



Carolyn Bailey papers

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What do battered women have to say about the service provided by the advocates of the St. Paul/Maplewood Intervention Project? Were their recent experiences with the Project and the criminal justice system positive? How did they benefit from the help provided?

What about the police, prosecutors, and judges of Ramsey County? Are battered women satisfied with the service provided by these public officials? Do battered women feel safer in their communities?

***Evaluation of Services
to Battered Women
in St. Paul and Maplewood
July 1988 to June 1989***

published December 1989

The St. Paul/Maplewood Intervention Project seeks to help battered women increase their safety by using the criminal justice systems in St. Paul and Maplewood. Between July 1988 and June 1989, approximately 1,300 battered women from St. Paul and Maplewood were served by Intervention Project advocates and volunteers. In September 1989, 300 battered women with whom advocates worked extensively were mailed a survey in order to find out what these women thought about the services provided by the Intervention Project.

Sixty-one women, or 20 percent of the survey population, completed the survey.* Of the women not responding, how many did not respond because their abusers continue to control what information reaches these women? We do know that 55 survey envelopes, or 18 percent of the survey population, did not receive the survey because of no mail-forwarding information.

When reading the report, please bear in mind that responses may not reflect the experiences of women of color. Only 10 percent of the survey respondents are known to be women of color, which is a low representation of the 30 to 50 percent actually served by the Intervention Project. Project advocates believe that personal contact would have elicited more responses from women of color. Distrust of white systems may also have inhibited responses to the mailed questionnaire.

The responses do adequately reflect the experiences of women with children. Seventy-two percent of the respondents have children, 13 percent are dependent on their abusers for child care, and 30 percent rely on their abusers for money to support themselves or their children. The survey tells us that financial constraints force many women to continue to live with their abusers or be in frequent contact with them. Children living in violent households face greater chances of being abuse victims.

Forty-five percent of the 55 respondents who completed the income question have personal incomes between \$0 and \$7,500; 87 percent have incomes under \$20,000.

Fifty battered women living in Maplewood were sent the survey; 24 percent of these women responded. Two hundred fifty women living in St. Paul were sent the survey; 18 percent of these women responded.

Seven percent of the respondents were between the ages of 15 and 19; 38 percent between 20 and 29; 38 percent between 30 and 39; 7 percent between 40 and 49; and 8 percent between 50 and 59. Three percent of the survey respondents did not answer the age question.

* A 20 percent response rate is considered to be an above average rate for a mail survey, such as this one, that was not followed by reminder letters or follow-up calls.

Advocates

The Intervention Project seeks to help battered women regain some control over their lives. Thirty-one percent of the women responding to the question "Would you have continued to be involved with the charges against your abuser if an advocate had NOT contacted you?" only stayed involved because of the continuing support of the advocates. One woman wrote, "I probably would not have went through with charges if an advocate were not there to help. And to help get a restraining order. So because of that my ex knows I am not about to tolerate abuse ever."

We believe the emotional support and advocacy we provide removes barriers and makes the criminal justice system less abusive to women.* Though 64 percent of the women said they would have gone ahead with the pressing of charges—even without the support of the advocates—we believe the criminal justice systems in St. Paul and Maplewood responded more appropriately to all battered women because of our daily presence.

While providing advocacy services and emotional support to battered women, the Intervention Project also strives to provide an environment where women can acknowledge their own power to live satisfying and healthy lives free of domestic violence. When battered women were asked to explain in their words how they feel about their situation today, compared to their situation at the time of the assault, 91 percent of the 46 respondents to this question expressed relief because the relationship is over, they have renewed confidence to control their lives, they recognize that the abuse was not their fault, or they know that help is available: "I feel there is someone there who understands me and the system — I'm not alone." "I feel different because I know what to do now and am currently getting an O.F.P. on my own." "I don't feel the abuse was my fault anymore." "I feel it took all of this court order business and the aid and knowledge from you to help me out of the relationship." Nine percent of the question respondents expressed mixed feelings.

* A 1989 Minnesota Supreme Court report revealed gender bias and discrimination against women in the Minnesota criminal justice system.

Some respondents, however, even though they responded positively about their situation today, still feel threatened or live with their fingers crossed because of the behavior of their abusers: "I am safe from him until he gets out!" "I feel justice was served, he got six months and court ordered treatment and therapy. I'm in the process of relocating to another state before his release so I still feel I'm not totally out of this situation." A judge ordered another abuser to not have contact with the woman he battered, but the woman wrote, "...he still hung around my house driving up and down the street slowly. I felt like a prisoner in my own house." Too many women still need to keep uprooting themselves and their children, and not disclose their whereabouts, to remain safe.

Another vital service of the Intervention Project involves contacting victims immediately after we are notified by the St. Paul or Maplewood police that a domestic assault has occurred. Eighty-five percent of survey respondents found the contact they had with Project volunteers after the assault helpful. Most of this outreach service, which occurs during the night or on weekends, is made by volunteers working with our 24-hour emergency telephone service.

Based upon survey responses, battered women served by the Intervention Project are satisfied with the service provided.* Ninety-four percent said they definitely would call us for help if they were assaulted again. These findings do not differ much from the 1986 project survey even though the number of women served has increased 200 percent. From the responses we also can conclude that these women today feel more competent to take action when threatened or abused.

* *Two appendixes to this report are available from the St. Paul/Maplewood Intervention Project.*

Public Officials

Police

The survey also included questions about the service provided by police, city attorneys, and judges. Though 86 percent of the respondents said they would probably call the police if they were assaulted again, others voiced reasons why they might not be able to call. One woman responded, "Depends on the situation. Also have to be sure I'm mentally prepared again—that takes time." Other women never call the police because they fear further abuse at the hands of the abuser. One woman wrote, "Because the abuser would hit (me) even more."

Positive comments about the service of the police most often included the providing of referrals, offering transportation to the hospital and to a safe place: "Gave advice to call you. Was supportive." "Offered to take me to a hospital, called you, gave me your card, took me to my mother's." Negative comments included being treated unkindly and feeling that the police were being bothered when responding to the call. One woman wrote, "There was one officer that was very unkind and said things that he had no right saying; other ones were very nice."

City Attorneys

The St. Paul judicial system and prosecutors try to dispose of domestic abuse cases within 30 days of arraignment but delays happen anyway. Most battered women want to go on with their lives and not keep dealing with the emotional and financial stress caused by dragging out a case. One St. Paul woman writing about her frustrations said, "Take approx six months of dragging out case and constantly having me on call at work. Then going to court and not always getting called that day after sitting four or more hours. They can not reimburse enough for what I need to make \$ wise to support two children!" Another St. Paul woman wrote, "At the time of the assault, when I had complained to the police and they arrested my husband, I felt strongly about having the legal assistance to pressure my husband into accepting help. The trial is now five months later. I have moved away from my husband and have no contact with him. He has made no effort on his own to seek help. I feel less motivated to reinvolve myself with the trial/court process and him, now that I have gone on with my separate life."

Of the women responding to the questions "What did you expect the city attorney to do?" and "What did the city attorney do?" 69 percent expected the attorney to press charges, and in 67 percent of the cases the attorney did press charges. Forty-nine percent of the respondents wanted to be asked what they wanted to happen to their abusers, but only 37 percent were asked. The 1986 Project survey also found a number of victims dissatisfied with the city attorneys' efforts to obtain information from victims.

Positive comments about the service of the city attorneys included: "Made sure I felt comfortable about being in court." and "They did their job well done in prosecuting the abuser. Also ordering a no contact order." Negative comments included: "When asking me about the situation I felt I was the person doing wrong—like they didn't have time for me and there are people worse off than me." and "He did not talk more to me about what was going on. I felt like he was not trying to help me!" A negative comment was made that shows, however, that a city attorney was doing his or her job: "I asked to have charges dropped to a lesser charge (not dropped altogether) and was told flat out "NO."*

Judges

Twenty percent of the respondents were dissatisfied with the judges' actions. Lack of consideration of prior offenses and the absence of follow up on sentence compliance most concerned battered women. One battered woman wrote, "No consequences really except a slap on the hand. It had been a repeated offense. I was upset he didn't have any consequences for his behavior after ripping my life apart." Another wrote, "It should have been attempted murder, but plea bargain was made for assault 5th degree (twice). They did not use the fact that he had murdered someone before and there were many similarities."

Specific complaints regarding criminal justice system follow up on sentence compliance included:

"Because he ordered the abuser to more than jail and workhouse and the abuser only served time in jail, I think the judges should re-check to see if people really did what they wanted or were ordered." And, "Abuser picked a counselor that only helped to continue the abuse—not stop it. Someone should have followed up on abuser's counseling. Someone would of hopefully noticed it wasn't going well."

Sixty-eight percent of the respondents wanted the judge to send the abuser to counseling to stop the abuse, but only 56 percent of the abusers were ordered to treatment. And 53 percent of the respondents wanted the abuser sent to alcohol/drug abuse treatment, but only 20 percent of the abusers were ordered to treatment.

Most women want orders barring their abusers from having contact with them, and the judges are responding to the women's concerns. Sixty-three percent of the respondents wanted "no contact orders" issued, and 66 percent said the orders were issued.

* *Domestic assault is a criminal offense; therefore, it is the state's responsibility, not the victim's, to press charges.*

Even though the number of people served by the St. Paul/Maplewood Intervention Project has increased 200 percent since 1987, the Project still strives to improve services by cooperative effort with other battered women's programs in Ramsey County. However, because resources to serve battered women in Ramsey County are severely limited, many are turned away daily, even though they are in great need of help, protection, or both. The Intervention Project also receives many referrals from communities outside our service areas. This painful situation will continue until community leaders all agree that ending domestic violence should be their first priority.

*prepared by
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*Providing crisis support
and information, advocacy,
and self-help groups.*

*Coordinating community
services for families suffering
from domestic violence.*

*Promoting law enforcement
protection and community
support.*

ST. PAUL INTERVENTION PROJECT
MAPLEWOOD INTERVENTION PROJECT
1988 PROGRAM SUMMARY ■

Is life-giving justice possible?

"We make it possible when we make safe places for women to tell the truth.

We make it possible when we hear and acknowledge her truth. We make it possible when we stand with her in compassion as her advocate.

We make it possible when we protect the vulnerable from further abuse.

We make it possible when we call abusers to account for their actions.

We make it possible when we require restitution be made to a battered woman."

We make it possible when we vindicate a battered woman speedily — resolving the shame which society has laid upon her."

— Marie M. Fortune
Center for the Prevention
of Sexual and Domestic
Violence
Seattle, Washington

St. Paul
Intervention
Project
Program
Summary ■

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History

*"The silence which has surrounded
domestic violence has been broken."*

— Marie M. Fortune

Since 1972 battered women in St. Paul have struggled to change the justice system's response to protecting the powerless — battered women and their children. The launching of the St. Paul Intervention Project in 1985 is proof of the will of battered women to survive and change society.

Dramatic policy changes have occurred because of the work of St. Paul Intervention Project staff.

- Police are aggressively responding to domestic assaults because of mandatory arrest policies now in force in St. Paul and Maplewood.
- More domestic crimes are being successfully prosecuted by the St. Paul City Attorney's Office because of project advocates who help ensure victim participation and who also understand victims' cases.
- Access to existing services for victims and their children has improved because of the coordination efforts provided by project advocates. Victims are now ensured a consistent cross-sector response from a complex and confusing system.
- The criminal justice system's response to perpetrators is now more consistent — starting with police arrests and continuing on to the monitoring of perpetrators' compliance with sentencing conditions. Greater long-term protection is more likely when the victim works with project advocates through each stage of the process.

- Since 1985 more than 2,000 battered women in Ramsey County have received support and information from project volunteers and advocates immediately after criminal assaults. And 1,210 battered women have received legal advocacy and on-going support from the St. Paul and Maplewood intervention projects.
- Community awareness about domestic crimes is increasing. Resultingly, communities are slowly beginning to accept responsibility for stopping and controlling the behavior of batterers. Support for community intervention is growing.
- More battered women have gained independence and control over their lives by participating in the project's self-help groups. ■

From the Executive Director: *Lois Severson*

Our program is growing. Project advocates serviced double the number of clients in 1988 than in 1987. This was due to an increase in cases charged by St. Paul prosecutors. We also saw more cases go to trial.

In 1988 we began to reach out to two previously unserved groups of people: domestic assault victims in Maplewood and victims whose assailants were "Gone on Arrival" and, therefore, were not arrested.

Other program accomplishments:

- The St. Paul Intervention Project board of directors became involved in fruitful fund-raising efforts.
- St. Paul Intervention Project staff initiated and coordinated monthly meetings to add further cohesiveness to battered women's programs in Ramsey County. Staff from the following programs are involved in these on-going networking efforts: Women of Nations, Women's Advocates Shelter, Casa de Esperanza Shelter, Institute for Black Chemical Abuse (IBCA), and St. Paul Intervention Project.
- Women's Advocates Shelter contributed one staff advocate weekly to represent victims at arraignment court.

While we are proud of what we have accomplished, we are reminded daily of work that should be undertaken if all domestic assault victims and their families are to be served.

- **Services to domestic assault victims are still not available in many suburban areas of Ramsey County.**

- Battered women seeking orders for protection in Ramsey County family court usually do not have an advocate providing support and help with enforcement problems.
- The Ramsey County court system needs more resources to service the increasing number of domestic assault victims. Victims seeking orders for protection must now wait three days to obtain an appointment.
- More criminal charges need to be brought by St. Paul prosecutors in assault cases where an arrest was not made because the assailant was "Gone on Arrival." Few assailants in these cases are prosecuted.
- Coordinated services amongst municipalities, the justice systems, and counties is still lacking. Little information is shared unless a skilled advocate is involved.
- In the suburbs, unacceptably long delays in the processing of criminal cases exist. Some cases take as long as one and one-half years to resolve.
- Many barriers still exist for non-English speaking women, older women, women with disabilities, and other unserved groups. ■

Service Areas

- Direct Services Advocacy
- Advocacy to Change System Response
- Battered Women's Self-Help Groups
- Volunteer Program
- Community Education

St. Paul Intervention Project Program Summary ■

Direct Services Advocacy

"Why should the victim and her children have to leave their home in order to be safe? Why aren't the police and courts protecting them?"

— Battered Women's Advocate

St. Paul Intervention Project advocates help victims of domestic crimes gain access to the criminal justice system. The success of our intervention is dependent upon our being able to daily monitor and advocate in the system. As the following statistics show, our volume has more than doubled since 1987.

24-Hour Crisis Intervention and Support Service

City	Individuals Served	
	1987	1988
St. Paul	451	1,077
Maplewood	NA*	144

Legal Advocacy for Victims of Domestic Crimes**

City	Individuals Served	
	1987	1988
St. Paul	214	615
Maplewood	NA*	88

* Not applicable.

** Domestic crimes include misdemeanor assaults, gross misdemeanor assaults, aggravated assaults, violations of no contact orders, and violations of orders for protection (restraining orders). ■

Advocacy to Change System Response

"It was such an extreme experience having actually been arrested and dealt with rather harshly...that I sought help."

