

What Do You Think:

Directions: Your group will be given one of the three questions that follow to discuss and provide a large group response for as a warm-up activity for the training day.

What ways does intimate partner violence manifest in the substantiated referrals or ongoing voluntary/court-ordered cases that you assess or monitor?

Whose responsibility is it to assure the children's safety in a family where there is intimate partner violence? Why?

Describe some of the effects of intimate partner violence on children, youth and families who are involved in Child Welfare Services.

What are the greatest challenges you face in effectively addressing protection issues for children when intimate partner violence is the central underlying issue, sometimes disguised as physical abuse or general neglect?

What do we believe about the patterns of intimate partner violence?

1. Adult victims of intimate partner violence never leave their abusers, or if they do, they get involved in other abuse relationships.

Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

2. Stress regarding family responsibilities plays a significant role in why aggressors of family violence hurt their partners and children.

Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

3. The legal system, including law enforcement, children services and the courts, are effective in helping a victim in creating and maintaining safety for her and her family.

Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

4. Low self-esteem is a factor in why victims get involved in abusive relationships.

Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

5. The most dangerous time for a victim and her children is while she continues to remain in the home with her abuser.

Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

6. Victims often provoke the violence that they experience.

Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

(Adapted from Child Welfare Services with Families Experiencing Domestic Violence, Participant's Guide, State of Georgia, April 2007 and Child Protection In Families Experiencing Domestic Violence, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2003)

Safety Considerations: When Are Workers and Families Most at Risk?

At your tables, discuss, identify and list as many specific situations in which there are increased risks of violence for victims, children and Child Welfare workers.

Increased Risk of Violence to Victims and Children:

Increased Risk of Violence to Responding Helping Professionals:

Learning Application: Intimate partner violence and CWS Decision points

Your learning team has been assigned one or more specific decision points in the life of a Child Welfare Services case. As a team, identify, discuss and record how intimate partner abuse may affect information gathering and assessment of current levels of safety threat and risk, contact with and between various family members and specific recommendations and decision at this case juncture.

Decision Points to Be Assigned Include:

- Intake and screening
- Intake assessment and investigation
- Assessment of safety threat and safety planning
- Case planning
- Placement decisions
- Team Decision Meetings and/or family meetings
- Visitation
- Decisions to reunify
- Decisions to proceed with alternative permanency plan
- Case closure

How does the presence of intimate partner violence affect:

- **Information gathering:**

- **Assessment of current levels of safety threat and risk:**

- **Contact with and between various family members:**

- **Specific recommendations and decisions:**

That are common at this decision point?

Skills Application: Assessment, safety planning and services

Directions: As a learning team, conduct an assessment of David and his wife and children regarding issues of intimate partner violence and their impact on the children. Use the risk assessment protocol found at the top of page 67 as your guide. Then identify and/or develop a set of essential questions to conduct your assessment as well as to engage and empower David's wife. Finally, identify possible components of a safety plan (she is choosing to stay in the relationship) and a plan of services for the family.

Intimate Partner Violence Risk Assessment (Include any potential safety threats):

What effect are the patterns of intimate partner violence having on the children in this home?

List of essential questions to create a connection and to obtain information about current level of safety threat and risk:

Potential elements of a safety plan for the abused partner and children (she is planning to stay):

Case plan objectives for each participant and treatment services: