Screen for IPV

Assess the Nature & Context of IPV

Focus on the Effects of IPV

Respond to IPV

Is abuse an issue here?

What is actually going on?

Why does it matter?

What can be done about it?
ASSESSING THE NATURE & CONTEXT OF IPV

Abuse of Victim

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Economic abuse
- Spiritual/moral abuse

Interference with Victim

- Access to resources
- Freedom to manage daily affairs
- Immigration/education/work status
- Ability to meet daily needs
- Control over own parenting
- Social/cultural connectedness
- Freedom from unwanted intrusion

Children’s Experience of IPV

- Exposure during pregnancy
- Direct intervention in abuse
- Direct harm from abuse
- Direct observation of abuse
- Indirect observation of abuse
- Retreat from abuse
- Witness to initial effects of abuse
- Experience of aftermath of abuse
- Knowledge of abuse
- Seemingly unaware of abuse

BY ABUSER-PARENT:

- Physical protection of the child
- Emotional support of the child
- Economic support of the child
- Protection of the child from abuse
- Accepting responsibility for abuse
- Responsive to child’s separate needs
- Support of victim-child relationship
- Respect for victim’s parental authority

AS TO VICTIM-PARENT:

- Heightened responsibility
- Loss of control over parenting
- Experience of co-parenting

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FOCUSING ON THE EFFECTS OF IPV

Risk of Harm/Lethality
- Escalating violence
- Threats to kill
- Strangulation
- Abuse during pregnancy
- Sexual assault
- Stalking
- Access to firearms
- Child abuse
- Animal abuse
- Controlling behaviors
- Excessive jealousy/obsession
- Abuser's mental status
- Avoidance of consequences

Victim’s Parental Wellbeing
- Economic stability
- Housing stability
- Employment stability
- Immigration status
- Health and wellbeing
- Personal autonomy

Children’s Safety/Wellbeing
- Physical safety
- Emotional wellbeing
- Economic security
- Developmental issues
- Behavioral issues
- Emotional issues
- Cognitive issues
- Relationship/social issues
- Health issues
- Economic issues

Best Interests
- Parent’s wishes
- Wishes and concerns of children
- Parents’ mental and physical health
- Parent more likely to facilitate contact
- Continuous/wilful denial of contact
- Children’s interactions and interrelationships
- Children’s adjustment to home, school and community
- History of family violence
- Other [Risk]

As to shared parenting:
- Ability to cooperate/communicate
- Ability to support love and affection
- History/potential for abuse
- Geographical proximity

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Is IPV an issue?
What is the abuser doing?
What's the effect on...?
What can be done about it?

Physical/Sexual Abuse

- Harm to the victim's physical safety and bodily integrity
  - Assault
    - Pushing, shoving, shaking, grabbing, scratching, pulling, twisting, slapping, hitting, punching, kicking, choking, strangling, burning, stabbing
  - Force or Restraint
    - Holding down, pinning, kneeling on, sitting upon, tying up, binding, gagging, forcing sex, trafficking, compelling pornography, exploiting labor
  - Deprivation
    - Withholding food, medicine, shelter, sleep, necessities, etc.
  - Sabotage
    - Disabling vehicles, tampering with utilities, setting traps, interfering with birth control, disabling medical equipment

Emotional Abuse

- Harm to victim's emotional safety, security, or wellbeing
  - Degradation
    - Name calling, ridiculing in public, insulting, demeaning, humiliating, dehumanizing
  - Intimidation
    - Yelling and screaming, acting aggressively, displaying weapons, driving recklessly, making unfounded accusations, destroying things
  - Threats
    - Threats to kill or harm victim, children, self, or others; threats to destroy reputation, things of value, immigration or work status, relationships, etc.

Economic Abuse

- Harm to victim's financial security, stability, standing, or self-sufficiency
  - Refusal to Support
    - Denying money, refusing to pay bills, refusing to pass title, failing to pay premiums, withholding access to credit
  - Hide or Dissipate Assets
    - Emptying bank accounts, hiding assets, stealing or selling property, cancelling insurance or credit cards, hiding bills or financial information
  - Damage Credit/Standing
    - Destroying credit, running up debt, taking out loans, forging papers, hacking into accounts, identity theft
  - Undermine Opportunity
    - Refusing to work or to let victim work, trying to get victim fired, refusing to sign papers, lying to immigration, filing false claims, constantly returning to court