— Former Batterer

Aggressive intervention by law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and judges has proven to be an effective tool for preventing further violence in most families. To maintain this level of intervention, St. Paul Intervention Project advocates continue to coordinate an array of community services for each family.

Most of our efforts are directed toward bringing policy makers together to develop strategies and policies that hold abusers accountable for their violent behavior. Our efforts in 1988 were fruitful.

Monthly meetings, attended by city prosecutors, district court judges, victim advocates, court administrators, jail personnel, and police, were convened in 1988 by Bob Long, St. Paul City Council member, and by project staff. As a result:

- Staff were added to the St. Paul Prosecutor's Office to work with domestic assault cases.
- Plans are underway to have a special unit within the St. Paul City Attorney's Office prosecute domestic crimes and work more closely with victims beginning in 1989.
- More cases were charged by prosecutors in 1988. Where there was project intervention, 87 percent of assailants were charged, compared to 74 percent in 1987.
- A policy of issuing no contact orders when assailants post bail was put in force by Ramsey Court judges in 1988. This new policy ensures that all victims will have the court's protection during the critical period between the assailant's release from jail and the disposition of the case.

The 1988 legislature passed a bill requiring prosecutors to notify victims prior to the release of the suspect when charges are being dismissed after police arrest. State Representative Kathleen Vellenga sponsored the bill, supported by many victim advocate programs, at the request of the St. Paul Intervention Project.

We expanded our police information program to include Maplewood police. In 1988, 245 officers from St. Paul and Maplewood were addressed at police shift changes and training sessions.

With funding secured in 1987, the Maplewood Intervention Project started March 1988. With the support of the Maplewood City Council, Maplewood Police Chief Kenneth Collins established a mandatory arrest policy. Project advocates and volunteers provide 24-hour crisis intervention and legal advocacy services, and conduct a battered women's group in Maplewood. At weekly meetings, information is exchanged and cases are reviewed by a project advocate, the Maplewood prosecutor, and police.

Project advocates are present daily at criminal arraignment court to represent victims' safety concerns and to provide information about the history of abuse in victims' families

In 1988 Women's Advocates Shelter provided a criminal court advocate one day per week as a contribution to the project's efforts. The shelter will continue to provide this support in 1989.

Under a new program, funded by the Federal Justice Department and sponsored by the St. Paul Police Department, project advocates began responding to assault victims in cases where the suspects were "Gone on Arrival" and, therefore, were not arrested. The advocates help victims in such situations file charges and obtain orders for protection. ■

Battered Women's Self-Help Groups

Battered women are isolated by fear, as aptly stated by a battered women, "I would not leave my home to reach out for help unless I would be safe doing so."

From its inception, the St. Paul Intervention Project has focused its victim educational efforts on neighborhoods. We believe this orientation ensures accessibility and helps establish the type of trust required to work on safety issues in the community.

Neighborhood educational groups for battered women are held in Maplewood and in two St. Paul communities with high incidences of domestic assault. These weekly groups are attended by an average of ten battered women. Media presentations and specially developed educational materials provide the women with information about community resources and help them develop alternative support systems. Transportation and child care costs are paid by the St. Paul Intervention Project for those requesting assistance.

During 1988 survivors of violent relationships continued to participate in the project's training sessions, community education presentations, legislative action, United Way's *A Fair of the Heart*, fund raising, television and radio presentations, newspaper interviews, and other community activities. ■

Volunteer Program

"A home visit differs from any other contact the victim is likely to have within the system. The focus of the attention is the victim, not the batterer, as is the case with court proceedings. This allows the victim to speak freely with me."

— Chris Kiefer
Volunteer

Donating approximately 140 hours weekly, volunteer advocates offer emergency support services to victims and other family members on evenings and weekends. They also serve as court advocates.

Volunteers are recruited from all socioeconomic, racial, religious, ethnic, and age groups throughout the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Over one half of the volunteers are survivors of violent relationships.

1988 Volunteers

Kay Adams	Alice Lynch
Pat Banks	Nancy Maloney
Michelle Benesch	Mary Maness
Pam Biskupski	Barb Miller
Anne Bruggemeyer	Karen Newman
Joni Colrud	Jean Peterson
Kathy Dandeneau	Sophie Pfeiffer
Joyce Davis	Sandy Reetz
Millie Drew	Debbie Smith
Nancy Finch	Gloria Smith
Olga Flores	Robin Smith
Gail Froncek	Debbie Soles
Sheila Grittner	Margie Taylor
Colleen Gunderson	Sandra Toney
Anna Hogan	Julie Trachuck
Sue Kees	Barb Tyler
Chris Kiefer	Carmen Vellatoro
Carmen Levin	Jeannie Weis
Mary Long	Rebecca Wilson
Elizabeth Longaecker	Deb Ziebart

Community Education

"If someone was to ask me what being abused does to the victim, I would say it wounds, terrifies, isolates, degrades, and emotionally debilitates the abused."

— Battered Woman

To stop the domestic violence epidemic, community responses need to improve. Prevention must start in homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, and health care facilities.

More than 75 presentations were made by St. Paul Intervention Project staff to community groups, churches, agencies, organizations, and corporations in 1988. Among those requesting our participation were:

- United Auto Workers, Local 879
- Women's Resource Center, Normandale Community College
- Black, Indian, Hispanic, and Asian Women in Action
- Woodbury Baptist Church
- Women's Consortium
- 3M
- Institute for Black Chemical Abuse (IBCA)
- Twin Town Chemical Dependency Treatment Center
- Leadership St. Paul, St. Paul Chamber of Commerce
- Law Enforcement Program, Inver Hills Community College
- University of Minnesota Law School

And our program was mentioned or featured in the following 1988 newspaper articles:

- "Prosecution unit sought to handle domestic abuse," *St. Paul Pioneer Press and Dispatch*, February 16
- "Judges urge vigorous prosecution of domestic abuse," *Star Tribune*, May 29
- "Panel proposes ways to protect violence victims," *St. Paul Pioneer Press and Dispatch*, June 7
- "New hope for breaking domestic abuse cycle," *Ramsey County Review*, November
- "Volunteers offer hope to beaten and battered victims of home abuse," *Ramsey County Review*, December 14

Scope

Approximately 2,789 domestic abuse incidents were reported to Ramsey County law enforcement agencies in 1988. Of this number, 1,221 were serviced by the 24-hour outreach program of the St. Paul Intervention Project.

■ The St. Paul Intervention Project was notified about the following cases in 1988.

Police Intervention	Misdemeanor /Gross Misdemeanor Arrests	Aggravated Assault Arrests	Assailants Gone on Arrival	Other Action	Violations of Orders for Protection /No Contact	Total
St. Paul	533	105	739	56	not available	1,433
Maplewood	70	3	5	7	2	87

■ Project advocates worked with the victims in the following cases.

Arraignment	Charged*	Dismissed*	Reduced Plea	Continued	Total
St. Paul	362	54	12	6	439
Maplewood	84	0	0	0	84

* Includes misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor assaults, and violations of orders for protection and no contact orders.

Trial Outcomes	Guilty	Not Guilty	Dismissed	Warrant	No Information	Pending	Total
St. Paul	167	4	20	11	23	14	238
Maplewood	37	0	7	0	9	19	72

Sentencing Outcomes	Jail Time Stayed or Served	Batterers Mandated to Counseling
St. Paul	128	140
Maplewood	not available	not available

*St. Paul
Intervention
Project
Program
Summary ■*

Objectives for 1989

- Fund raise to establish a battered women's self-help group for women of color in the Summit-University area.
- Locate and secure affordable office space. Our lease is up and we have outgrown our current quarters.
- Fund raise to secure funds to hire a volunteer coordinator/community education facilitator to free advocates for advocating.
- Recruit and train more volunteers. Our volunteer program is suffering. Demand for our services is up, and our advocate who doubles as volunteer coordinator does not have time to devote to both areas.
- Purchase a computer and data base software to readily track cases.
- Expand staff training and development opportunities to avoid staff burnout and to keep staff in the field. ■

Funding

Funding for the St. Paul Intervention Project is derived from public and private organizations. Sources of 1988 revenue, totaling \$213,912, are grouped as follows:

Revenue Sources	Percent of Total
Foundations and Corporations	30%
City of St. Paul	19%
Federal Funds	17%
United Way - St. Paul Area	15%
City of Maplewood (restricted)	15%
Community Organizations and Individual Donations	2%
District Court Fines	2%

In 1989 we hope to achieve a level of 80% public and United Way funding. This would reduce our need for private resources and would stabilize the project's financial base.

Potential sources of continued and increased public support include the Ramsey County Community Corrections Department, the Ramsey County Human Services Agency, the Minnesota Department of Corrections, and the City of St. Paul.

Our budget for 1989 is \$230,376. ■

"The members of this project provide much-needed emotional support and encouragement as the victim goes through the court system.... We are convinced that for the presence and support of these workers, many assault cases would never be pursued because of the initial reluctance of victims to follow through with prosecution, not to mention their predictable frustration with the legal system itself."

— District Court Judges
Ramsey County

St. Paul Intervention Project
435 Aldine Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104 ■

Staff

Lois Severson
Executive Director

Myra Givens
Advocate

Pat Kasper
Advocate

Rebecca McLane
Advocate

Nancy Muck
Advocate

Mazi Johnson
Administrative Assistant

Debra Barnes
Urban Corps Advocate

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Rita Reuss
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Al Singer
Captain, St. Paul Police Department



United Way
affiliated agency

response

to violence in the family

Volume 3, Number 4

December 1979

Prosecutors Discourage Battered Women From Dropping Charges

"The problem with prosecuting wife beaters is that battered women always drop charges." This is a typical response by district attorneys to questions about why they prosecute so few family violence cases.

Although spouse abuse violates criminal assault laws in every state, many prosecutors are reluctant to accept complaints from battered women or to file criminal charges against batterers. Because most abused women withdraw charges before their cases are completed, prosecutors believe that it is a waste of time to file them in the first place. In part, this is an excuse for avoiding time-consuming and difficult cases; also, most prosecutors have such heavy workloads that their efforts must be concentrated on cases likely to result in guilty pleas or convictions.

A few prosecutors have become more aggressive in prosecuting spouse abuse cases, and have reduced the high incidence of victim withdrawal. Urging that domestic violence is a crime against the community, and that the state as well as the individual victim have an interest in stopping the abuse, these programs have instituted procedures to encourage victim cooperation.

One such program in the district attorney's office in Santa Barbara, California, reports that over 90 percent of their family violence complainants are fully cooperative. In another program in the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, the percentage of cases that are dismissed because the victim will not participate is even lower.

These programs have examined reasons why battered women frequently drop charges, and have adopted procedures to reduce the pressures on the complainant. They have also looked at the reasons why battered women file charges—what they are looking for in criminal court—and have set goals for

prosecution that correspond to those of the complainant.

A Crime Against the State

Many battered women are ambivalent about bringing criminal charges even when the beatings are chronic, and even if they are determined to stop the abuse. Most complainants do not understand the criminal justice system. They are often ill-equipped to decide whether the law should be enforced or what penalties should be imposed. Recognizing this ambivalence and confusion, district attorneys in Santa Barbara and Los Angeles have instituted procedures that relieve a complainant of responsibility for the decision to prosecute.

It is common to ask victims to sign complaints in domestic violence cases. This practice makes the victims feel that they, rather than the state, are prosecuting the batterers. Debbie Talmadge, an assistant district attorney in the Santa Barbara Family Violence Program, states that she signs domestic violence complaints herself rather than asking the victim to sign them.

Also, victims often imagine high-stress courtroom scenes and interminable jail sentences. Talmadge tries to dispel these unfounded fears. She explains that in most cases, the batterer pleads guilty. This means that it is unlikely that a trial will be held or that the woman will have to testify. She tells victims that abusers are rarely sent to jail, as the goal of prosecution is only to stop the abuse.

The Santa Barbara Domestic Violence Program makes every effort to ease the burden on the victim. Their policy does not forbid the withdrawal of charges, nor do prosecutors file charges if victims are opposed.

In the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, domestic abuse is regarded as a crime against the state, and the prosecu-

tor, not the victim, makes the decision to prosecute. Their policy is to forbid the withdrawal of charges, and to go forward with a case even when the victim would prefer to withdraw. Susan Kaplan, Coordinator of the Domestic Violence Unit explains this policy to all complainants. Many reluctant victims are persuaded to cooperate and are relieved not to be in control of the decision. A few, however are angered by this policy and refuse to assist the prosecution.

Supporting the Victim

Battered women are under immense pressure not to pursue criminal remedies. This pressure comes not only from the physical threats of the abusers, but also from social stigma that discourages women from filing charges against their husbands. Many victims who file charges of domestic violence still live with or see their abusers.

Nancy Sieh, an assistant district attorney in Santa Barbara, writes in an unpublished paper entitled, "Family Violence: The Prosecutor's Challenge," that half of the abuse victims who came to her office to drop charges were accompanied by their abusers who threatened them into requesting dismissal.

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Talmadge recognizes this pressure on battered women and provides emotional support to give her clients the courage to continue with their cases even if the defendants are waiting outside the office. She explains that if the abuser thinks the victim will tell the truth in court, he will plead guilty so that he can reduce the penalty that will be imposed. If the woman refuses to lie for her husband, then it is very likely that there will not be a trial and she will not have to testify. Talmadge has succeeded in obtaining a high rate of guilty pleas. She has prosecuted 30 cases a month for a year and only three of those cases have been brought to trial.

Another technique used in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara to protect victims from duress when a case goes to trial is to send a subpoena to the woman complainant. If the abuser tries to dissuade her from testifying by threats of further beatings, she can show him that she has no choice, and that she is required by law to go to court.

Many victims need protection while criminal charges are pending. One problem is that protection orders are available in most places only from a civil or family court. They are not handled by criminal lawyers. In many places either civil or criminal remedies are available to battered women, but not both. In the Domestic Violence Prosecution Unit in White Plains, New York, protection orders are routinely made available to battered women filing criminal charges.

Selecting the Appropriate Penalty

Many domestic violence complainants withdraw charges because they believe that criminal conviction necessarily means a jail sentence, and they do not want to send their husbands or boyfriends to jail. Prosecutors have succeeded in persuading victims to cooperate by requesting penalties that correspond to the needs of battered women.

In Santa Barbara, most women who file criminal charges want assistance from the court in stopping the abuse, but want to continue relationships with their spouses. Therefore, the prosecutor generally requests court-ordered counseling. In some cases in which charges have been filed, prosecution is suspended pending completion of a counseling program. If the program is not completed, prosecution is resumed.

Talmadge prefers to obtain a guilty plea from the batterer, and to make counseling a condition of probation. If the terms of probation are violated, then the abuser may be sentenced to jail without further court proceedings.

Talmadge states that when victims have been seriously injured, "it would be unconscionable" not to ask for a jail sen-

tence. When negotiating with a public defender for a guilty plea in such cases, she reduces the requested penalty from a jail sentence to a term of probation only if the victim will not otherwise cooperate with the prosecution.

The Los Angeles City Attorney's program similarly aims for results which correspond to the complainant's desires. Attorneys do not request incarceration for a first offender unless the victim has been severely injured. However, a jail sentence is always sought if the abuser has a prior conviction on a domestic violence charge.

