



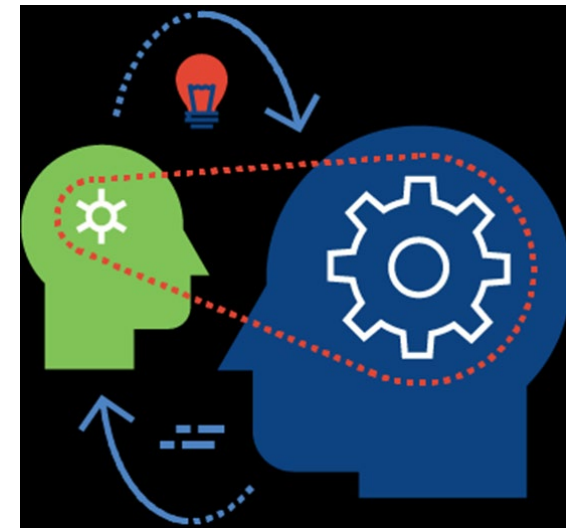
# Domestic Violence

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# Learning Outcomes

- You will learn...
  - The importance of increasing our compassion for those whose lives have been impacted by Domestic Violence.
  - Definitions of domestic violence.
  - Who Domestic Violence impacts.
  - How to advocate as a CASA volunteer on cases that include Domestic Violence.





**Pity:**  
I acknowledge  
your suffering.

**Sympathy:**  
I care about  
your suffering.

**Empathy:**  
I feel your  
suffering.

**Compassion:**  
I want to relieve  
your suffering.

**Engagement**



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

**ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN**

# WHAT IT IS

We define domestic violence as a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economical, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.

-Office of Violence Against Women



# Three types of Domestic Violence

**Intimate Terrorism:** Used by people who seek to control their partners using coercive tactics, intimidation, and threats undergirded by real and frightening physical and sexual violence that makes future outbreaks not only possible, but probable

**Situational Couple Violence:** When violence ignites between partners due to a specific situation

**Violent Resistance:** Reactive violence toward a partner, aka, self-defense

(M.P. Johnson, 2008)