Spiritual/Ethical Abuse

- Harm to victim's religious values or deeply held beliefs
  - Misuse of Religious Authority
    - Using sacred text to justify abuse, citing scripture to gain compliance, turning religious community against victim, insulating victim within faith community, restricting help-seeking to faith community
  - Moral Corruption
    - Forcing victim into prostitution or pornography; forcing victim to use or sell illegal drugs; forcing victim to steal or pass bad checks; engaging in criminal activity over victim’s objection; exposing children to negative influence

Abuse of Victim Detail
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Interference with Resources
• Do you have access to your own resources, like money, bank accounts, food, housing, transportation, and healthcare?
• Who decides how you spend money and manage your financial affairs?

Interference with Daily Affairs
• How much freedom do you have in your everyday life to come and go as you please, manage your own time, make your own decisions, set your own priorities, interact with others?

Interference with Work, School, Immigration Status
• Is there anything that gets in your way of getting to work or school, doing your work or studying without interruption, pursuing a career or education, or succeeding at work or school?
• Is there anything that gets in the way of your immigration status?

Interference with Ability to Meet Daily Needs
• Is there anything that gets in your way of eating, sleeping, keeping and maintaining a home, getting from place to place, providing for yourself, exercising, seeking medical attention when you need it, keeping up with medications, having time to yourself, keeping current on your bills and obligations?

Interference with Parenting
• Is there anything that gets in your way of protecting and caring for your children?
• Do you have any concerns about your children or fears for their safety?
• Has the other ever used or threatened to use the children to manipulate, control, or monitor you?

Interference with Social or Cultural Connections
• Is there anything that gets in your way of keeping in touch with your friends and family, connecting with your religious and cultural communities, practicing your faith, staying true to your cultural values and beliefs, or getting together with people who matter to you?

Unwanted Intrusion
• Has the other ever followed you, constantly checked up on you, opened your mail, examined your phone records, hacked into your email, grilled you or timed your activities, used others to spy on you, invaded your space or privacy, misused social network sites, reported you to authorities without reason or cause?

Interference with Victim Detail
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### CHILDREN’S EXPERIENCE OF IPV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>IPV during pregnancy</strong></td>
<td>The developing fetus experiences abuse <em>in utero</em>, where, for instance, the abuser:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• kicks, punches, terrorizes, or sexually assaults a pregnant partner; deprives a pregnant partner of food, sleep, or prenatal care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Direct intervention in IPV</strong></td>
<td>The child takes affirmative steps to make the abuse end, such as:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• pleading with the abuser to stop, calling for help, blocking abuser’s access to victim-parent, pulling the abuser off the victim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Direct harm from IPV</strong></td>
<td>The child suffers verbal, physical, or emotional harm during the course of IPV, as when:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• the child gets caught in the crossfire, is blamed for IPV, is ridiculed for crying, is told they’re next, is punished for intervening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Direct participation in IPV</strong></td>
<td>The child joins in the IPV, due to force, coercion, identification with abuser, or self-preservation:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• abuser uses child to spy, taunt, or assault victim; abuser rewards child for participating in IPV; child goes along to stay safe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Observation of IPV</strong></td>
<td>The child sees or hears IPV, either directly or indirectly, where, for instance, the child:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• watches an assault, observes coercive power, hears threats or pleas for mercy, observes degradation, sees intimidation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Retreat from IPV</strong></td>
<td>The child takes cover from IPV by:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• running away from home, hiding under the bed, using alcohol or drugs, locking him/herself in the closet, tuning out the world</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Witness initial effects of IPV</strong></td>
<td>The child observes the immediate effects of IPV, including but not limited to:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• blood, bruises, and other injuries; ambulances and emergency vehicles; a parent being arrested; damaged property; trauma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Experience aftermath of IPV</strong></td>
<td>The child faces life-altering change as a result of IPV, including but not limited to:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• parental anxiety, separation or relocation, broken social ties, breakdown in trust, chaos, uncertainty, disruption to routines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Knowledge of IPV</strong></td>
<td>The child is told about (or overhears) conversations regarding IPV by:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• parents, extended family members, police, child protection workers, judges, lawyers, guardians ad litem, teachers, therapists</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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IS IPV an issue?

What is the abuser doing?

What's the effect on...