Keeping in Contact

Providing effective services to victims of spouse abuse may require that staff members spend more time with the complainant than would be necessary with the victim of a crime committed by a stranger.

Prosecutors in the Los Angeles and Santa Barbara programs are encouraged to spend additional time with each domestic violence complainant, and to keep in close contact with her while charges are pending. Bob Smith, an investigator in Santa Barbara, states that most intake interviews in the district attorney's office take fifteen minutes, but that at least an hour is required for domestic violence cases. This process is expensive, and may strain an already overloaded system. Next year, the Santa Barbara office will assign non-lawyer victim advocates the task of maintaining contact with battered women. This will reduce the cost of prosecuting cases of wife battery.

Sensitive Interviewing

Battered women sometimes drop charges because skeptical prosecutors test their commitment to criminal action by asking such questions as "Are you sure you want to lock him up?" or "How will you support yourself while he is in jail?" Prosecutors generally know little about domestic violence and often suspect that the victims provoke their abusers or masochistically enjoy the beatings. These biases discourage many victims from pursuing criminal remedies.

Prosecutors can be trained to be more sensitive to the victim's ignorance of the criminal justice system and doubts about whether it will assist her. In Los Angeles, although all the attorneys in the criminal division of the City Attorney's Office are trained to handle domestic violence cases, cases are not assigned to prosecutors who are insensitive to the needs of battered women.

These programs have demonstrated that the high attrition rate in criminal assault cases against batterers can be reduced, and the criminal justice system made more responsive to domestic violence.

In order to reduce the number of battered women who drop criminal charges in domestic violence cases a prosecutor should:

- Decide whether charges should be filed based on the adequacy of the evidence. The victim should not be asked to make this decision.
- Sign the complaint instead of asking the victim to sign.
- Spend extra time with the victim in the initial interview to establish trust; keep in close contact while charges are pending.
- Find out what a reluctant victim is afraid will happen if she pursues the case.
- Provide emotional support to the victim against pressure from the abuser to drop charges.
- Obtain a protection order for a victim in physical danger while criminal charges are pending.
- Send a subpoena to the complainant witness if her testimony is needed.
- Find out what the victim would like to get from the criminal court. Request a penalty which corresponds to her goals.
- Request probation and mandatory counseling for the abuser if the victim doesn't want him jailed.
- Seek a guilty plea from the abuser to avoid the trauma of trial and testimony for the victim.
- Encourage the victim to tell the abuser that she will not lie for him. This will increase the likelihood of a guilty plea.
- Set up training in the office to sensitize attorneys to the needs of battered women.
- Avoid assigning domestic violence cases to attorneys who exhibit biases against battered women.

Using these techniques, some prosecutors have reduced the percentage of battered women who drop charges to below ten percent.

Mo Daily 3/6/78

OPINIONS

Battered husbands: the latest fad in the victim industry

By NICHOLAS VON HOFFMAN

There now exists a new publication entitled "Victimology." The victim industry has grown large enough to require a trade publication and, in America, where there is a well-heeled need, there is an enterprising vendor to fulfill it.

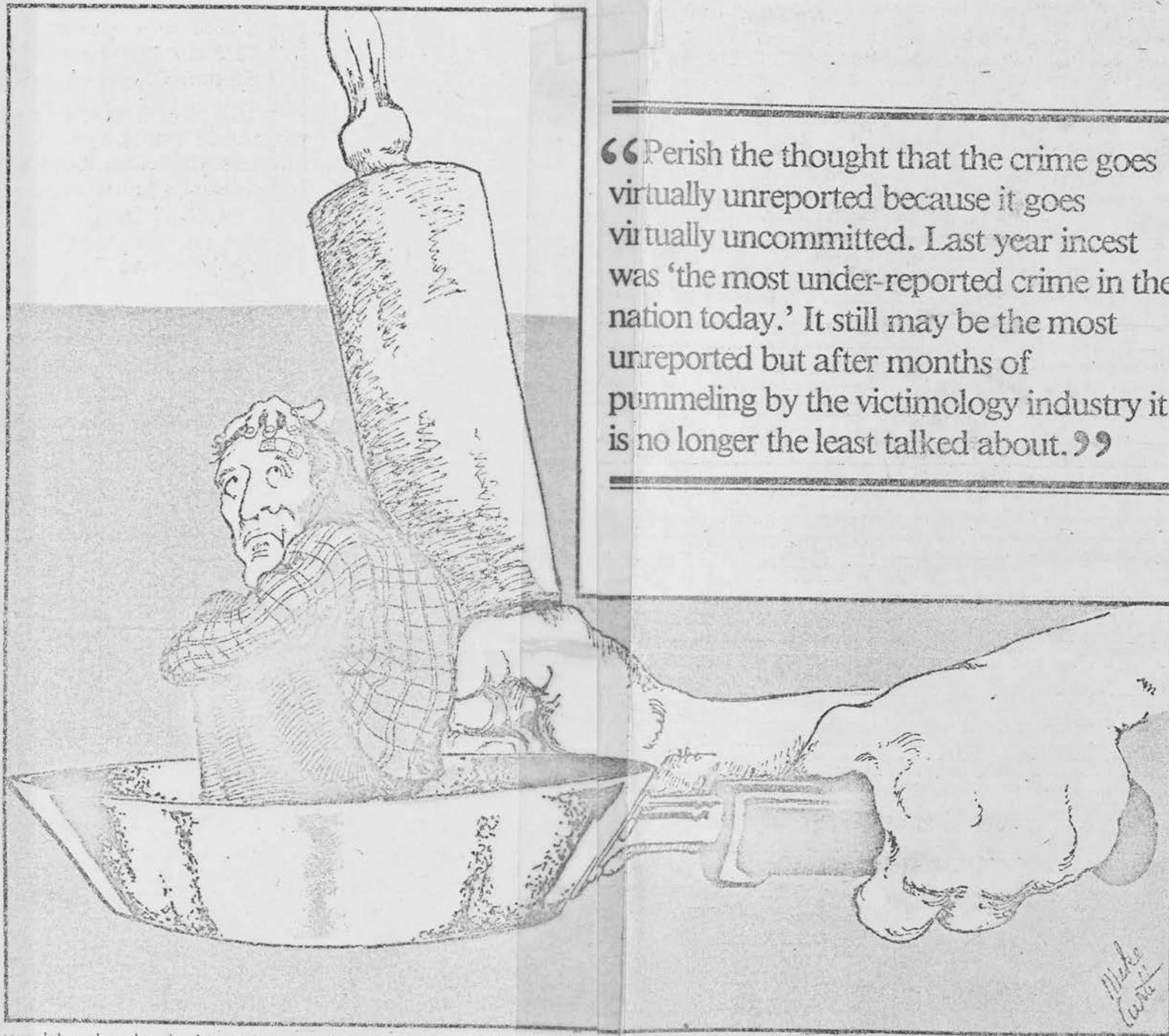
According to Ann Blackman of the Associated Press, to whom the credit for alerting the world to the birth of victimology goes, a new class of victims has been identified. To social workers, head shrinkers, counselors and social and psychological researchers, the discovery of a new category of victims is as important as the sighting of a new star is to astronomers or the finding of a new particle is to high-energy physicists. It is an occasion for congratulations, applause and remuneration.

The new victim is the battered husband. Husband beating takes the place of child beating as being "the most under-reported crime in the nation today." It is generally a good idea, when announcing the finding of a new and very large group of victims, to declare at the same time that the crime which oppresses them is seldom or never reported to the police. This explains why no one else but the intrepid social scientists know about these shocking and alarming facts: it also allows covens of quickly-hatched experts on a new form of victim to define the problem as one of gargantuan dimensions without fear of contradiction.

Thus, for instance, it is estimated that 12 million men are physically abused by their wives at some points during their marriage. Assuming that there are only 110 million males in the country, and presuming that close to half of these are too young, too old, too crazy, too sensible, too sick or having too good a time to be married, we can suppose there are only about 60 million males living in wedlock. The idea that 12 million or 15 percent of them have been physically abused by their wives is preposterous but you can get away with asserting it if you also insist the crime goes virtually unreported.

Perish the thought that the crime goes virtually unreported because it goes virtually uncommitted. Last year incest was "the most under-reported crime in the nation today." It still may be the most unreported but after months of pummeling by the victimology industry it is no longer the least talked about. Until 1976, most Amer-

Nicholas Von Hoffman's column is distributed by King Features Syndicate.



“Perish the thought that the crime goes virtually unreported because it goes virtually uncommitted. Last year incest was ‘the most under-reported crime in the nation today.’ It still may be the most unreported but after months of pummeling by the victimology industry it is no longer the least talked about.”

icans labored under the impression that it was a practice limited to hillbillies and Oedipus, Electra and certain other kinky figures of Greek antiquity. Now we are informed the family life of seven out of 10 American suburban homes reads like it was scripted by Euripides.

The official announcement of the promulgation of a new victim group with its own unique corps of attendant experts is the occasion for a great deal of activity. The new experts, the only ones who may discuss the subject with authority, spread out across the country hitting every television talk show and every call-in radio program. This is called educating the

public and alerting government officials to a problem of this sickening magnitude.

Soon the talk shifts to what is delicately called "the need for greater resources" and the necessity for "funding." Words like money, taxes, tax rates and taxpayer are never used in discussing "how we as a society are going to respond to this gnawing need," which in this case are the 12 million shamed, beaten and intimidated husbands hiding in their dens wondering about the integrity of their personhoods.

All victim groups are given the same treatment. First the TV talk shows, then seminars, then task

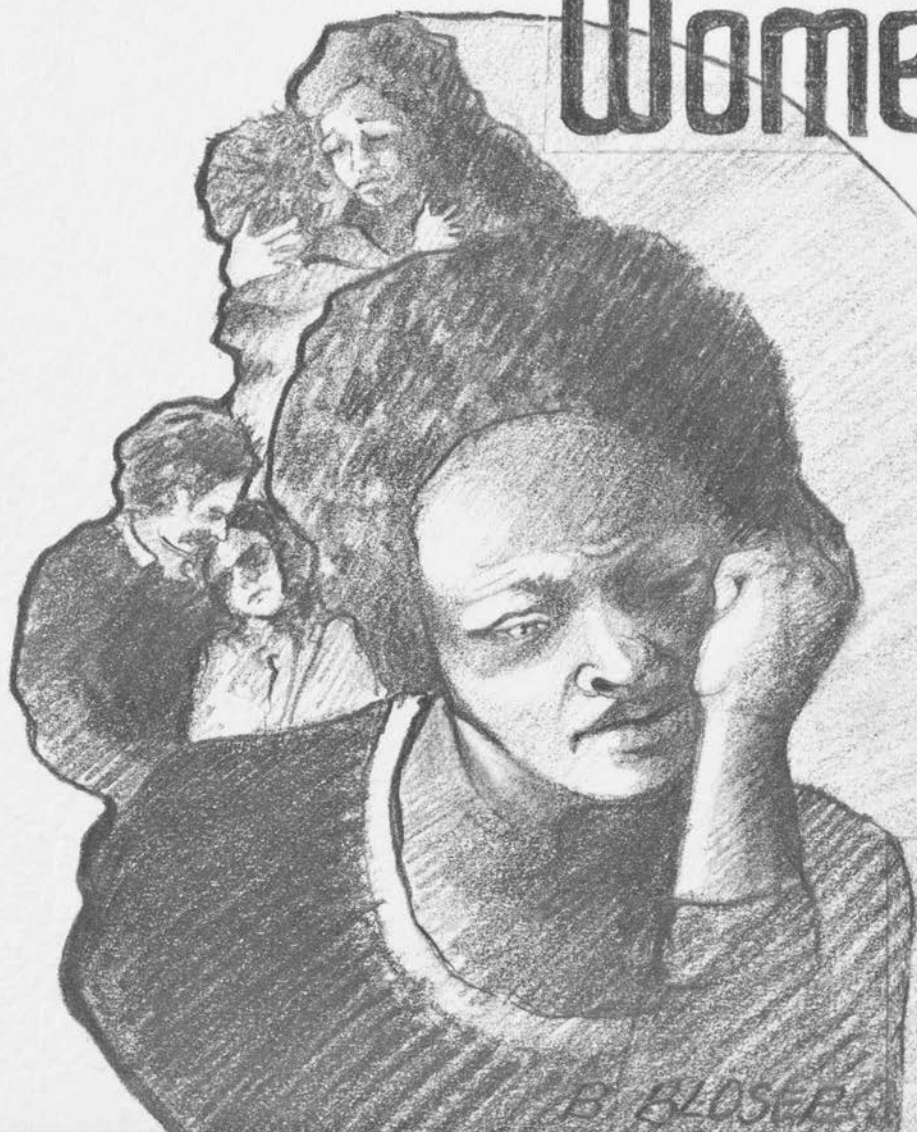
forces, after which comes 24-hour-a-day hotline centers, coordination, referral agencies, legal aid and offices manned by representatives of other professions in critical oversupply. To make the victim group completely legitimate, the Advertising Council floods the airwaves with 60-second commercials telling us about this new social problem and inviting us to "find out what you can do" by writing for a free pamphlet to HUBBY, Box 1978, Washington, D.C.

From then on, it's a question of mounting the annual public relations campaign just about budget time. The theme is the same every year: we're making progress but the problem is

large and complex. And since the problem was invisible, who's to argue if the progress on solving it is equally so?

Younger people need not fear that with the discovery of the battered husband, the great bull market in new victim groups has topped out. Remember, every victim is a potential victimizer and every victimizer is a potential victim. Battered husbands open up the possibility of battered parents and what about battered pet owners? There is nothing more pathetic than to see a man abused by his goldfish or a woman robbed of her happiness by an Old English sheepdog.

Resources for Battered Women



RESOURCES FOR BATTERED WOMEN IN ST. PAUL

Who Is A Battered Woman?

A battered woman is one who is physically assaulted by her husband, boyfriend or some significant other. Battering cuts across all racial, ethnic, educational and socio-economic boundaries: any woman may be a victim of physical abuse at some point in her life, and almost anyone may be or become a batterer.

Assault may range from a simple push to severe and even permanent injury. Any degree of battering is serious; once a woman is hit, chances are good that she will be hit again --and harder. Often it seems as though there is no way out.

If you are physically abused, you do have places to turn. This booklet describes some of them. For further information or assistance, call Woman's Advocates, Inc. (227-8284). Staff there are advocates--women who can aid you in seeking medical care, legal assistance, financial aid, child care, housing, and emotional support. An advocate may be a key person in helping another woman stop feeling trapped and confused, and begin to recognize and use her own inner strengths to better her life.

RESOURCES FOR BATTERED WOMEN

This resource list has been compiled by the Consortium on Battered Women, a group representing various agencies, groups, and individuals in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

The Consortium recognizes that this resource list is not exhaustive. However, it represents the services available at this time that the Consortium feels are particularly relevant and/or sensitive to the problems of physical abuse of women. (NOTE: Many of the resources listed offer services in addition to those listed under a main heading.)

FOR ADDITIONAL AND UP-TO-DATE RESOURCES FOR BATTERED WOMEN IN ST. PAUL, CALL:

WOMEN'S ADVOCATES, INC.

