

“IT HURTS”: ADDRESSING THE DYNAMICS OF DV IN CHIPS CASES

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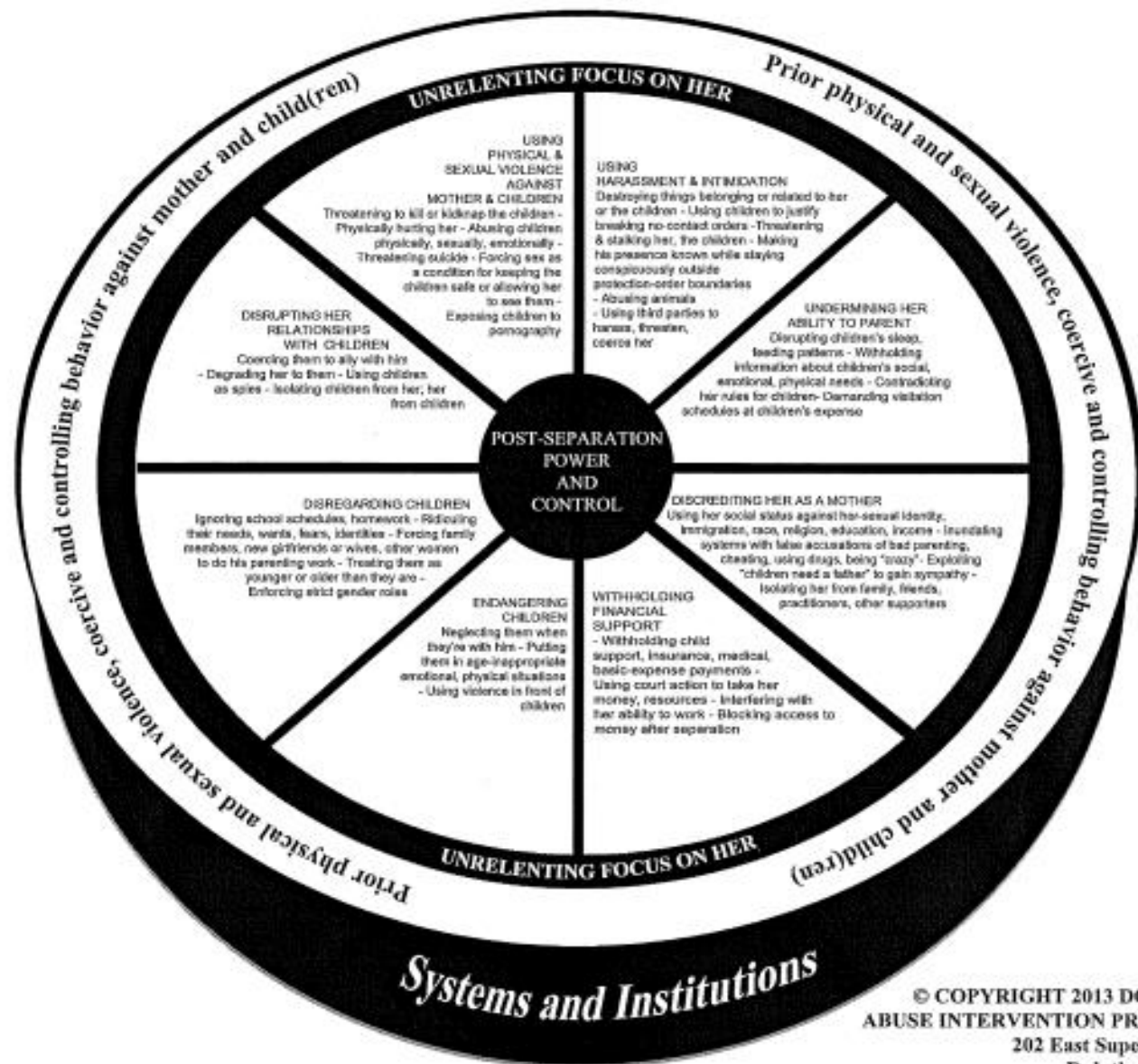
Counseling Education Advocacy

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Power, control & parenting

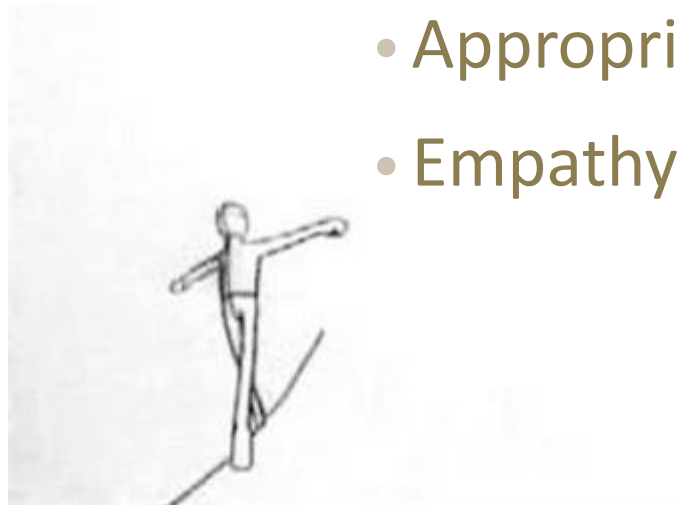


Balancing acts:

For helping professionals

Expectations

- Safety
- Clear communication
- Changes in parenting behavior as needed



Support

- Access to services
- Appropriate flexibility
- Empathy

Balancing acts: for parents

Vulnerability

- Ask for help in socially sanctioned ways
- Demonstrate harm caused by abuse
- Trust



Strength

- Demonstrate parenting competence
- Show ability to keep children safe
- Guardedness

Some common dynamics: For both parents

- May have difficulty separating the parenting relationship from the abuse
- May internalize and act out of negative self concept as a parent
- May have cultural beliefs or practices that “don’t translate” in the legal system
- May have inaccurate understanding of child development
- May not have an accurate idea of how much the children know about the abuse

Some common issues: For the parent who used abuse

- May have their own unaddressed trauma
- May have difficulty empathizing with the children's position
- Use of children may escalate if parenting is the only point of contact
- May present well under observation
- May undermine the other parent both directly and indirectly

Some common issues: For the survivor parent

- May not always be fully available to the children due to injuries, trauma, or increased need to focus on survival
- May have trauma reactions triggered by the children's behavior or the court process
- May present as difficult, angry, unresponsive, fragile, unconcerned
- Increased pressure & reduced resources may interfere with optimal parenting
- May fear specific consequences based on past threats by abusive partner

Goals for intervention

Safety

Healing

Reduce or eliminate domestic abuse

Promote empathy towards children

Reduce or eliminate child maltreatment

Increase trauma-informed parenting skills

Address basic needs

Address rupture in parent-child relationship

Create safety net for family

Safety services: Survivor Parent Domestic Abuse

Legal

Community

Shelter

Safety Planning

Emergency Shelter Peer Support Education Health Care
Pets Child Care OFP DANCO Housing

Healing Services: Survivor Parent



Safety services: Parent Who Used Abuse Domestic Abuse

Legal

Community

Intervention Programs

Peer support
Prevention

Self control planning
Nonviolent Skills Basic needs

Relapse

Healing Services: Abusive Parent



Parenting: Safety First!

- Supervised Parenting Time
- Parent Coaching
- Parenting Skills
- Parenting-focused Individual Therapy



Gradually reduce oversight

- Family Support Groups
- Family Therapy with Reunification Focus

“Nina”



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