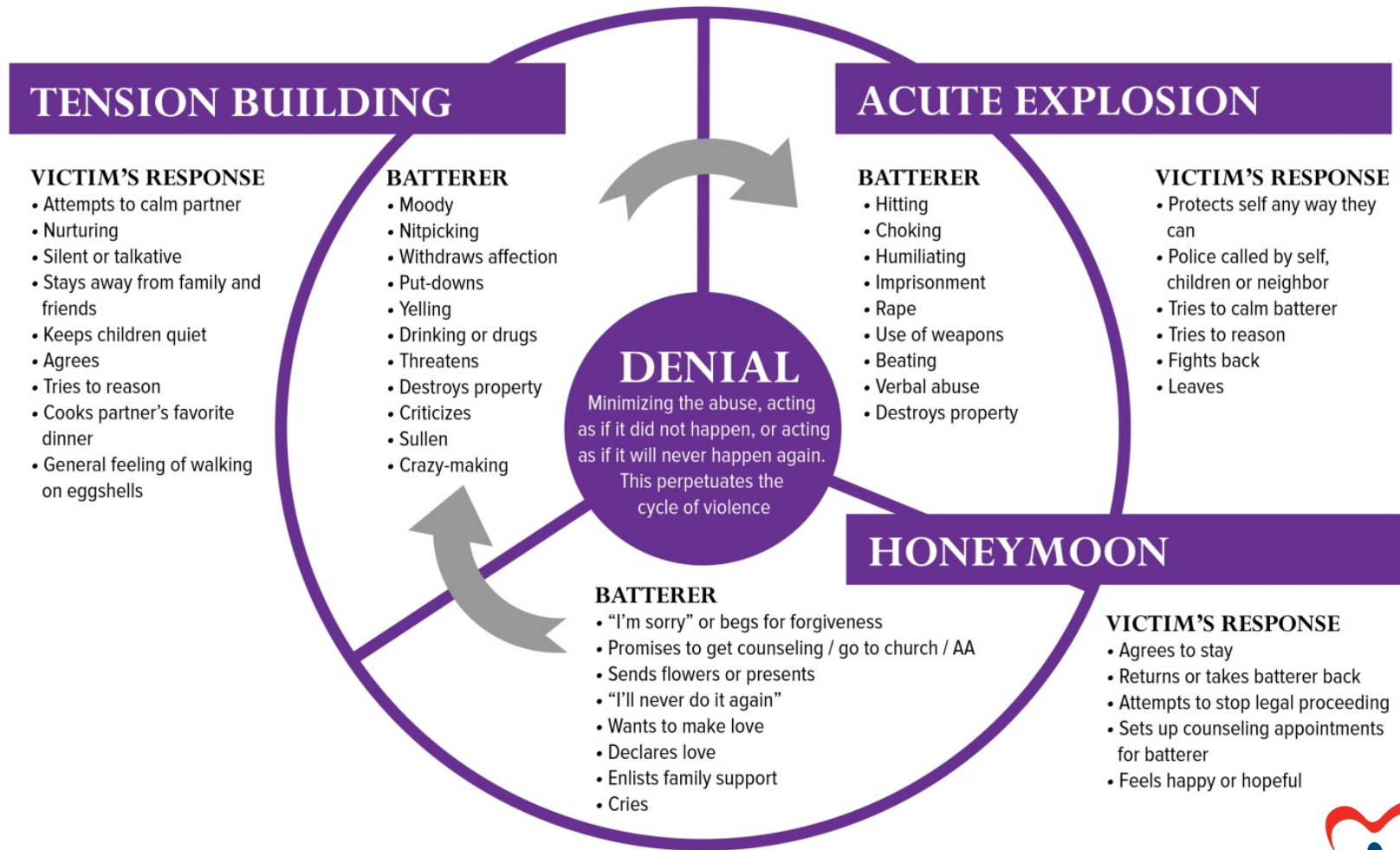
# In Her Shoes Activity

- What were some of the early indicators to you of the violence?
- How were the children impacted?
- What would you have advocated for as their CASA?
- What challenges did you have as you were moving through the activity?
- What else stood out to you in this activity?

# WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE



# UNDERSTANDING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE



# Co-Occurring Factors

- Substance use
- Financial stress or disagreements
- Emotional stress
- Trauma
- Lack of coping mechanisms
- Desire to be loved

# WHY THEY STAY

“A victim of domestic violence calls the crisis line for the first time on average after the fifth assault.”

1995 Nashville, Tennessee YMCA Crisis Line

# Think of as many four-letter words as you can that might relate to the reasons women would stay in an abusive relationship.

- Cash
- Kids
- Hope
- Love
- Fear
- Fail
- Vows
- Pets
- Lost
- Loss
- Sham(e)
- Home
- Food
- Bills
- Less (than)
- Life
- Pity
- Cars
- Care
- Help
- Safe
- Time
- Work
- Hard
- Care
- Poor
- Rich
- Coin



Lockhart & Danis, *Domestic Violence* (2010). Columbia University Press, New York. Pg. 38-40.



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# How are these strengths of the victims?

“The ability to identify the strengths of battered women will help advocates elicit the natural resiliency within each woman and assist her in making her own reasoned decisions about her own safety and that of her children.” (pg. 57)

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# HOW CHILDREN ARE IMPACTED

# What is the impact of Domestic Violence on the children?

- Mental health concerns due to the trauma
- Parentified (What does this mean?)
- Internalize the abuse; second-hand trauma; self-blame
- Always functioning in fight or flight mode
  - Inattentiveness in school or overachieving
- Loss of interest in hobbies or group activities
- Underdeveloped hygiene skills



# Physical, Psychological, and Behavioral Impact

## Physical

- Injured during situations; either as a specific target by the abuser or inadvertently
- Children rarely sleep through the violence causing them to be tired throughout the day

## Psychological

- Children may believe it is their responsibility to protect and stop the abuse
- May learn that this behavior is ok and that it is ok to let someone treat you this way
- Can develop PTSD

## Behavioral

- Children may repeat the battering behavior with their friends
- They may become anxious, restless, hyper vigilant and needy
- May run away from home



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# WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

- Be knowledgeable about safety plans, mandatory protection orders, no contact orders, and restraining orders
- Children's split loyalties towards parents
- Children being used as pawns
- Parents will have a lot to coordinate and take care of outside of their D&N case
- Biases
- Ensure your form of communication with the parent(s) is safe and appropriate
- Is this a number you can leave a message on?



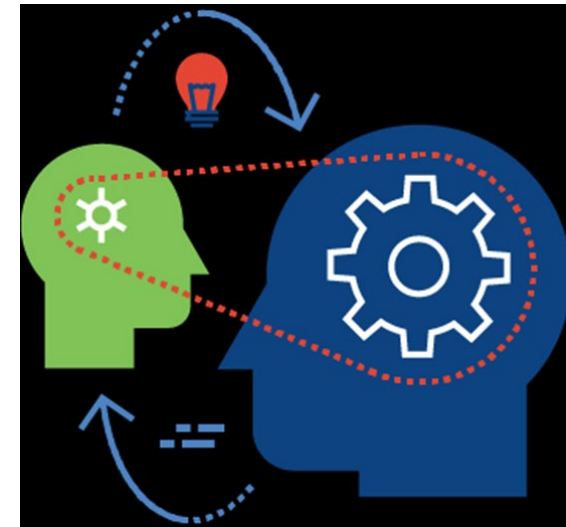
# Helpful Messages for Kids about Domestic Violence

- Violence isn't OK.
- It isn't your fault.
- I will do everything I can to help you be safe.
- It's not your job to fix what is wrong with your family.
- I want you to tell me how you feel. It is important and I can handle it.
- It's OK to have mixed feelings about either or both of your parents.

Additional resources can be found on the handout provided.

# Learning Outcomes

- Did you learn?
  - How important it is to increase your compassion for those whose lives have been impacted by Domestic Violence?
  - Definitions of domestic violence?
  - Who Domestic Violence impacts?
  - How to advocate as a CASA volunteer on cases that include Domestic Violence?



# Sources

Carlson, Bonnie E. (1984). Children's observations of interpersonal violence. Pp. 147-167 in A.R. Roberts (Ed.) *Battered women and their families* (pp. 147-167). NY: Springer. Straus, M.A. (1992). Children as witnesses to marital violence: A risk factor for lifelong problems among a nationally representative sample of American men and women. Report of the Twenty-Third Ross Roundtable. Columbus, OH: Ross Laboratories.

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