227-8284

24 Hours

or

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL CENTER

291-8393

Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

FOOD

- 1. Neighbors M-F
200 Marie Avenue 8:15am-4:45pm
Provides food, emergency
transportation, used OR
furniture, babysitting
services, clothing, moving HOTLINE
assistance, etc., to M-F
people living in So. St. Paul, 9am-3pm
West St. Paul, Mendota Heights, 455-5000
Inver Grove Heights & Lilydale.

Food (Continued)

- 2. Ramsey Action Program 224-9645
West 7th Community Center
175 South Western Avenue
Provides a food shelf and
small emergency loans
Hours: M-F 8-4:30pm. Call ahead.
- 3. 606 Drop-In Center 224-3835
606 Selby Street
Provides a food shelf, and
referral service for emergency
housing. Also offers short and
long-term counseling.
Hours: M-F 11am - 11pm
Sat. & Sun. 12pm - 6pm
- 4. St. Agnes Center 222-7011
Contact: Sister Leanore
611 McKubin Street
Provides free or low cost food,
clothing, and some furniture.
MUST TELEPHONE BEFORE COMING IN.
Hours: M-F 9am - 5pm

For additional resources, call:

- Information & Referral Center 291-8393
or
Capitol Community Services 488-0507

FINANCIAL

- Pilgrim Baptist Church 227-3220
723 West Central Avenue
Operates the Emergency Funding
Service for food, utilities, etc.
Contact: Rev. Dale Anderson
Hours: M-F 9am - 4:30pm

For additional resources, call:

- Information & Referral Center 291-8393
or Women's Advocates 227-8284

EMERGENCY HOUSING

1. WOMEN'S ADVOCATES, INC. 227-8284
 Open to any woman, with or without children, whose safety is endangered. Fees: \$1/day for rent, \$1.25/day for food. Rent for accompanying children is 75¢ for 1st child, 50¢ for second child, no fees for others. Food for children is \$1.25/child over 6 months, under 6 months, free. Fees not essential. Advocates can help make arrangements for Welfare to cover costs. Call 24 Hours

2. Emergency Social Services 225-1515
 100 South Robert Street Call 24 Hours
 Provides emergency housing when there is an overflow at Women's Advocates for 1 night or 1 weekend. Also provides referral for other services. Crisis Counseling

IN MINNEAPOLIS:

Harriet Tubman Women's Shelter 827-2841
 P.O. Box 7026 Call
 Mpls., Minn. 55407 24 Hours
 24 hour emergency housing for women who are fleeing domestic violence. The shelter provides safety, advocacy, food, clothing, child advocacy, referrals and weekly support groups. Fees charged on a sliding scale from \$0 - \$5.50 per day.

CLOTHING

1. Lots O' Saving Shoppe 774-5809
 942 Payne Avenue
 Sells used clothing and misc. small appliances at reasonable prices.
 Hours: Wed-Sat 10am - 4 pm
2. St. Vincent DePaul 227-1332
 461 W. 7th Street
 Provides used clothing at moderate prices.
 Hours: M-F 9:30am - 4:00pm
 Sat. 9:30am - 2:00pm
3. Union Gospel Gift Drop 224-7857
 235 East 7th Street
 Free used clothing in clothing room.
 Hours: M-F 8am - 4:00pm
 Sat. 8am - 12pm
4. Worn-A-Bit 222-9768
 436 North Smith Street
 Sells used clothing.
 Contact: Father Stan
 Hours: M-F 8am - 5pm
 Sat. 8am - 3pm

COUNSELING

1. Emergency Room 221-2121
 St. Paul Ramsey Hospital or
 and Medical Center 221-8922
 640 Jackson
 Provides crisis intervention and referral on walk-in basis.
 Open 24 hours a day.

Counseling (Continued)

- 2. Mental Health Center 298-4737
of Ramsey County
529 Jackson Street
Contact: Karen Klinefelter--298-4440
or Ginny Jacobsen--298-5688
Hours: Mornings

- 3. Family Service of St. Paul 222-0311
102 Wilder Building
355 Washington Street
Individual, couple, and
group counseling. Financial
counseling.
Hours: M-TH 8:30am - 8pm
F 8:30am - 5pm

- 4. Face To Face 772-2557
716 Mendota
Individual and group counsel-
ing. Advocacy. All ages,
with special emphasis on
problems relating to abused
teenagers. Fees based on
ability to pay. Fees not
essential.
Hours: M-F 9am - 9pm

Call Women's Advocates for more information
on counseling resources - 227-8284.

LEGAL OPTIONS

This tells you how to file a complaint for
simple assault:

The act of assault is a crime wherever it
happens--on the street or in the home. Call
the police at the time the crime occurs.
Pressing criminal charges is one action a
battered woman can take to protect herself
against future offenses.

Legal Options (Continued)

Simple assault charges are based on two things,
evidence provided by bruises or injuries.
Here is what to do if you want to press charges.

- 1. If you need medical attention, get it as
soon as possible.
- 2. Go to the City Attorney's Office, Criminal
Division, Room 638 City Hall (Kellogg &
Wabasha Streets), and say that you want to
press charges for assault.
- 3. If there are visible injuries, photographs
will be taken. You will tell what happened
and sign a formal complaint. This is sent
to the Chief Prosecuting Attorney, who
decides on the basis of the evidence to
approve or disapprove the case.
- 4. The accused person is sent a citation to
appear in court about eight to ten days
later. If the person does not appear vol-
untarily, a warrant for arrest is issued.
- 5. In cases where the accused person is very
violent, has a long criminal record, or
whose residence is unknown, a warrant may
be issued immediately when the complaint
is filed.
- 6. At the first court appearance, the accused
may plead guilty or be given time to talk
to an attorney. If the plea is guilty,
the judge may sentence the person immedi-
ately. The maximum sentence is ninety days
in the workhouse. In most cases, the
accused is put on probation for six months
to a year with suspended sentence. If the
crime is committed again, and charges are
pressed, he may be ordered to serve the
suspended time.
- 7. If a not guilty plea is entered, the case
will be continued for trial at a later
date. At the trial, the prosecutor will
call witnesses to testify about what they
saw, heard, etc.

Legal Options (Continued)

8. Instead of pressing charges, you can ask the City Attorney to send a letter to the accused person. The letter is an attempt to solve the problem without actually bringing criminal charges. In some cases, charges may be brought later if the letter is not effective.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, OR WANT HELP WITH THIS PROCEDURE, CALL SGT. DAVE HUBENETTE AT THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, 298-4271, OR WOMEN'S ADVOCATES, 227-8284.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Consortium on Battered Women wishes to thank Northern States Power Company, The Training Center for Community Corrections, and Walk-In Counseling Center, Mpls., for printing this resource booklet. Our gratitude also to Phyllis Gene Jones of Jones, Jansen and Gay (Cottage Grove) for her help on the legal information presented herein and to Betsy Bloser for her cover design.

* * * * *

For additional copies of this booklet, call or write:

Community Planning Organization
333 Sibley Street, Room 503
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101
Phone: 612-291-8323

The Community Planning Organization also operates a resource center containing books, articles, etc. pertaining to battered women.

(Revised 8/77)

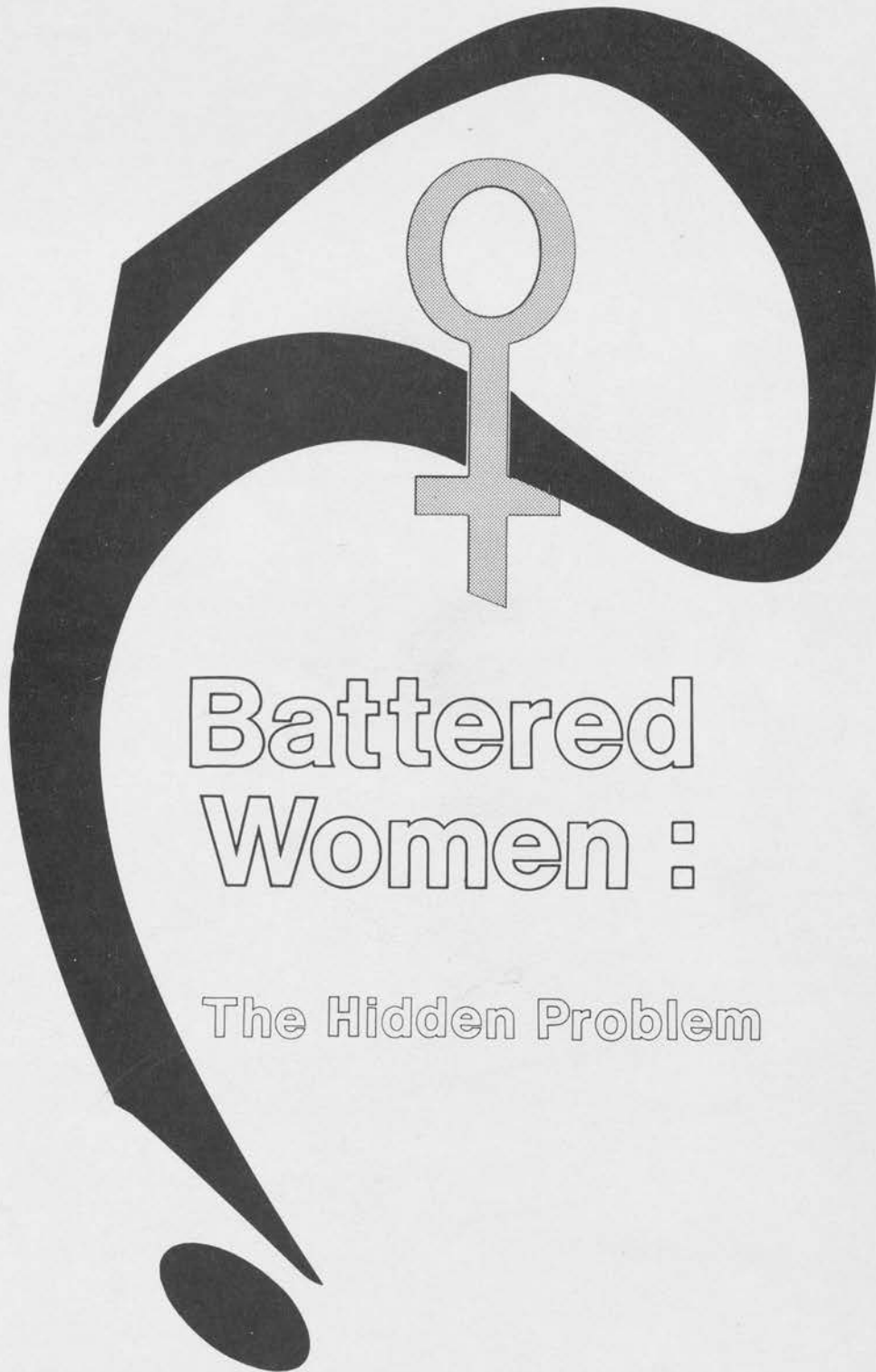


U.S. Department of Justice
Law Enforcement Assistance Administration

Prosecutor's Responsibility in Spouse Abuse Cases



Carolyn Bailey



Battered Women :

The Hidden Problem



Community Planning Organization, Inc.
333 Sibley Street • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101



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Battered Women....How to file an assault charge in the City of St. Paul

Pressing assault charges is one of the few direct actions a battered woman can take to protect herself. The act of assault is a crime wherever it happens--in the home or on the street. Filing charges is hardly ever a solution in itself; in fact, more problems may be raised than are solved. The fear of retaliation prevents many women from exercising their legal right to prosecute an assailant, especially if the assailant is the member of a household where his power and authority has been established by physical force.

But when women do want to press charges to use the legal system to back them up in saying no to future occurrences by saying no when it happens, it is important to know what to do.

What follows is an explanation by Sgt. Dave Hubenette of the St. Paul City Attorney's Office, Criminal Division, of the procedure for filing a complaint for simple assault. Because the charge must be based on evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that a crime occurred, a battered woman should go to the City Attorney's Office when injuries are still visible and can be photographed.

Because simple assault is a misdemeanor, and the ~~Police cannot make an arrest unless they witness the crime itself~~, if the crime is a misdemeanor, the first part of Hubenette's explanation describes how to make a Citizen's Arrest if the Police have been called after the assault.

"A criminal charge, (Citizen's Arrest), may be executed by a victim or a witness to a crime. The person who committed the crime must be in the custody of the arresting party, or in the immediate vicinity so that an arrest can be made and the arrested party can be turned over to police officers. The person making the arrest must sign a citizen's arrest in the presence of the person being arrested, and that person must be informed of the arrest and what the charge is.

Another way to charge someone with a crime described as a misdemeanor, (punishable by up to \$300 and 90 days of confinement) is as follows: A police report should be made but is not necessary. The victim of the crime comes to the City Attorney's Office (room 638 City Hall) to make a formal complaint.

(It should be noted that if the assault involves the use of a weapon, or serious bodily injury, or a theft or damage to property with a loss over \$100, the crime must be reported to the Police first for a review of the case by the County Attorney. If the County Attorney chooses to charge the more serious crime of Aggravated Assault, the case will be brought to a judge by the Police Department.)

Tell the person in the City Attorney's Office that you want to press charges for assault. If there are visible injuries, photographs will be taken. Information for the complaint is gathered by the City Attorney's Office, and forwarded to this office by the Police Department. All necessary information is obtained and then presented to the Chief Prosecuting Attorney, who decides on the basis of the evidence to approve or disapprove the case.

There is an alternative here. If the victim wishes, a letter may be sent to the accused person. The letter is an attempt to solve the problem without actually bringing criminal charges. In some cases, criminal charges may be brought later if the letter is not effective.

When a charge is filed, the accused person is sent a citation to appear in court about eight to ten days from the time the complaint is filed. If the person does not appear voluntarily, a warrant for arrest is issued.

In cases where the accused is very violent, has a long criminal record, or whose residence is unknown, a warrant may be issued immediately when the complaint is filed.

At the first court appearance the accused may plead guilty or get a continuance to consult an attorney. If the plea is guilty, the judge may sentence the person immediately. If a continuance has been granted, at the second court appearance, the accused may plead guilty, or ask for a trial before a jury. The trial date may be set a month or so after this second appearance. If the accused is found guilty, a pre-sentence investigation may be ordered, with sentencing set at a later date.

If the situation is serious, the accused may be sentenced to the workhouse for up to ninety days. In most cases though, the accused is put on probation for six months to a year, with a suspended sentence. If the accused violates restrictions determined by the judge, (such as to leave the victim alone) the judge may order a bench warrant. He is then brought back into court and may be ordered to serve the suspended sentence.

The court also may order restitution to the victim for damages or doctor and hospital bills. There may also be other conditions set by the judge, such as to attend Alcoholics Anonymous!

In St. Paul, a woman cannot decide to drop the charges once the complaint has been filed. This is different in Minneapolis. Next month we will talk about procedures there, and the newly funded Citizen's Dispute Settlement Process taking effect about August 1.

*Aggravated Assault is a felony, punishable by up to \$10,000 and ten years confinement (use of a lethal weapon and great bodily harm), and up to \$5,000 and five years confinement (use of a lethal weapon only).

Women's Advocates received the following letter in the mail a few weeks ago and thought some of you might be interested.

