

Ask-An-Expert

This segment will allow Supervised Visitation Program grantees an opportunity to interact with other grantees on problem-solving exercises and ask subject matter experts questions about topics relevant to the Supervised Visitation Program grantees and their collaborative partners.





Working with Abusive Fathers in Supervised Visitation

Juan Carlos Arean
March 29, 2013



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Men who Batter- Who are they?

- It's not a clinical diagnosis
- It's a behavioral profile, which includes:
 - Intimidation
 - Psychological and emotional abuse
 - Exaggerated, intrusive, disproportionate entitlement
 - Physical and sexual violence



4 **Presentation**

- Defensive-aggressive
- Challenging
- Charming-manipulative
- Superficially compliant
- Avoidant



5 **Parenting by Men who Batter**

- Continued threats and violence after separation
- Behavior negatively affects children
- More controlling and abusive parenting
- Perpetrators often involve children in violent events
- Good under observation

Bancroft & Silverman, 2002



6 **Impact on Families**

- Undermining of mother's authority
- Interference with mother's parenting
- Use of the children as weapons
- Sowing of divisions

Bancroft & Silverman, 2002



Use of Systems

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- Court
 - Multiple filings
 - Requests for Documentation
 - Change of Providers
- CPS
 - Allegations of negligence and/or abuse
- Visitation Provider
 - Allegations of contempt or non-compliance
 - Proof of cancellations
 - Scheduling challenges

from T. Parker



Why work with MWB?

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- Fathers who use violence often have legal and illegal contact with their children.
- Because most men want to be good fathers, in some cases this contact can be transformed into a positive and healing experience for the children.
- Many mothers who have suffered abuse want their children to have safer and healthier contact with their fathers.
- Some men are able to develop empathy towards their children, which may be a protective factor against further abuse.



Why work with MWB?

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- Many men who have used violence grew up in abusive households and have lived through the intergenerational cycle of violence.
- Abuse is a deliberate choice and a learned behavior and therefore can be unlearned.
- Positive involvement by a father figure can be very beneficial to children's development.
- Giving fathers more opportunities for change and healing is an essential component to end violence against women and children.



Working with Men who Batter

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Point
Men who batter are manipulative, dangerous and cruel. They need to be observed and monitored.

Counterpoint
Men who batter can change, heal their relationships and contribute to the movement against domestic violence.



Working with Men who Batter

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Point
Our first priority always has to be the safety of women and children and accountability of men who batter.

Counterpoint
Safety and accountability can be accomplished by positively engaging men who batter.



Working with Men who Batter

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Point
Challenge Behavior
Accountability
Focus on Problems
Limits

Counterpoint
Support Person
Connection
Focus on Strengths
Opportunities

DUALITY IN PRACTICE



THANK YOU!



Thank You For Attending

Thank you for attending today's segment. For more information, or to inquire about training or technical assistance, please visit safehavenonline.org or contact Michele Robinson, Program Manager with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges at mrobinson@ncfci.org or (775) 784-6427.


