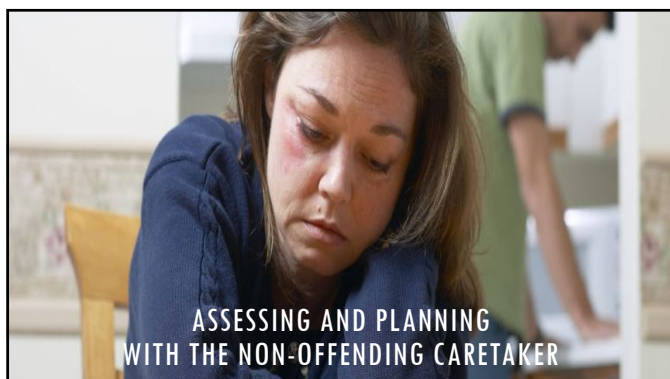
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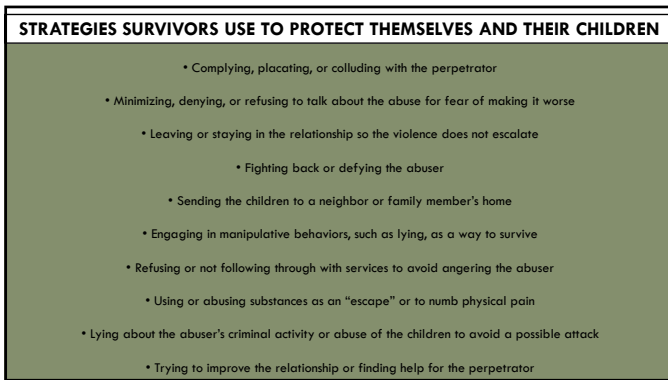
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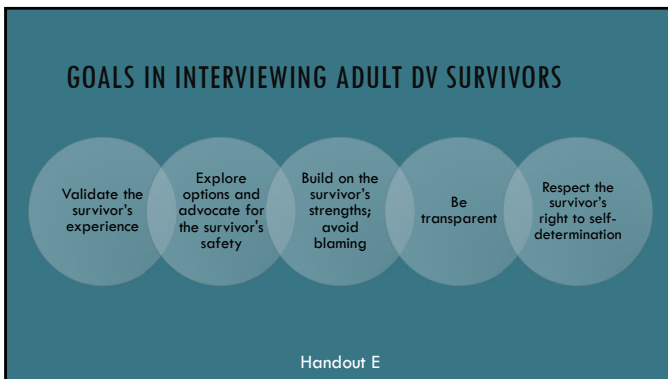
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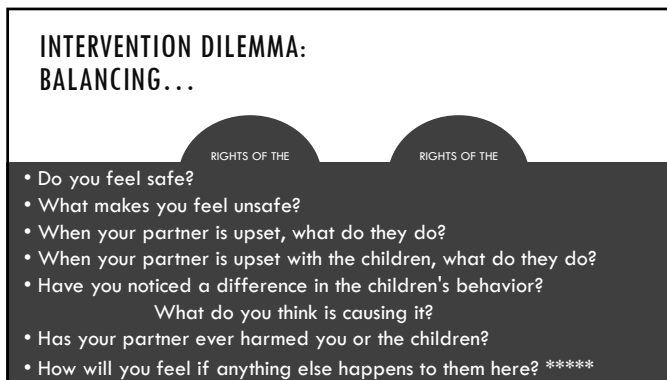
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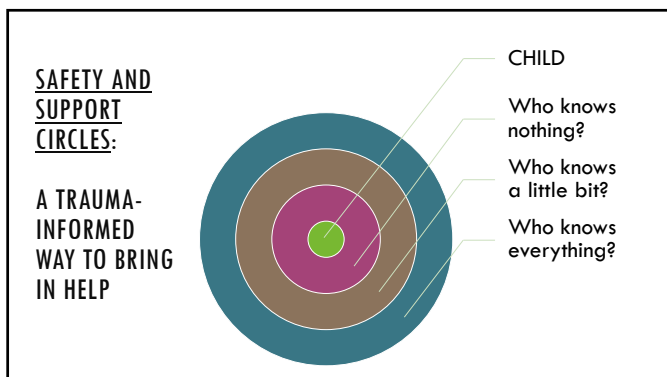
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- Attempt to present themselves as the “victim”
- -“Mutual” Domestic Violence-
- Charm or Manipulate the FSS
- Gain Control of the Interview
- Deny the Intimate Partner Violence
- Insist that the relationship is fine

**ASSESSING AND PLANNING:  
WITH THE OFFENDER**

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**DISCLOSURES**



The Code of Virginia provides for greater disclosure of the CPS record after the LDSS renders a disposition. Code of Virginia § 63.2-1526 specifies an alleged abuser's access to the CPS record. If the LDSS has information in its record that has been used in making the founded disposition, the alleged abuser has the right to access that information on appeal. The exceptions are as follows:

- The identity of the person making the complaint.
- Any information which may harm a child.
- The identity of collateral witnesses, when disclosure may endanger his life or safety.
- The identity of any other person, when disclosure may endanger his safety.
- Information prohibited from disclosure by state and federal law.

In general, if the victim's medical records were used in making the founded determination, then the alleged abuser is entitled to see that information.

It is up to the LDSS to use good judgment in deciding what should be released and what should be withheld. The LDSS must be able to adequately defend its decision when challenged. This issue underscores the need for LDSS to consult with legal counsel when records have been requested.

