

FACTORS TO CONSIDER IN ALL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES

A. Domestic Violence is About Power and Control

1. Domestic violence is a learned behavior and is rarely caused by substance abuse, genetics, stress, illness, or problems in the relationship. However, those factors are often used as an excuse for the behavior and may exacerbate the violence.

2.. Domestic violence is usually a part of a pattern of assaultive or controlling behaviors, which may vary depending on the circumstances.

B. Factors to Consider as to the Level of Danger Posed by a Particular Respondent

1. Suicidal or homicidal ideation, whether threatened or attempted.

2. Escalation in frequency or severity of behaviors.

3. Prior criminal behavior or injunctions, or prior similar activities (although evidence of prior acts and behaviors may be objected to as not relevant; such evidence may be relevant to assess the current danger and risk, as well as provide evidence of intent, identity, lack of accident, motive, knowledge, plan or pattern of behavior).

C. Common Attitudes and Conduct Exhibited by Perpetrators of Domestic Violence

1. Consistent attempts to control victim.

2. Minimization and denial of own behavior; placement of blame on victim or others.

3. Low self-esteem.

4. Jealousy and possessiveness.

5. Intimidation.

6. Dependency on victim.

7. Appearance of being very amiable and likeable in Court.

8. Promises that the behavior will never recur.