Dear Sister,

Would you please publish or make known the coming information:

The French League of Women's Rights, presided by Simone de Beauvoir, celebrated its second birthday the 8th of March 1976 and is now engaged in the following actions: promoting an anti-sexist law, changing law on rape, changing law on violence in the family; has work-shops on equal job opportunities, on discrimination in school-books, has created S. O. S. Femmes for battered wives and rape victims, and has legal counsel.

Our women lawyers are at this moment defending: women victims of rape; the family of a 25 yr. old woman raped and murdered near Paris; a 30 yr. old professor in Digne fired because she is accused of "inciting youth to lewd behavior" because a boy (not one of her pupils) met a homosexual in her home; Marie, a young woman sentenced to one month in jail because she refused her husband the right to visit her child, as she says he is not the father; and we are also defending four Chilean women, political prisoners, raped and tortured.

The group S.O.S. Femmes (Tel: 749 48 37 English/French) has helped about 500 women in the last six months but have not yet public nor private funds to open a shelter. We have contacts in Marseille, Toulouse, Lyon, Nancy, Concarneau, Rennes, Lille, and Strasbourg. In the Strasbourg area in the last few months three women have been beaten to death by their husbands. On the 12th of May one of the husbands is going on trial. We are staging a march to protest against all violence toward women. We are going to cover the court house steps with flowers, symbol of mourning and action. We are asking our sisters all over the world to CABLE FLOWERS for the 12th of May 1976 at noon to:

"Femmes Victims de la Violence"
Palais de Justice
Quai Finkmatt
67000 Strasbourg, France

We expect full coverage from the media and will cite all our supporters.

Thanking you in advance,
in love and sisterhood

Toby and Vicky
219 Quai de Halage
92500 Rueil-Malmaison
France
Tel: 749 48 37

response

to intrafamily violence and sexual assault

Volume 1, Issue 1

October 1976

SENSITIVE CRIMES THE FOCUS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT TO CWPS

Sexual assault, sexual abuse of children, and wife battery are among the most intractable criminal events with which our society is burdened. Victims of these crimes seldom report them to the authorities, and those who do claim they receive poor treatment and little or no relief.

Through a grant made by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) to the Center for Women Policy Studies (CWPS), this newsletter and a clearinghouse have been established to serve as mechanisms for information sharing among police, prosecutors, social service agencies, medical facilities, mental health services, and community action groups interested in improving their response to victims of these crimes. The objective of this activity, which is part of a larger technical assistance effort, is to keep its constituency informed about existing literature, current research efforts, new articles and books, conferences, and, most importantly, innovative and effective programs. While assistance to the victim is the dominant interest of this project, information concerning the nature and causes of these crimes, treatment programs for offenders, and criminal justice considerations will also be included.

The one-year grant to CWPS was made in June 1976, by the Victim-Witness Assistance Program of the LEAA, for the primary purpose of delivering technical assistance to victim assistance and victim advocacy programs that that office has funded around the country. The assistance which CWPS will offer these projects will relate to their case management of sexual assault, sexual abuse, and domestic violence.

The interest of CWPS in this cluster of crimes stems from the fact that most of the victims are women or girls. But consideration of them as a group is further supported by another characteristic they share—a low reporting rate. The victims of all these crimes are typically reluctant to discuss their victimization and unwill-

ing to prosecute the offender. For this reason they will be referred to collectively as "sensitive crimes."

Under a prior award from the LEAA, CWPS developed guidelines for the treatment of adult sexual assault victims, which were published as a Prescriptive Package in January of this year. That grant was made by the Courts Section, and the work was carried out in collaboration with Blackstone Associates and Legal Resources, both of which are located in the District of Columbia. The Prescriptive Package is entitled *Rape and Its Victims: A Report for Citizens, Health Facilities, and Criminal Justice Agencies* and is available from the Government Printing Office, Washington, DC. Under the current grant, more general guidelines will be drafted for use by criminal justice agencies and particularly victim assistance projects, to improve their response to battered women and to children who have been sexually assaulted or abused.

This process will require the input of persons currently working with these cases. The intrafamily offenses, in addition to their sensitive nature, raise particularly difficult problems in terms of protecting the victim from further abuse. For example, a battered wife may be in grave physical danger but for emotional and economic reasons may not wish to have her husband incarcerated. On the other hand, she may wish to have him jailed immediately and will be frustrated and frightened to find that even if arrested, he will be released to await trial.

Similarly, a sexually abused child is often immediately removed from the home and, therefore, from the emotional support of his or her mother and siblings. In many jurisdictions this is the only way to stop the abuse since removing the abuser is a more difficult and time-consuming legal process. Nevertheless, the apparent effect is to punish the child rather than the adult.

The goal of the CWPS project is to stimulate com-

munities to address these problems. Victim assistance programs, where they exist, will be the vehicles for these initiatives.

CWPS was founded in 1972 for the purpose of considering the impact of public policy on the status and well-being of women. In addition to its work related to women as the victims of crime, major commitments have been made to obtaining equal credit opportunity for women and to organizing research on domestic relations laws as they impact women at divorce and widowhood. The former effort was sponsored by the Ford Foundation; the latter is a project of the International Women's Year Commission.

DOCUMENTING A PROBLEM: ARE THERE BATTERED WOMEN?

The incidence of wife beating is greater and the crime less reported than rape. So states the FBI Crime Index. The crime of battering a woman is estimated to be the largest single offense committed, yet finding hard statistics to prove this is virtually impossible at either the local, state, or national level.

Why are there no data on this crime? Eisenberg and Micklow in their paper, "Assaulted Wife: 'Catch 22' Revisited," state several reasons. First, there is the reluctance of the woman to report the crime. As with rape, shame is a strong deterrent in the victim; therefore, the crime is vastly under-reported to the police. Secondly, since there is no crime category called "wife assault" or "battered woman" in most states, the crime may be recorded as homicide, assault with a weapon, aggravated assault, assault and battery, or battery. In some states, it is listed under special family and child offenses. Therefore, it is only by reading all the reports in these categories that the wife assault cases can be determined and only then if the relationship of the victim and the offender is noted. Many times this key factor of victim/offender relationship is not included on the police report making accurate counting difficult.

A third reason why wife assault cases may not show up in the police files is that in many jurisdictions they are classified as "family disturbance" calls and are not recorded unless definite action is taken by either the police or the victim. Even if the police do respond to a call, a report may not be written if the "situation has cooled" by the time the officers arrive, or if the woman is reluctant to press charges at the time. Thus, these assaults are not reflected in any statistical analysis of police records.

Still another problem with collecting data that will reflect the actual occurrence of battery of women is not all the statistics are found within the criminal justice system. Some of the numbers are found in civil proceedings, such as divorce cases and separate maintenance actions. A study in 1966 of 600 couples applying

for divorce in Cleveland found that 37 percent of the women gave physical abuse as one of their complaints. These cases may or may not have been reported to the police.

Emergency rooms in hospitals also see victims of marital violence who may not have come to the attention of the criminal justice system. Many women who have been assaulted give false reasons for their injuries. Since doctors in many states are not under mandate to report suspected wife assault cases to the authorities, as they are with child abuse cases, many assaulted women are recorded as "accident" victims. Unless a hospital is willing to take the initiative to record even suspected assault cases, the data available is highly unreliable.

The following statistics represent the type of available data on domestic violence. These statistics illustrate not only the magnitude of the problem but also the paucity of hard data on domestic violence. Of course, these reflect only the reported, not the actual, incidences of interspousal assaults.

- In Atlanta, 60 percent of all calls received on the night shift are reported domestic disputes, indicating more trouble in this area than any other crime category. In Boston, calls average about 45 per day, or 17,277 per year.
- 33.6 percent of Kansas City homicides and 31.6 percent of its aggravated assaults occur in domestic disturbance situations.
- At Boston City Hospital approximately 70 percent of the assault victims received in the emergency room are women who have been attacked in the home. Where the assailant is specified in these cases, it's usually a husband or lover.
- The Citizen's Dispute Settlement Center in Dade County, Florida, received 721 complaints involving "assault or battery" by a male upon a female in seven months.
- The St. Paul, Minnesota, police department said that about 100 police reports dealing with wife beating are written each week; however, this figure does not include police responses to domestic incidences in which the woman decides not to press charges.
- Montgomery County, Maryland, one of the most affluent areas in the country, reported 650 incidents of wife assault in one year.
- In San Francisco, one-fourth of all known murders in 1974 were marital or quasi-marital in origin.
- In the Metropolitan D.C. area, in 1974, two counties reported domestic quarrel numbers as; Fairfax County, 4,073; and Prince George's County, 8,440. The District of Columbia keeps no such statistics.
- One District of Columbia study of 7,500 wives who attempted to bring charges against their husbands found that fewer than 200 actually achieved their objective.
- FBI statistics indicate in New York state, in 1973, 14,000 wife abuse cases were taken to court.
- Almost one-third of all female homicide victims in the state of California in 1971 were murdered by their husbands.

county workfarm, county workhouse or other local correctional facility. The court may allow the defendant the work release privileges of section 631.425 during the period of incarceration.

Sec. 5. Repealer. Minnesota Statutes 1976, Section 609.11, Subdivision 2, is repealed.

Sec. 6. Effective date. Sections 1 to 5 are effective the day following final enactment, and apply to all offenses committed on or after that date.

Approved April 5, 1978.

DOMESTIC ASSAULT—ARRESTS

CHAPTER 724

S.F.No.318

[Coded]

An Act relating to criminal procedure; permitting peace officers to make arrests upon probable cause in cases of domestic assault; requiring detention and review of bail for persons charged with domestic assault; permitting the judge to stay execution and imposition of sentence conditioned upon the defendant seeking appropriate counseling; amending Minnesota Statutes 1976, Section 609.135, by adding a subdivision; and Chapter 629, by adding sections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1976, Section 609.135, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 5. Domestic violence; probation and counseling. If a person is convicted of assaulting his spouse or other person with whom he resides, and the court stays imposition or execution of sentence and places the defendant on probation, the court may condition the stay upon the defendant's participation in counseling or other appropriate programs selected by the court.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 1976, Chapter 629, is amended by adding a section to read:

629.341 Probable cause arrests; domestic violence

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 629.34 or any other law or rule to the contrary, a peace officer may arrest without a warrant a person at his place of residence if the peace officer has probable cause to believe the person within the preceding four hours has assaulted his spouse or other person with whom he resides, although the assault did not take place in the presence of the peace officer. A peace officer may not arrest a person pursuant to this section without first observing recent physical injury to, or impairment of physical condition of the alleged victim.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 1976, Chapter 629, is amended by adding a section to read:

629.72 Bail in cases of domestic assault

Subdivision 1. Detention in lieu of citation; release. Notwithstanding any other law or rule to the contrary, an arresting officer may not issue a citation in lieu of arrest and detention to an individual charged with assaulting his spouse or other individual with whom he resides.

Notwithstanding any other law or rule to the contrary, an individual who is arrested on a charge of assaulting his spouse or other person with whom he resides shall be brought to the police station or county jail. ~~The officer in charge of the police station or the county sheriff in charge of the jail shall issue a citation in lieu of continued detention unless it reasonably appears to the officer or sheriff that detention is necessary to prevent bodily harm to the arrested person or another, or there is a substantial likelihood the arrested person will fail to respond to a citation.~~

If the arrested person is not issued a citation by the officer in charge of the police station or the county sheriff, he shall be brought before the nearest available judge of the county court or county municipal court in the county in which the alleged assault took place without unnecessary delay, but no more than 24 hours after his arrest, exclusive of Sundays and legal holidays.

Subd. 2. Judicial review; release; bail. The judge before whom the arrested person is brought shall review the facts surrounding the arrest and detention. The arrested person shall be ordered released pending trial or hearing on his personal recognizance or on an order to appear or upon the execution of an unsecured bond in a specified amount unless the judge determines that release will be inimical to public safety, will create a threat of bodily harm to the arrested person or another, or will not reasonably assure the appearance of the arrested person at subsequent proceedings. If the judge so determines, he may impose any conditions of release which will reasonably assure the appearance of the person for subsequent proceedings, or may fix the amount of money bail without other conditions upon which the arrested person may obtain his release.

Subd. 3. Release after 24 hours. If the arrested person is not issued a citation by the officer in charge of the police station or the county sheriff pursuant to subdivision 1, and is not brought before a judge within the time limits prescribed in subdivision 1, he shall be released by the arresting authorities, and a citation shall be issued in lieu of continued detention.

Sec. 4. This act is effective the day following final enactment.

Approved April 5, 1978.

LAW ENFORCEMENT (CONTINUED)

CHAPTER 254: CONSTABLES

M.S. 367.41 contains exemptions and requirements for licensing of constables.
EFFECTIVE DATE: May 30, 1979.

CHAPTER 204: DOMESTIC ASSAULT ARRESTS

M.S. 629.341 provides immunity from civil liability for any peace officer acting in good faith and exercising due care in the making of a probable cause arrest without a warrant in domestic violence situations.
EFFECTIVE DATE: May 26, 1979.

CHAPTER 196: SECURITY GUARDS

M.S. 299C.121 requires security guards to report each discharge of a firearm to chiefs of police or county sheriffs; contains definitions.

TRAFFIC

CHAPTER 308: PASSING SCHOOL BUS

M.S. 169.44, subd. 1a permits officer to make probable cause arrest within 2 hours of violation by driver of subdivision 1; provides petty misdemeanor penalty.

CHAPTER 60: SCHOOL ZONE SPEED LIMITS

M.S. 169.14, subd. 5a permits minimum speed of 15 miles per hour in zone of a public or nonpublic school; requires all signs to conform to manual on uniform control devices.

CHAPTER 44: TRANSPORT OF BALED HAY

M.S. 169.862 authorizes issuance of annual permits by Commissioner and local authorities to enable a vehicle carrying round baled hay, with a total outside width of vehicle or load not to exceed 11.5 feet, to be operated on public streets and highways; contains restrictions, fee charge.
EFFECTIVE DATE: May 1, 1979.

CHAPTER 126: MOTOR VEHICLE CERTIFICATES OF TITLE

M.S. 168A.23 requires issuance of new certificate of title to good faith purchaser if suspended or revoked certificate for failure to pay excise tax was not acquired by state department.
EFFECTIVE DATE: May 22, 1979.

M.S. 297B.06 requires issuance of registration plates to applicant who had no knowledge that any prior applicant had not paid registration tax provided previous applicant had a certificate of title indicating he was owner of vehicle.
EFFECTIVE DATE: May 22, 1979.

response

to violence and sexual abuse in the family

Volume 2, Issue 1

October 1978

HELP FOR WIFE ABUSERS

The growing number of services that provide help to battered women has been a step forward in trying to alleviate some of the problems they face. Ultimately, however, solutions to the fundamental problems surrounding spouse abuse demand serious efforts to help the abuser as well.

Unfortunately, assistance is not as available for him as it is for his victim. There is a small number of programs, with varied approaches, to counsel the man who batters his wife.

Some, such as the Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk, Inc., (VIBS) of 501 Route 111, Hauppauge, New York, 11787, help the abuser through couple counseling. The VIBS program offers help to the man only if the woman, having chosen to remain in the relationship, also wants to work toward ending the violence.

In describing the program, Janet Geller, Clinical Director, and James Walsh, Executive Director, state that "the majority of women coming to VIBS want to remain in their marriages, but without the violence. When a client does not choose to pursue separation or divorce, the treatment of choice is couple therapy. We believe that battering will not stop unless both partners are involved in counseling. The emphasis . . . is on restructuring relationships through modeling and teaching changes in behavior.

"Men are given additional support through a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week hotline which he is instructed to call when he is angry, thus allowing the hotline operator to offer the caller alternatives to modify his behavior and to encourage him to vent his anger in a non-destructive way."

There are also programs that work exclusively with abusers. One is EMERGE, at P.O. Box 536, Somerville, Massachusetts 02143. It grew out of the concern of women working in local shelters who saw the need for such services. The program emphasizes that "it is important for men to begin to talk about battering—why it starts, what leads to it, how it affects individuals and relationships, and what can be done to stop it."

To do that, EMERGE provides "a safe environment for men to explore the roots of their violence and to learn ways to change their behavior." According to the

15 volunteer workers at EMERGE, "a person who has habits of violence [is not] 'sick' or less than human." EMERGE volunteers wish to help each man "to understand the social conditions, cultural support, and personal history that encourage his behavior," while also allowing him to explore "constructive alternatives for dealing with frustrations, anger, and fears that . . . men [experience] today."

Aside from the aid given directly to the men, the work of EMERGE includes a strong community education effort with classes, workshops, and in-service training provided jointly with women's organizations.

Another program concerned directly with the abuser is Therapy for Abusive Behavior (TAB), at P.O. Box 6420, Baltimore, Maryland 21230. The program is run by three women volunteers with the assistance and cooperation of the Southern Baltimore Police District Commander and one of his community relations officers.

The TAB team of Patricia Erat, Carol Bailey, and Willida Hoffman started the program to give abusers the "opportunity for self-help in the areas of personal growth and development by actively participating in a program designed to identify and change violent behavioral patterns." TAB teaches men more effective techniques for handling situations and relationships, while it provides a supportive network for the men during and after the program.

TAB is unique in that it intervenes to help the abuser at the initial stages of his contact with the courts. In a probation-like manner, TAB offers the judicial system a "therapeutic, rather than punitive" option. Instead of allowing the litigation to continue, a judge may place the abuser in TAB, under the condition that he attend the program regularly or else reenter the judicial system.

TAB also offers a "structured program which can be easily utilized by existing agencies." The program meets the needs of its clients through a community network of health, social, and other services. Furthermore, in an attempt to effectively address the problems of the abuser and his victim, TAB plans to begin a complementary program for the women who have been abused by the men involved in the program.

The TAB team attributes its effectiveness to the cooperation and support of the service agencies and the police. Yet, the team sees the program as transitory rather than permanent.

Team members hope to obtain the cooperation of all area service agencies so that the entire services system will be fully equipped to meet the needs of abusers.

Other efforts to help spouse abusers are being made in Minneapolis, Minnesota, with such programs as the Citizens' Dispute Settlement Project, the Walk-In Counseling Center, the Twin Cities Men's Center, and men's groups within the state's Family and Children's Services; in Seattle, Washington, with the hotline at the Metrocenter YMCA; in Portland, Oregon, in the Men's Resource Center and Counseling Service; and in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, at the Pittsburgh Men's Collective, which is setting up a task force to start an abusers' project.

Not many of the programs operate exclusively to help abusive spouses, partly because it is difficult to initiate that type of men's group. As Geller and Walsh have stated, "it must be understood that the husband is caught by the same societal values as his wife. He has been taught that men are not supposed to express feelings, and that he must handle his own problems and not ask for help."

The small number of programs also indicates that little attention has been focused on batterers and their special needs. Jim Hollahan, a staff member of the Pittsburgh Men's Collective who is actively involved in helping abusers, believes that "the need for effective services is there; it is just a question of getting organized and started." But he also recognizes that "the whole concept of working with batterers is still at the personal correspondence stage, as far as information goes."

LEAA Family Violence Program

The Center for Women Policy Studies (CWPS) has received a one-year grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) to deliver technical assistance to the LEAA-funded Family Violence Programs (FVP). The 11 new programs (see RESPONSE June/August 1978) and six previously funded FVPs conform to a new initiative by LEAA aimed at reducing and preventing violence and sexual abuse in the home.

There are three major objectives of the grant awarded to CWPS. First, it will assist FVP grantees through program development in police training, prosecution, public education, and social services support for family violence victims whose cases have entered the justice system.

Second, using the field experience obtained in working with the 17 grantees, new program materials will be developed in each of the targeted program development areas. The materials will be tailored to help policy makers and planners implement and improve programs addressing family violence. Finally, CWPS will disseminate those materials and others relevant to programs working with domestic violence.

Under two previous grants from LEAA, the Center developed a clearinghouse and this newsletter as ways to share information on domestic violence, child sexual abuse, and rape issues. Under the new grant, CWPS will continue to gather and share information through an expanded clearinghouse and newsletter. This year, the Center will concentrate on problems of violence and sexual abuse in the family. The clearinghouse will respond to requests for information by mailing fact sheets and memoranda from CWPS and the FVP grantees; by referral to appropriate persons, projects, or publications; and by sending materials developed by other groups that have authorized CWPS to

distribute them. Requests should be addressed to Diane Hamlin, Clearinghouse Director.

This newsletter will continue to be a major CWPS information distribution tool. Beginning with this October issue, RESPONSE will be published monthly and will continue to report on model programs, funding sources, research, legislation, legal developments, conferences, and resources. In addition, there will be a special column on the development of the LEAA Family Violence Program. Pilar Saavedra-Vela is RESPONSE's new editor; all inquiries and articles should be addressed to her.

Legislation

Two legislative casualties of the 95th Congress' final rush were the Domestic Violence Assistance Act and a bill to amend Title XX of the Social Security Act.

The Domestic Violence bill, voted down by the House of Representatives earlier this year (see RESPONSE June/August 1978), failed to reach the House floor for a second vote after it was reported out of the Rules committee with a limit of one hour for debate. Rep. John Ashbrook (R-OH) presented 35 amendments to the bill, in a strategy designed to discourage its placement on the vote schedule.

The Title XX amendments, one of which would have allowed battered women to receive emergency shelter regardless of income eligibility, had passed earlier in the House but died before reaching a vote on the Senate Floor. The only change made was a temporary increase of \$2.9 billion in Title XX's allocation for FY 79. This measure was tacked on to the tax bill which was approved by Congress on the last night of the session. Both bills may be reintroduced in next year's Congress.

NEW SPOUSE ABUSE POLICY FOR NEW YORK POLICE

The New York City Police Department (NYPD) has instructed its officers to arrest any man who is accused of assaulting his wife. Upon receiving a complaint call from a woman who reports that her husband has beaten her, at least one police officer must answer the call promptly and must arrest the man unless there is "proper justification" not to do so. This means that the officer must arrest the man if he finds reasonable evidence that a felony has been committed. The officer must also remain with the woman and assist her in getting to a shelter or receiving proper medical attention.

This radical policy change is the result of a suit filed against the department and against probation officers and clerks of the City of New York's Family Court by 12 women who accused them of not taking appropriate action in spouse abuse cases. One of the 12 plaintiffs, Carmen Bruno, said that the police once witnessed her husband's attempt to strangle her but refused to arrest him. Last June, part of the suit was settled out of court by a consent decree between the plaintiffs and the police department.

Prior to the suit, police limited their intervention in domestic disputes to informal mediation. Under the

new department policy, the police must treat spouse assault incidents as they treat violence among strangers.

John Kirkland of MFY Legal Services, one of the attorneys for the plaintiffs, has said that the suit is the first successful legal challenge to police treatment of spouse abuse in the United States. The decree went into full effect in September, and MFY, a New York-based legal service, has said that it will continue to monitor closely its implementation.

Another section of the suit named the Family Court staff as defendants, accusing them of blocking women from reaching judges to get restraining orders for their husbands.

According to Kirkland, the current practice of the Family Court Staff is to discourage women from filing petitions for restraining orders. They prefer to attempt to mediate the dispute before a woman presents her case to a Family Court judge.

That section of the suit was dismissed by the Appellate Division and will go to the Appeals Court of the State of New York.

ACTION FUNDS NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Domestic Violence Project, Inc., of Ann Arbor, Michigan, has received a grant of \$300,000 from ACTION to organize a national program of volunteer assistance to projects serving family violence victims.

Over a period of 15 months, the grant will fund a National Volunteer Center (\$50,000) and ten Regional Volunteer Centers (\$200,000) whose primary task will be to offer technical assistance to shelters and other service agencies in each federal region.

The centers will advise on volunteer recruitment, training, and use; organization of shelters and hotlines; program development; and legislative outreach for state funding of family violence programs.

Aside from directing the work of the regional centers, the national center, based in Ann Arbor, will undertake nationwide research and maintain a national lending library of printed and audiovisual material on family violence.

Each regional center will receive \$25,000 to cover the salaries of a full-time director and a part-time secretary/bookkeeper, as well as training and intraregional travel costs of the volunteers.

The Project sent over 560 Requests for Proposals to

shelters that might consider becoming regional volunteer centers. A grant review committee will select the subgrantees by November.

Qualifications to be considered include experience in the administration of volunteer programs and domestic violence projects, organizational creativity in designing special projects, financial management, and other organizational abilities. At the end of the grant period, the centers will sponsor regional conferences that will bring together volunteers, service agencies, and others who have worked with cases of domestic violence to share their experiences with the volunteer assistance project.

Kathleen Fojtik, Director of the Domestic Violence Project, explained that once the regional centers have been chosen, one person from each center will receive training in those areas in which the volunteers are to provide technical assistance. Those persons, in turn, will train the volunteers who will be travelling throughout their regions.

More information on the National Volunteer Center can be obtained from the Domestic Violence Project at 1917 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

Literature

In December 1976, RESPONSE published a selected and annotated bibliography of titles that would provide information on domestic violence. Since that time, the issue has gained public prominence and increased attention from researchers and other professionals involved with victims and perpetrators of spouse abuse. RESPONSE's readership, which has also grown, now includes persons who are new to the subject and are seeking a general overview of the problem. The following bibliography is for them; it is not intended as an inclusive reference but rather as a tool with which to acquire a better understanding of domestic violence.

Eisenberg, Susan E., and Micklow, Patricia. "The Assaulted Wife: 'Catch 22' Revisited." *Women's Rights Law Reporter*. 3-4. Rutgers, NJ: State University of New Jersey, 1977. (This publication can be obtained from *Women's Rights Law Reporter*, 15 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102.) This article is a study of 20 wife assault cases and the historical, legal, cultural, psychological, and social forces involved.

In giving an overview of the legal issues of wife assault, the authors have placed special emphasis on Michigan law. (Since the publication of the study, the Michigan legislature has passed more comprehensive domestic violence legislation.) Yet, the scope of the study is as broad as the problem of wife abuse itself.

Although it does not include statistical analyses, the study relates incidents of spousal violence, discusses the limited response of the criminal justice system, and describes the cultural environment which nurtures violent behavior.

Eisenberg and Micklow also discuss the often-overlooked medical response to wife assault. The authors claim that the medical profession, in focusing solely on immediate treatment of the battered woman, defines its responsibility to her in a limited manner. Doctors do not consider prevention of wife abuse to be a "medical matter," but a social problem. They assume that other avenues, such as police or prosecution, are more appropriately suited to address this concern.

The overall "nonjudgmental approach" of medical doctors toward wife abuse results in the physician accepting fictitious explanations of abuse injuries (i.e.: "I fell down the stairs"), and in cases not being reported. (If they probe too deeply, physicians claim, the patients may not return for future treatment.) The authors assert that the widespread problem of unreported cases is compounded by the absence of effective reporting procedures.

Gentzler, Rie. *The Abused—Advocacy Programs for Abused Women*. Lancaster: Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 1977. (This publication can be obtained from Lancaster Women Against Abuse, Lancaster YWCA, 110 N. Lime Street, Lancaster, PA 17602.) This resource manual provides an excellent guide for those initiating or already involved in the operation of shelters for abuse victims. Gentzler takes the reader from the initial needs assessment and

program philosophy through a discussion of the goals and objectives, as well as finances, administration, personnel, and services.

The author completes the planning scheme with some suggestions on evaluation formats. *The Abused* also addresses other vital questions that arise during the process of organizing a program. For example, in the section entitled "Accompaniment," Gentzler emphasizes the importance of providing effective support to victims in their dealings with service agencies. This section is of particular interest because it illustrates the need for effective "accompaniment," a detail that is often overlooked in most manuals of this type. It also includes protocol models for hospital and police accompaniment.

The guidelines on hospital accompaniment contain especially insightful suggestions on how to conduct oneself in the emergency and examining rooms; how to give emotional support to the victim; how to give her proper information; how to make suggestions to the victim; how to respect her privacy when relaying information to the police; and also some tips on what *not* to do.

This publication covers all the important stages of planning a shelter and provides a sound foundation on which to build a successful program.

Martin, Del. *Battered Wives*. San Francisco: Glide Publications, 1976. This is one of the first major comprehensive books published on spouse abuse. It continues to be an excellent general resource on the subject, with contents ranging from analyses of the family, marriage, victim, and abuser to the more practical considerations of initiating shelters for battered women.

Although public awareness of family violence has increased significantly in the last two years, several of Martin's assessments are still valid. Two of these are of the unresponsive legal system and the lack of coordination of social services.

In both cases Martin illustrates the uphill battle that women face in seeking remedies for the violence they experience in their lives.

An especially enlightening section of the book, "The Victim—Why Does She Stay?" describes the complexities of the victim's situation and the factors that contribute to the victim's inability to leave the violent home. *Battered Wives* is required reading for those who are interested in learning more about the problem of spouse abuse.

Gelles, Richard J. *The Violent Home*. Sage Library of Social Research. 13. Beverly Hills: Sage Publications, Inc., 1972. Gelles presents a study of 80 people and their experiences with conjugal violence. The information for this work was collected through unstructured, informal interviews.

The study refutes the social definition of the family as nonviolent. It contains detailed analyses of the family as training ground for violence, the social meaning of violent acts as understood by the study participants, and the circumstances under which the violence occurs. Gelles' analysis of how the participants perceive violence and of the meanings they attach to different forms of violence is particularly interesting. The study

SHELTERS LEGISLATION

Legislation providing funding to shelters for women who have been physically abused has recently been enacted in Minnesota. The bill (SF 124) provides a \$500,000 appropriation for a two-year pilot project, with \$46,000 grants to be awarded to four shelters in the state for each of the two years of the project. The remainder of the appropriation is designated for community education, \$50,000, and administrative costs.

The administering state agency under which the Battered Women Program will be housed is the State Corrections Department with the Commissioner of Corrections as the program director. A program coordinator will be selected, and a member of our staff, Cathy Avina, has expressed interest in this position. An advisory task force is also included in the bill, and we're hoping to have a representative from each of the two operating shelters, Women's Advocates and Harriet Tubman, on this committee.

Working to establish legislation has been an eye-opening, energy-draining, and often mystifying process. Learning that the established rules of order are, more often than not, an internal system of trade-offs, seemingly disconnected from the validity or logic of the issues involved, has been a less than satisfying, very often frustrating experience.

From the beginning, we have not seen the issue as being appropriate to a corrections view of women as victims, nor to the narrowness of scope possible with this approach. However, efforts to locate a more neutral agency to accept the program were met with an apparently organized resistance. We realized that, indicative of the general lack of response to women's needs, there is no truly appropriate state agency to implement programs for women. We've discussed the need to establish a state level department for women which might serve as an appropriate placement for legislation affecting women who are struggling against situations which result directly from the fact that they are women, i.e. rape victims, battered women, displaced homemakers, low-income workers.

We're critically aware of the struggle to obtain financial survival for shelters and committed to the public responsibility to provide for this need. We hope that the passage of this legislation will be a beginning toward alleviating that financial struggle and responding to the needs of battered women. At the same time, we're wary of the possibility of the real needs of women being undermined and of the issue of physical abuse of women being coopted, within the state bureaucracy. The task for all of us now is to see that our voices are heard in order to insure that women-defined programs continue.

HELP! HELP! HELP!

We need able hands and knees for our clean-up campaign.
Time is to be determined at a later date. If you can help
for one hour or one day, please call us at 227-1985.

Note: The cost of printing the newsletter is now about \$5.00 yearly, including return envelope postage. If you can contribute \$5.00, or something once in awhile, it would be a big help. We will not discontinue (unless you wish!) or bill you, or keep track of when the year's subscription is up.

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Excerpts from an article that appeared in the Minneapolis Tribune on Tuesday, June 28, 1977, entitled "Half of U.S. married women suffer beatings, author says":

"More than half of all married women in America suffer physical abuse from their husbands, an author of a study on wife beating said Monday. 'A marriage license is a hunting license,' according to Richard C. Levy, who wrote 'Wife Beating--The Silent Crisis' with Roger Langley. 'It gives a man five free beatings because the woman typically doesn't report such abuse until the fifth attack.'

"Levy estimated that 28 million American wives are abused physically by their husbands. This includes those who suffer an occasional slap as well as those who are beaten regularly.....

"Most of the 10 million family trouble calls answered by police each year involve spouse abuse,' he said. 'But typically they're not reported as such. It's a conspiracy of silence.'

He said American society customarily has taken a lenient attitude toward wife-beating, even finding it amusing. 'We studied TV. Remember the Jackie Gleason Show? Remember the punch line you waited for, when Ralph would say, 'Alice, you are going to the moon!'

MEDICAL PRACTICE

Contemporary Themes

Wife Battering: a Preliminary Survey of 100 Cases

J. J. GAYFORD

British Medical Journal, 1975, 1, 194-197

Summary

One hundred battered wives were interviewed. All had bruising, often together with other injuries, such as lacerations and fractures. There was a high incidence of violence in the family histories of both partners, and of drunkenness and previous imprisonment among the husbands. Nevertheless, both husbands and wives had a wide range of educational achievements. Most wives were subjected to repeated violence because they had no alternative but to return to the marital home. There was an association between wife battering and child abuse. Places of sanctuary are needed where a woman can take her children when violence is out of control.

Introduction

There has been considerable publicity recently about battered wives. Voluntary hostels of refuge have been established, questions have been tabled in Parliament, and popular magazines have published anecdotal accounts. In addition the Department of Health and Social Security has sought opinions on the problem from various sources.

Literature on family violence occasionally refers to wife abuse. Goode¹ reviewed theoretical factors regulating violence in the family, and Steinmetz and Straus² edited a series of papers on related topics. O'Brien³ discussed violence from husbands who had a family tradition of dominance, but found this challenged; he admitted that outside frustrations may also

contribute. Levinger⁴ showed that 37% of women in the U.S.A. cited violence as grounds for divorce. Straus,⁵ using general systems theory, postulated violence escalating in the home due to positive feed-back mechanisms. Steinmetz and Straus⁶ conjectured how violence passes from generation to generation in the family.

Method

Investigation was by open questionnaire and the personal interview of women claiming serious physical assault by their husbands. Most cases came from the Chiswick Women's Aid Hostel. A total of 148 women were interviewed but 48 questionnaires had to be discarded.

DEFINITION

In this survey a battered wife was defined as a woman who had received deliberate severe and repeated demonstrable physical injury from her husband. Thus, the minimal injury was severe bruising. Without denying its importance, mental cruelty was not taken into account. Where a man and woman lived together for a year as man and wife they were considered married in common law.

Results

Of the 100 women, 85 were married and 15 cohabiting. The nationality of the women, their parents, and husbands, is shown in table I, and table II gives other background data.

PHYSICAL INJURIES

All subjects had bruising at some time. In 44 cases it was associated with laceration, and in 17 of these it was caused by

Nationality of Women, their Parents, and Husbands

Nationality	Wives	Husbands	Mothers	Fathers
British	66	56	60	53
Irish	17	21	19	22
West Indian	9	13	8	10
Black African	1	5	1	1
White African	1	1	2	2
Asian	1	0	1	0
Scandinavian	2	0	3	2
Other European	3	3	4	5
Others	0	1	0	1
Total	100	100	98	98

TABLE II—Background Data on Battered Wives

	N =	Range (years)	Mean	± S.E. of Mean
Age of battered wife	100	19-59	30.7	± 0.73
Length of relationship	99	1-25	8.8	± 0.65
Length of time battered	100	1-25	6.8	± 0.59
Age of leaving school	99	7-18	15.5	± 0.59
Age of marriage or cohabitation	99	16-29	20.3	± 0.32
Age of first sexual intercourse	99	13-27	18.2	± 0.29
Age of husband or cohabitee	97	20-61	33.9	± 0.89
Number of wives' siblings	100	0-15	3.3	± 0.28
Number of children	100	0-16	2.3	± 0.17

a sharp instrument such as a razor, knife, or broken bottle. While all had been hit with a clenched fist—occasionally heavily adorned with rings—59 were also repeatedly kicked. Weapons were used in 42 cases—usually the first available object—but in 15 of these a specific object was regularly used, a belt with buckle in eight cases. Strangulation attempts were alleged in 19 cases and suffocation in two. Burns and scalds occurred in 11 and biting in seven. Fractures of nose, teeth, or ribs occurred in 24 cases and other bones were fractured in eight, while four had dislocations of the shoulder or jaw. Nine women were taken to hospital for observation after being found unconscious. Two women had received retinal damage with resulting defective vision. One woman had received a penetrating injury to the skull and two had epilepsy which they claimed was caused through head injuries.

This is how one woman described her injuries:

"He hit me with his fists, feet, and bottles, smashing me to the floor; then he started to kick, sometimes with repeated blows to the face and other parts of the body. He has kicked me in the ribs and broken them, he has tried to strangle me and taken me by the shoulders and banged my head against the floor. During my marriage of nearly four years I have received constant bruises all over my body, this has been more so during pregnancy. I have received black eyes, cut lips, and swollen nose. Most of my bruises have been to the scalp where they do not show. On one occasion I had bruises to the throat and abdomen and was unable to speak; on admission to hospital I was found to have multiple injuries and broken ribs."

Other more severe and dramatic stories were collected but the above account illustrates the typical injuries and mode of attack.

MEDICAL HISTORY

Excluding trauma, 18 of the women suffered from chronic physical illness. The majority frequently attended their general practitioner, and 71 were taking antidepressants or tranquillizers. A psychiatric opinion was sought for 46 wives and 21 were told that they were depressed and were treated with either physical or chemical agents. Suicidal attempts or gestures occurred frequently, with 34 trying self-poisoning, of which 10 did this more than once. Seven tried self-mutilation with three repeating

the attempt. Nine tried other methods, in two cases repeatedly. Sixteen women claimed they really wanted to die but 21 admitted it was only to draw attention to their plight or to get away from the situation.

AETIOLOGY AND AVOIDANCE OF ATTACK

In 44 cases violence occurred regularly when the husband was drunk, while 26 wives admitted that there were other frustrating factors in or outside the home. An overlapping 23 conceded there was usually an argument which preceded the battering. Only eight women claimed that they fought back, while 19 could see what was coming and tried to get out of the way, but only six found it possible to call for help. It appeared that 42 wives could see no possible way, however ineffective, of lessening the severity of the assault.

All but 19 women had left their husbands on more than one occasion, with 36 leaving more than four times. In 54 cases the violence had extended to the children, and many gave this as their reason for leaving. After leaving home 51 usually stayed with relations but most others went to friends, sought hostel, or hotel accommodation; only 11 went to hospital and nine wandered about with no roof over their heads.

Twenty-seven women returned to their husband after he had pleaded and promised reform, but in 17 threats and demonstration of further violence was used to achieve the wives' return. Reluctantly 14 women returned because there was nowhere else to go, while 13 came back because the children were still in the marital home. Only eight went back because they felt love or sorrow for their husband.

OTHER BACKGROUND FACTORS

Only 65 women were brought up by both parents to the age of 15, but in 53 cases the relationships between parents were described as good. Violence occurred regularly in 23 of the families, father was often drunk in 24, and unemployed in seven. Even so, 27 women received private or grammar school education and 32 left school with some certificate, while 30 went on to further education after leaving school.

Sexual intercourse without contraception was claimed by 85 before they were married or cohabiting. This led to 45 being pregnant by their husband before living with him, and a further 15 were pregnant by another man. In 58 cases there had never been a period of engagement. Surprisingly, half of the women were satisfied with their marital sex life, while 17 admitted seeking sexual comfort elsewhere. In 23 cases there had been more than one marriage or cohabitation. Women tended to come from large families and to have plenty of children, even though most interviewed had not finished their reproductive life. Many of the children were disturbed (a separate survey is being undertaken on the children) and 37 women admitted violence towards the children. Sixty-eight women admitted that marital feelings had been reduced to indifference or hate.

Information concerning the husbands came only from the questionnaire and, therefore, reflected the wives' opinions. Husbands were still in the marital home in 86 of the cases where their domicile was known. In 52 homes he was frequently drunk and in the other 22 there were episodes of heavy drinking with drunkenness. Gambling was a problem in 25 families and unemployment a regular feature in 29 (table III).

In 25 cases battering occurred before marriage or cohabitation. In 37 cases the man was known to have been married or cohabiting with another woman previously. As many as 52 of the men had been to prison or borstal, 33 for violent offences (table IV).

Night women had their suspicions, and 45 knew that their husbands had or were having affairs with other women during their marriage. Fifty-one women claimed they had learned that

TABLE III—Drunkenness, Gambling and employment of Fathers and Husbands

	Fathers	N	Husbands	N
Drunkenness		93		100
Occasional Heavy Drinking	4		22	
Frequent Heavy Drinking	23		52	
Gambling		91		96
Occasional Heavy Gambling	1		19	
Frequent Heavy Gambling	4		25	
Unemployment		93		100
Occasionally unemployed	6		19	
Frequently unemployed	3		18	
Mostly unemployed	4		11	
Occupation		87		100
Professional	2		6	
Skilled	32		29	
Unskilled	53		65	

TABLE IV—Prison Record of Fathers and Husbands of Women Surveyed

	Fathers	Husbands
Prison or Borstal	9	52
A.B.H. or G.B.H.	3	27
Attempted Murder	0	2
Theft	4	12
Armed Robbery	0	4
Disorderly Behaviour	1	0
Motoring Offences	0	5
Embezzlement or Fraud	1	5
Non-payment of Maintenance or Fines	1	4
Failure to keep Court Order	0	1
Sex Offences	0	2
Drug Offences	0	5

their husbands had been exposed to family violence in childhood. Even so 18 of the husbands had more than minimal secondary education with 5 going to university or college, but 18 were alleged to be only partially literate.

HELP SOUGHT

Help had been sought from social services in 57 cases, police and probation service in 32, solicitors in 10, Citizens' Advice Bureaux in 6; but this sample was biased towards voluntary organizations with 89 seeking refuge in a Women's Aid Hostel. A quarter of the latter needed protection from a molesting husband, but 37 also needed legal advice and possible help with divorce. As a long-term problem 20 saw accommodation as their major need, while 55 looked for a new start and 11 wanted a life in a protected community. Few women were vindictive towards their husbands; only 10 wanted him to suffer or die, 33 just wanted him out of their lives, and 37 thought he needed help; a further 10 felt long-term custodial care was essential for their husband.

Discussion

Just as the battered baby syndrome is older than Kempe's account,⁷ so with marital violence. Assertion of women's rights has created the climate for exposure of the previously hidden facts of wife abuse. There appears to be association between child abuse and wife assault, with 37 of the women admitting they were discharging frustration on their offspring, and 54 claiming that their husbands had extended their violence to the children. Affiliation between family background of child abusers and husband-wife violence is shown by comparing the present series with Scott⁸ who describes the background of fatal battered baby cases.

With 23 of the women and 51 of their husbands being exposed to models of family violence in their childhood, there is support for Steinmetz and Straus⁶ in claiming that violence passes on through the generations; and for Straus⁹ in postulating escalation. Fear must be expressed for the 315 children of the

100 women reported, as many males are developing the prodromal signs of violence, while the older age groups manifest a disturbing picture of uncontrolled violence and conflict with the law. Unless an urgent retraining programme can be undertaken with these children a future generation will be subjected to family violence.

All the women seen have made disastrous marriages, often undertaken precipitately by a desire to leave home and attracted by the protective image of their men. Traditional values of courtship and engagement had been abandoned in 58 cases; but premarital sexual intercourse without contraception in 85 caused pregnancy in 60, and must have been a pressing factor towards early cohabitation or marriage. In retrospect 25 did have a warning of what was to come, by being battered before marriage. Publicity of these facts to adolescents can have only a beneficial effect.

By piecing case histories together, a picture emerges of men with low frustration tolerance, who often completely lose control under the influence of alcohol, punch and kick their wives in a savage manner, perhaps using weapons to aid their assault. Pregnancy seems to heighten the tirade, and remorse for previous attacks is either forgotten or meaningless. Few assaults had a sadistic component.

Before there was publicity of wife battering, a woman in this situation felt she was unique in her plight; she was bewildered and ashamed and tried at first to cover up for what had happened. The general practitioner, usually one of the first outside the family to be trusted with her guilty secret, was more often presented with vague physical or mental symptoms. Even severe injuries were passed off as accidents. In many cases she was afraid to appear in public until the physical signs had subsided, but in a few cases she was made to parade her injuries as a sign of her husband's dominance. Suicidal gestures were usually treated in hospital without the true facts being revealed. Occasionally husbands prevented their wives from attending hospital for obviously needed medical attention, while others removed them prematurely.

As the attacks became more frequent and serious with the children often becoming involved, the wife tried to leave home and seek help. Here she found little help of shelter or aid from official sources. Relatives and friends at first gave assistance, but this was sometimes difficult. Husbands usually found their wives and pleaded with them to return, but when this failed they resorted to violence. With the threat and even demonstration of damage to person and property by a man who in 52 cases had a criminal record (in 33 for violence), the woman had to return home to keep the peace and protect others. Further assaults occurred, some within hours of returning home, and the cycle was repeated. Legal proceedings are impossible while she is living with her husband as the threat of further violence is more powerful than legal sanctions, resulting in most cases being withdrawn before they come to court. Even if the law is allowed to take its course and a case can be presented, which is difficult, the penalties can make the situation worse. A fine causes hardship to the whole family, probation and a suspended sentence may result in violence, and further violence to deter the wife from taking court action again. Short prison sentences release a man in under a year, who has changed little and has grounds for an increased grudge against his wife.