What can be done about it

SAFeR

Physical/Sexual Abuse of Child

Emotional Abuse of Child

Economic Abuse of Child

Use of Child as Tool of IPV

Harm to the child's physical safety, security, and wellbeing

Harm to child's emotional safety, development, security, or wellbeing

Unnecessary harm to the child's economic stability or security

Use of child to control, manipulate, threaten or harm the other parent

ASSAULT
Pushing, shoving, shaking, grabbing, slapping, hitting, punching, kicking, choking, strangling, burning, stabbing, having sexual contact

FORCE OR RESTRAINT
Abducting, sexually exploiting, using child in pornography, sex or labor trafficking, forcing child to have sex with others, keeping child from leaving

DEPRIVATION
Withholding food, medicine, shelter, sleep, necessities, etc.

SABOTAGE
Interfering with child's healthcare, education, privacy, recreation, exercise, diet, gender expression, etc.

DEGRADATION
Name calling, mocking, shaming, criticizing, blaming, rejecting, humiliating, morally corrupting

INTIMIDATION
Yelling and screaming, acting aggressively, displaying weapons, driving recklessly, destroying things, demanding affection or loyalty, inducing fear or terror

DENIAL AND THREATS
Withholding support or affection; refusing to meet child's emotional needs; isolating child from friends; threatening to kill or harm child, self, others; threatening to leave

DISRUPTION
Creating unpredictability, chaos, or confusion; disrupting structure or routines; fluctuating involvement; breaking promises; violating boundaries; missing visits

DENIAL OF SUPPORT
Refusing to pay child support, failing to pay bills or insurance premiums, withholding access to insurance cards, trading money or support for visitation

DISSIPATION OF ASSETS
Emptying bank accounts, hiding assets, stealing or selling property, cancelling insurance or credit cards

INTERFERENCE
Denying other parent access to information or resources; shutting off utilities; taking or disabling vehicles; cancelling insurance; interfering with other parent's work

PARENTING BY ABUSER-PARENT

Parenting by Abuser-Parent

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Is IPV an issue?
What is the abuser doing?
What's the effect on...
What can be done about it?

SAFeR

Denying Impact of IPV on Child

- Failure to acknowledge and repair damage from one's own abuse
  - Justifying or excusing abuse
  - Blaming others for abuse
  - Demanding respect for abuse
  - Refusing to get help for abuse
  - Refusing counseling for child
  - Interfering with child's care
  - Being intolerant of criticism
  - Disregarding child's needs
  - Refusing to apologize for abuse
  - Forcing unwanted child contact
  - Interfering with other parent's efforts to care for/protect child

Ignoring Child's Separate Needs

- Failure to distinguish child's needs or identity separate from one's own
  - Putting one's own needs above child's
  - Thinking child's needs are identical to one's own
  - Believing child thinks or feels the same way as oneself
  - Believing one exclusively knows what's best for the child
  - Obsessively attaching to child
  - Seeing no value in other parent's contact, absent cause
  - Believing, without cause, child is being poisoned by other parent
  - Believing, without cause, child is just mirroring other parent
  - Believing, without cause, child and other parent are conspiring

Undermining Other's Parenting Relationship

- Interference with other parent's relationship or parental authority
  - Refusing to follow established rules
  - Violating established parenting agreements
  - Withholding information concerning the child
  - Disrupting child's schedule or routine
  - Disrespecting other parent's new partner
  - Ignoring child's allergies or illnesses
  - Refusing to agree to rules or structure
  - Making false claims to authorities
  - Under- or over-medicating child
  - Using new partner as a replacement parent
  - Disparaging other parent in front of child

Relentless Harassment

- Disruption of everyday life and creation of persistent instability
  - Constantly disrupting child's schedule and routine
  - Engaging in harassing litigation
  - Repeatedly filing false reports to authorities
  - Fluctuating involvement with child
  - Constantly raising "technical arguments"
  - Purposefully missing visits and appointments
  - Constantly changing rules or expectations
  - Stalking other parent or child
  - Routinely cancelling and rescheduling appointments
  - Habitually showing up unannounced
  - Sabotaging other parent at every turn

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Is IPV an issue?

What is the abuser doing?

What's the effect on...

What can be done about it?

SAFeR

IMPACT ON VICTIM’S PARENTAL WELLBEING

EFFECTS OF IPV ON....

Safety

Look for: Stalking, sexual assault, abuse during pregnancy, threats to kill, strangulation, controlling behaviors, access to weapons, increased frequency or severity of IPV, child abuse, animal abuse, excessive jealousy or obsession, abuser’s mental state, avoidance of consequences

Employment Stability

Look for: Persistent unemployment, low wages, excessive absences, repeated disciplinary action, depletion or loss of benefits, damaged professional reputation, poor work performance, no promotions, missed opportunities, etc.

Personal Autonomy

Look for: Entrapment, dependence, isolation, limited life choices, lack of control over personal/home life, lack of control over parenting/children, inability to meet daily needs/responsibilities, lack of personal fulfillment, etc.

Child’s Safety & Wellbeing

See Worksheet on Children and IPV

Housing Stability

Look for: Homelessness, substandard housing, repeated moves, reliance on others for shelter, housing/health code violations, predatory leases, break-ins, evictions, address confidentiality issues

Victim’s Health & Wellbeing

Look for: Physical injury, medical issues, trauma, stress, anxiety, sense of self, satisfaction in life, social connections, support systems, personal resources, etc.

Nature & Context of IPV

Abuse of Victim-Parent

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Economic abuse
- Spiritual/moral abuse

Interference with Victim

- Access to resources
- Freedom to manage affairs
- Immigration/work status
- Ability to meet daily needs
- Social/cultural connection
- Freedom from intrusion

Co-Parenting Relationship

Parenting by Abuser

- Physical protection of child
- Emotional support of child
- Economic support of child
- Protection of child from IPV
- Accepting responsibility
- Responsive to child’s needs
- Support of victim-child rel’p
- Respect for parental authority

Child’s Experience of IPV

- Immigrant Status

Economic Stability

Look for: Poverty, financial dependence, inability to establish or maintain credit, inability to care for children, reliance on social welfare programs, inadequate means to achieve self-sufficiency, lack of leisure time, stress, desperation, etc.

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Is IPV an issue?

What is the abuser doing?

What's the effect on...

What can be done about it?

SAFeR WORKSHEET ON CHILDREN AND IPV

NATURE & CONTEXT OF IPV

- Abuse of Victim-Parent
- Interference with Victim

Child's Experience of IPV

- Exposure during pregnancy
- Direct intervention
- Direct harm
- Direct participation
- Observation of IPV
- Protection of child from IPV
- Direct accommodation
- Economic support of child
- Witness initial effects of IPV
- Experience aftermath
- Knowledge of IPV

Co-Parenting Relationship

Parenting by Abuser

Physical protection of child
Emotional support of child
Economic support of child
Protection of child from IPV

Child’s Physical Safety

Look for: Stalking, sexual assault, abuse during pregnancy, threats to kill, strangulation, controlling behaviors, access to weapons, increased frequency or severity of IPV, child abuse, animal abuse, excessive jealousy or obsession, abuser’s mental state, avoidance of consequences

Child’s Development

Look for: Failure to meet physical or emotional milestones, maladaptive stress responses, poor sleep/awake functioning, emotional detachment, negative feelings about being loved, confident, and safe to explore the world, etc.

Child’s Behavior

Look for: Self-harm, delinquency, running away, physical aggression or bullying, hyperactivity, truancy, unregulated temper, defiance of authority, regressive behaviors (baby talk, crying spells, fear of the dark, clinging), promiscuity

Child’s Emotional Wellbeing

Look for: Anxiety or restlessness, fear of being alone, nightmares or sleep disruptions, inability to focus, lack of interest, exaggerated startle response, difficulty separating from parents, etc.

Child’s Thinking & Perception

Look for: Poor verbal, analytic, or motor skill development, academic underachievement, distorted memory, trouble concentrating, thinking, learning, or processing information

Child’s Economic Security

Look for: Poverty, homelessness, social isolation, exclusion from higher education or extracurricular activities, increased responsibility to work or care for younger children, etc.