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**PLANNING WITH THE PERPETRATOR**

- The batterer must be held accountable for the domestic violence behavior that has occurred.
- The batterer must be held accountable for safety for both the adult survivor and the children in the home.
  - The absence of violence is not a particularly good indicator of change.
  - Batterers tend to carry their behavior from relationship to relationship.
- Batterers rarely continue to participate in BIP in the absence of outside motivation.
  - Anger management programs are not appropriate for batterers.

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## SERVICE PLANNING



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## WORKER SAFETY



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## DOCUMENTATION

Handout F

1. Any information pertaining to a confidential address of the victims (e.g., shelter location or relocation to new housing) should be flagged and never shared with the abuser.
2. Disclosures made by the victim and children regarding their safety plan or their accounts of the violence should not be shared with the abuser.
3. When information must be shared in court proceedings, victims should be notified in advance of the court date so they may plan for their safety.
4. In cases where disclosure of the domestic violence is made during court proceedings, the parents' attorneys may want to share privately with the judge the possible consequences of such disclosure and ask that it be kept sealed.
5. The safety of the survivor and the children must be considered in the planning of case transfer.
6. Write in a manner that holds the abuser responsible and avoids blaming the victim.

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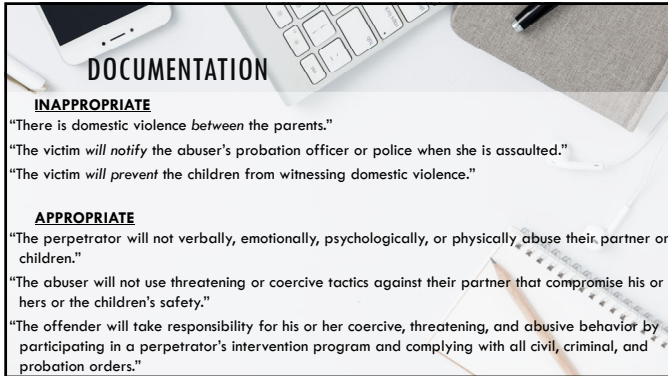
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## DOCUMENTATION

**INAPPROPRIATE**

- "There is domestic violence between the parents."
- "The victim *will* notify the abuser's probation officer or police when she is assaulted."
- "The victim *will* prevent the children from witnessing domestic violence."

**APPROPRIATE**

- "The perpetrator will not verbally, emotionally, psychologically, or physically abuse their partner or children."
- "The abuser will not use threatening or coercive tactics against their partner that compromise his or hers or the children's safety."
- "The offender will take responsibility for his or her coercive, threatening, and abusive behavior by participating in a perpetrator's intervention program and complying with all civil, criminal, and probation orders."

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## COLLABORATION: DV AND CPS

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## GOALS WE SHARE

- 🎯 Safety and wellbeing for all family members.
- 🎯 Accountability and meaningful change for the offender, as a parent equally responsible for the safety and wellbeing of the children.
- 🎯 Healing and empowerment for the adult survivor to be engaged in seeking safety.
- 🎯 An engaged community that is responsive to the family's safety and wellbeing.

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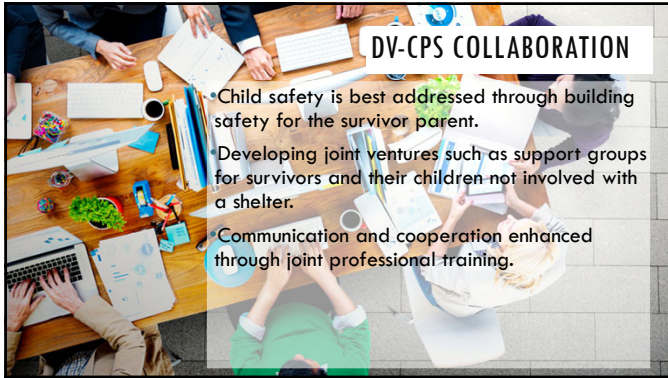
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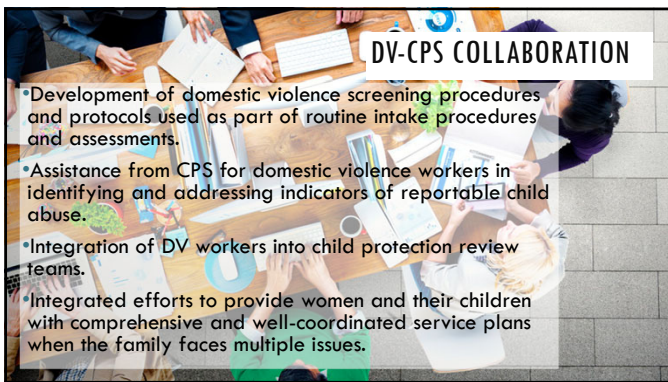
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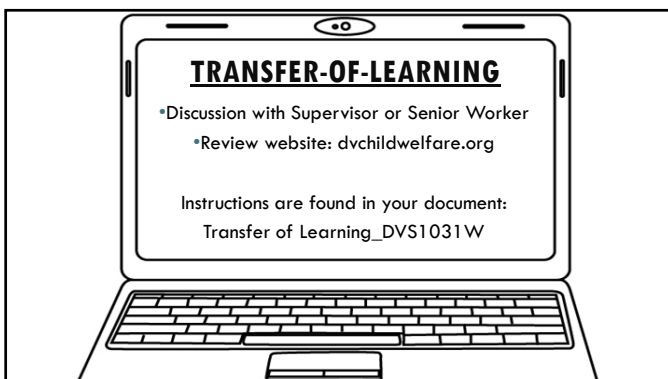
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