

**Battering is defined** as **A PATTERN** of **assaultive and controlling behavior(s)** between adults in an intimate, sexual, theoretically peer, and usually cohabitating relationship. Battering occurs without regard for the victim's mental or physical well being. It is done to punish, to intimidate, to control, and to dominate.

**PHYSICAL BATTERING** – a wide range of behaviors, which include all aggressive behavior done by the offender to the victim's body. It includes (but may not be restricted to):

- pushing  slapping  pinching  punching  pulling hair  restraining
- Throwing objects at  biting  burning  choking/strangling
- shooting  clubbing  stabbing/cutting  physical violence during pregnancy
- assaults while batterer was under the influence of drug/alcohol
- required medical attention as a result of physical/sexual abuse( jaw injury)

**SEXUAL BATTERING** – includes (but may not be limited to):

- physical attacks on the victim's breasts/genitals  forced to accept batterer's infidelity
- forced to perform sex acts that victim finds degrading
- forced sexual activity accompanied by physical violence or the threat of physical violence
- forced to have sex with others outside the relationship

**PSYCHOLOGICAL BATTERING** – uses psychological weapons rather than physical attacks.

*Controlling victim's activities, such as*  sleeping  eating habits  social relationships

finances  access to a vehicle  contact with family  spiritual or cultural practices

*Constant attacks on victim's self-esteem by*  name calling,  put downs  screaming

swearing  denial of ideas/feelings  humiliating victim  forced to lie for batterer

*Intentionally frightening the victim by*  deliberate erratic driving  playing with weapons

threatening violence against victim friends, support networks, others \_\_\_\_\_

threatening to deport foreign-born partners  involving the victim in illegal activities

Holding victim or others \_\_\_\_\_ hostage  threatening to harm or kill victim

threatening suicide  threatening with a weapon (type) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  has access to weapons (type) \_\_\_\_\_

**monitoring victim/staking**

Using Children to control victim:  threatening to take children away  threatening

violence [harm/kill/abduct] against children  hitting or hurting children  harsh

punishment of children  exposing children to age inappropriate sexual material, or

sexual activity

threats to sexually engage with and/or sexual activity with children

**DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY AND/OR PETS** – The batterer's purpose in destroying property/pets remains to punish, intimidate, control and dominate. In this form of assault victims experience the psychological agony of the destruction as well as the fear that the assaults on property or pets will turn into physical assaults.

Destroying or damaging victims property/ possessions  destroying meals

damaging walls, doors, windows  threatening to, or  harming  killing family pets

## VICTIM, BATTERER, and COMMUNITY FACTORS

### Victim Isolation:

Victim has  limited, or  no access to:  shelter  police  hospital

### Established Pattern of Abuse:

- the batterer has a history of violence in the family of origin
- the batterer's abusive behaviors in the relationship are typical and ongoing
- the abuse has increased with frequency and severity

### Batterer's Emotional State:

- the batterer is experiencing employment or financial problems
- the batterer has mental health problems
- the batterer is taking prescription medication
- the batterer uses street drugs/alcohol
- the batterer has unrealistic jealousy toward the victim

### Batterer's Attitude towards Authority:

- the batterer has a history of criminal activities \_\_\_\_\_
- the batterer has violated prior civil or criminal orders \_\_\_\_\_
- the batterer has avoided prior arrest for assault \_\_\_\_\_

### Victim Responses:

- does your situation ever make you think of harming yourself,  your children or,  your partner?  have you ever harmed or attempted to harm yourself  your children?  Does your situation cause you to fear for your (or your children's) safety?
- have your children ever tried to intervene?  have they been harmed intervening?
- have you ever harmed your partner during an abusive episode?
- have you ever used violence to defend yourself in an assault by your partner?
- do you ever take drugs or alcohol in order to cope with your situation?
- have you ever been assaulted while under the influence of alcohol/drugs?
- have you left or do you plan on leaving the relationship?

All interview items in **BOLD** print indicate escalated risk for victims. Initials indicate the completed guide has been read by the following:

Developed in 2008 By: *Heather King, Regional Prevention of Family Violence & Bullying Specialist, Northwest Alberta Child and Family Services Authority Region 8, and Jacqueline Aitken Executive Director PACE, Grande Prairie, AB.*

A number of resources and instruments were drawn from to develop this guide, including: Ganley A., (2004) Understanding Domestic Violence,. Ganley A., (1982). Court Mandated Counseling For Men Who Batter. BC Institute Against Family Violence & BC Solicitor General (2006). Aid to Safety Assessment and Planning (ASAP). Campbell, J.C., (2003). Danger Assessment. Dutton, D.G., & Kropp,P.R. (2000) a review of domestic violence risk instruments. Trauma, Violence and Abuse.