Child’s Relationships

Empathy, trust, aggression, manipulation

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SAFER WORKSHEET ON BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD

**Nature & Context of IPV**

- **Abuse of Victim-Parent**
  - Interference with Victim
  - Child’s Experience of IPV
  - Exposure during pregnancy
  - Direct intervention
  - Direct harm
  - Direct participation
  - Observation of IPV
  - Retreat from IPV
  - Witness initial effects of IPV
  - Experience aftermath
  - Knowledge of IPV

- **Parenting by Abuser**
  - Physical protection of child
  - Emotional support of child
  - Economic support of child
  - Protection of child from IPV
  - Accepting responsibility
  - Responsive to child’s needs
  - Support of victim-child rel’p
  - Respect for parental authority

- **Co-Parenting Relationship**

**Effects of IPV on...**

- **Child’s Wellbeing**
  - Physical safety
  - Emotional wellbeing
  - Economic security
  - Developmental issues
  - Behavioral issues
  - Cognitive issues
  - Relationship issues

- **Risk of Harm/Lethality**
  - Look for: Stalking, sexual assault, abuse during pregnancy, strangulation, threats to kill, controlling behaviors, access to weapons, increased frequency or severity of IPV, child abuse, animal abuse, excessive jealousy or obsession, abuser’s mental state, avoidance of consequences

- **Victim’s Parental Wellbeing**
  - Safety
  - Economic stability
  - Housing stability
  - Employment stability
  - Immigration status
  - Health & wellbeing
  - Personal autonomy

**Best Interests of the Child**

- Parent’s wishes
- Wishes and concerns of child
- Mental and physical health
- Parent most likely to facilitate contact
- Child’s interactions/interrelationships
- Adjustment to home, school, etc.
- History of domestic violence
- Capacity to provide care
- Ability to assure basic needs are met
- Willingness to accept responsibility
- Need to promote continuity/stability
- Relative quality of parent/child rel’ps
- Parental decision-making history
- Other __________________________
**Potential Responses to IPV**

**Limit or Monitor Abusive Parent’s Access to Child or Victim Parent:**
- Limit methods of communication (no in-person, telephonic or social media contact)
- Prescribe frequency and methods of communication (email only, text only, etc.)
- Restrict length and/or content of communication (1-page, 10-minutes, scope, etc.)
- Limit access to sensitive information (addresses, account numbers, SSNs, records)
- Issue and enforce no contact orders and orders for protection
- Require neutral exchange locations (school, place of business, etc.)
- Require third party exchanges (professional, friend, family member, etc.)
- Restrict visitation to designated location (grandparent’s home, public park, church)
- Restrict visitation to a geographical area (25-mile radius, in town, state, or country)
- Condition visitation on having third party present (professional, friend, family)
- Define consequences for non-compliance with access restrictions
- Other:

**Monitor and Enforce Abusive Parent’s Compliance with Parenting Plan:**
- Conduct review hearings
- Establish schedule for abusive parent to demonstrate compliance with plan
- Set automatic consequences for non-compliance with parenting plan
- Appoint a compliance monitor at abusive parent’s cost
- Hold abusive parent accountable for unjustified, unexcused, intentional violations
- Other:

**Require Abusive Parent to Participate in Remedial Interventions and/or Services:**
- Refer abusive parent to batterer intervention for assessment and proper services
- Refer abusive parent to parenting after violence for assessment/proper services
- Other:

**Limit Abusive Parent’s Rulemaking or Decision-Making Authority:**
- Grant sole legal custody to victim parent, with or without specified exceptions
- Grant parallel legal custody, with or without specified exceptions
- Appoint a parenting consultant to confer with abuser on all major decisions
- Appoint a parenting monitor to oversee and periodically assess abuser’s parenting
- Limit abuser’s ability to dispose of real or personal property or to dissipate assets
- Appoint a special master to monitor and effectuate property allocations
- Other:

**Support Victim Parent’s Efforts to Protect Child:**
- Link parental decision-making authority to parental responsibility for child’s care
- Designate victim parent as the custodian of records
- Secure documents victim needs to care for and protect the child
- Secure immigration documents
- Secure health insurance for victim and child
- Provide victim parent with information about available community-based resources
- Facilitate victim parent’s access to available community-based resources
- Establish self-executing parenting plan enforcement mechanisms
- Allow direct and expedited access to parenting plan enforcement mechanisms
- Establish automatic bill-paying processes for abuser’s financial obligations
- Delineate reasonable house rules
- Limit grounds upon which abuser may object to the victim’s parenting decisions
- Permit the victim to relocate with the child in accordance with the law
- Make relationship findings (age, existence of marriage, parent-child relationships)

**Strengthen Child’s Systems of Support:**
- Ensure that parenting plan accommodates child’s interests, activities and supports
- Provide sufficient parenting time flexibility to adapt to child’s age and social needs
- Structure parenting time to maintain access to child’s support system
- Connect child and victim parent to available community-based resources

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