Places of sanctuary are needed where a woman without independent means may take her children when violence is out of control, where, with support and guidance, she can plan her future without fear of repeated assault. At present voluntary hostels are trying to provide this need, but there is gross overcrowding and lack of amenity which is no fault of those who run them. It is only to be expected many of the women will return home after a few days and, as this survey shows, most women want to test the situation thoroughly before terminating the relationship. Thus readmissions to the hostel must be expected. Even if a woman successfully gains her legal freedom and is no longer molested by her ex-husband, who still sees her as his wife, she still has problems. If she is relatively young she will

still desire sexual fulfilment and many even seek a further marriage. Mating theories are against her finding a future stable relationship.⁹ Few men want the responsibility of other people's children, especially if disturbed. At an age of 30 and with these handicaps she cannot afford to be too selective about her partners. Patient guidance and support is essential to see even the more able and intelligent woman through this difficult period.

A few women present as extremely damaged personalities who will need long-term support with their children. Often they need protection against their own stimulus-seeking activities. Though they flinch from violence like other people they have the ability to seek violent men or by their behaviour to provoke attack from the opposite sex.

I should like to thank Dr. J. Gunn and the Department of

Biometrics, Institute of Psychiatry, University of London, for advice and computer facilities; and Mrs. Erin Pizzey and other members of Women's Aid Chiswick for allowing me to conduct this survey.

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Clinical Trials

Effect of Different Doses of Chlorthalidone on Blood Pressure, Serum Potassium, and Serum Urate

C. BENGTTSSON, G. JOHNSON, R. SANNERSTEDT, L. WERKÖ

British Medical Journal, 1975, **1**, 197-199

Summary

Chlorthalidone given to 40 hypertensive women significantly decreased blood pressure and serum potassium levels and increased the serum urate concentration. There were no individual correlations between the reduction in blood pressure and the decrease in serum potassium or the increase in serum urate. A reduction in dosage from 50 mg daily to 50 mg three times a week produced no significant changes in the diastolic or mean blood pressures though the systolic blood pressure was moderately increased. Concomitantly, serum potassium increased and serum urate decreased significantly on the lower chlorthalidone dose. We conclude that high doses of oral diuretics compared with lower ones are of limited further benefit and may increase the risk of clinically significant hypokalaemia and hyperuricaemia.

Introduction

Since the first favourable reports of the antihypertensive effect of oral diuretics^{1,2} these agents have been widely used for the treatment of arterial hypertension. In Göteborg, for example, 15% of all women aged 60 years were found to be receiving such treatment.³

In hypertensive cardiovascular disease oral diuretics produce a flat dose-response curve, the main fall in blood pressure occurring after a relatively low dose.⁴ Side effects such as decreased serum potassium and increased serum urate levels have been recognized,^{5,6,7} though these may be partly caused or accentuated by the routine use of oral diuretics in high doses without adjustment to the needs of the patient. We have therefore studied the effects of two dose levels of chlorthalidone on blood pressure and related these to the side effects.

The mode of action of oral diuretics such as chlorthalidone is not fully understood. It has been suggested, for example, that some hypokalaemia is a prerequisite for achieving an optimal hypotensive effect.⁷ We have therefore also examined the relation between the influence of chlorthalidone on blood pressure and the serum potassium levels.

Materials and Methods

During a population-screening survey⁸ 40 women were found repeatedly to have systolic pressures of 160 mm Hg or more and diastolic pressures above 95 mm Hg. None were on antihypertensive treatment. Then they took part in a trial comparing the effects of an adrenergic β -receptor blocking agent—alprenolol (Aptin)—and chlorthalidone (Hygroton).⁹ These drugs were given for three-month periods using a double-blind, crossover technique, placebo being used for the month before the active treatment and again for one month between the active treatments. Chlorthalidone was given in single daily doses of 50 mg. Supplementation with potassium chloride 0.75 g twice daily was used throughout.

Eleven women continued to take chlorthalidone after completing the trial and were subsequently examined at intervals of two to four months. During that period the dose was reduced to 50 mg three times a week. The potassium supplementation remained unchanged. They received the higher dose of chlorthalidone for 3 to 13 (mean 4.5) months and the lower dose for

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G. JOHNSON, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine
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L. WERKÖ, M.D., Professor of Medicine

AN ACT

S.F. No. 1689
CHAPTER No.

732

NOTE

This is the final version
of the bill that will be
transmitted to the governor's
desk. Check House Index Department
for updated status (293-6646)

1

2 relating to battered women; appropriating money;
3 amending Minnesota Statutes, 1977 Supplement,
4 Sections 241.62, Subdivisions 1 and 4 and by
5 adding a subdivision; 241.63; 241.66, Subdivision
6 2, and by adding a subdivision.

7

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

9 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes, 1977 Supplement,

10 Section 241.62, Subdivision 1, is amended to read:

11 241.62 [PILOT PROGRAMS.] Subdivision 1. [PROGRAMS
12 DESIGNATED.] The commissioner shall designate four or more
13 pilot programs to provide emergency shelter services and
14 support services to battered women and shall award grants to
15 the pilot programs. At least two pilot programs shall be
16 designated in the metropolitan area, composed of Hennepin,
17 Ramsey, Anoka, Dakota, Scott, Washington and Carver
18 counties. At least one pilot program shall be designated in
19 a city located outside of the metropolitan area, and at
20 least one pilot program shall be designated in a location
21 accessible to a predominately rural population.

22 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes, 1977 Supplement, Section
23 241.52, Subdivision 4, is amended to read:

1 Subd. 4. [EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.] In addition to
 2 designating four pilot programs to provide emergency shelter
 3 services and support services, the commissioner shall award
 4 grants for the development and implementation of education
 5 programs designed to promote public and professional
 6 awareness of the problems of battered women. Any public or
 7 private nonprofit agency may apply to the commissioner for
 8 an education grant. The application shall be submitted in a
 9 form approved by the commissioner by rule. In addition,
 10 education grant moneys may be used by the commissioner to
 11 produce educational and promotional materials to encourage
 12 the development and utilization of emergency shelter
 13 services. Every public or private nonprofit agency which
 14 receives an education grant shall comply with all rules of
 15 the commissioner related to the administration of education
 16 programs.

17 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes, 1977 Supplement, Section
 18 241.62, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

19 Subd. 5. [CLASSIFICATION OF DATA COLLECTED BY
 20 GRANTEES.] Personal history information and other
 21 information collected, used or maintained by a grantee from
 22 which the identity of any battered woman may be determined
 23 is private data on individuals, as defined in section
 24 15.162, subdivision 5a, and the grantee shall maintain the
 25 data in accordance with the provisions of sections 15.162 to
 26 15.169.

27 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes, 1977 Supplement, Section
 28 241.63, is amended to read:

29 241.63 [DUTIES OF COMMISSIONER.] The commissioner
 30 shall:

31 (a) Review applications for designation as a pilot
 32 program, and designate four or more pilot programs pursuant

1 to section 241.62, subdivision 1;

2 (b) Review applications from and award grants to public
3 or private nonprofit agencies which submit proposals to
4 develop and implement education programs pursuant to section
5 241.62, subdivision 4;

6 (c) Appoint the members of the advisory task force
7 created under section 241.64, and provide staff and other
8 administrative services to the advisory task force;

9 (d) Appoint a project coordinator to perform the duties
10 set forth in section 241.65;

11 (e) Design and implement a uniform method of collecting
12 and evaluating data on battered women and of evaluating the
13 programs funded under section 241.62;

14 (f) Provide technical aid to applicants in the design
15 and implementation of the programs funded under section
16 241.62;

17 (g) Promulgate all rules necessary to implement the
18 provisions of sections 241.61 to 241.66 and 256D.05,
19 subdivision 3, including emergency rules; and

20 (h) Report to the legislature on January 1, 1978,
21 January 1, 1979, and November 15, 1979, on the programs
22 funded under section 241.62 and report to the legislature by
23 January 1, 1979 on the feasibility of creating similar
24 programs for men .

25 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes, 1977 Supplement, Section
26 241.66, Subdivision 2, is amended to read:

27 Subd. 2. [MANDATORY DATA COLLECTION.] Every hospital
28 licensed pursuant to sections 144.50 to 144.56, every
29 physician licensed to practice in this state, every public
30 health nurse, every social services agency, every community
31 health agency, and every local law enforcement agency shall
32 collect data related to battered women in the form required

1 by rule of the commissioner. The data shall be collected
2 and transmitted to the commissioner at such times as he
3 shall, by rule, require.

4 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes, 1977 Supplement, Section
5 241.66, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

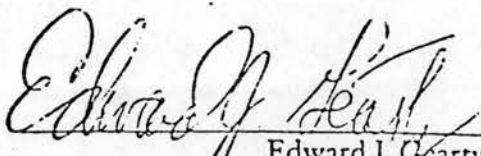
6 Subd. 3. [IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY.] Any person
7 participating in good faith and exercising due care in the
8 collection and transmission of data pursuant to this section
9 shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal,
10 that otherwise might result by reason of his action.

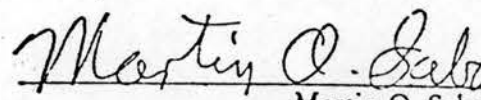
11 Sec. 7. [APPROPRIATION.] Subdivision 1. The sums set
12 forth in this section are appropriated from the general fund
13 to the commissioner of corrections for the purposes
14 specified in this section.

15 Subd. 2. For the purpose of making grants pursuant
16 to section 241.62, subdivision 1.....\$100,000

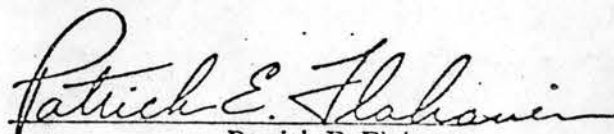
17 Subd. 3. For the purpose of implementing section
18 241.63, clause (e).....\$ 25,000

19 The approved complement of the department of
20 corrections is increased by one unclassified position.

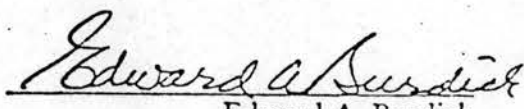

Edward J. Gearty
President of the Senate.


Martin O. Sabo
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Passed the Senate this 23rd day of March in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-eight

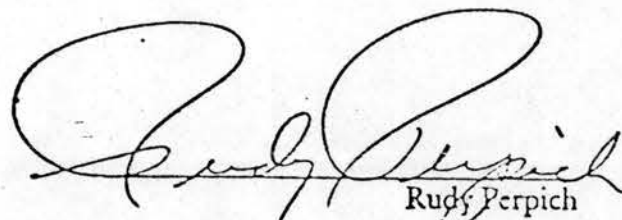

Patrick E. Flahaven
Secretary of the Senate.

Passed the House of Representatives this 23rd day of March in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-eight


Edward A. Burdick
Chief Clerk, House of Representatives.

Approved

April 5th, 1978


Rudy Perpich
Governor of the State of Minnesota.

Filed

April 5, 1978

Joan Anderson Growe
Secretary of State.

STATE OF MINNESOTA

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24 STATE CAPITOL
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June 21, 1976

TO: Senator Bill McCutcheon
FROM: John B. Lennes, Jr., Assistant Senate Counsel
RE: Spouse Abuse

I spoke with Judge Sedgwick, Family Court Judge in the Fourth District. Her court is not so much concerned with counseling and reconciliation attempts as with adjustments of various legal relationships after a marriage has broken down. There are counseling agencies available, and the court will refer the couple to those agencies if they want counseling. It is the judge's feeling that efforts to save a marriage by counseling, consultation and so forth should be carried out in as non-authoritarian a way as possible. Great care should be taken to avoid a "big brother" kind of situation. As far as the role of the police in these situations is concerned, the Judge suggested that a male-female team specially trained to deal with family crises might be a good idea. This has been tried in Washington, D.C., apparently with good results. The tendency on the part of either or both spouses to turn their anger on the police officer seems to be blunted by the presence of a female authority figure.

JBL:ld

AN ACT

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relating to women; establishing pilot programs to provide emergency shelter and support services to battered women; providing funds to establish community education programs about battered women; providing for data collection; authorizing counseling and training services for dislocated homemakers; waiving certain general assistance eligibility requirements for battered women and dislocated homemakers; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 1976, Section 250D.05, by adding a subdivision.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. (DEFINITIONS.) Subdivision 1. For the purposes of sections 1 to 6, the following terms have the meanings given.

Subd. 2. "Battered woman" means a woman who is being or has been assaulted by her spouse, other male relative, or by a male with whom she is residing or has resided in the past.

Subd. 3. "Emergency shelter services" include, but are not limited to, secure crisis shelters for battered women and housing networks for battered women.

1 Subd. 4. "Support services" include, but are not
2 limited to, advocacy services, legal services, counseling
3 services, transportation services, child care services, and
4 24 hour information and referral services.

5 Subd. 5. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the
6 department of corrections or his designee.

7 Sec. 2. [PILOT PROGRAMS.] Subdivision 1. [PROGRAMS
8 DESIGNATED.] The commissioner shall designate four pilot
9 programs to provide ~~emergency shelter services and support~~
10 services to battered women and shall award grants to the
11 pilot programs. Two pilot programs shall be designated in
12 the metropolitan area, composed of Hennepin, Ramsey, Anoka,
13 Dakota, Scott, Washington and Carver counties. One pilot
14 program shall be designated in a city located outside of the
15 metropolitan area, and one pilot program shall be designated
16 in a location accessible to a predominately rural
17 population.

18 Subd. 2. [APPLICATIONS.] Any public or private
19 nonprofit agency may apply to the commissioner for
20 designation as a pilot program to provide emergency shelter
21 services and support services to battered women. The
22 application shall be submitted in a form approved by the
23 commissioner by rule, and shall include:

24 (a) a proposal for the provision of emergency shelter
25 services and support services for battered women;

26 (b) a proposed budget;

27 (c) evidence of the integration of the uniform method
28 of data collection and program evaluation established by the
29 director pursuant to section 3 into the proposed program;

30 (d) evidence of the participation of the local law

1 enforcement agencies and courts, county welfare agencies,
2 local boards or departments of health, and other interested
3 agencies or groups in the development of the application;
4 and

5 (e) any other content the commissioner may, by rule,
6 require.

7 Subd. 3. [DUTIES OF GRANTEE.] Every public or private
8 nonprofit agency which receives a grant to provide emergency
9 shelter services and support services to battered women
10 shall comply with all rules of the commissioner related to
11 the administration of the pilot programs.

12 Subd. 4. [EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.] In addition to
13 designating four pilot programs to provide emergency shelter
14 services and support services, the commissioner shall award
15 grants for the development and implementation of education
16 programs designed to promote public and professional
17 awareness of the problems of battered women. Any public or
18 private nonprofit agency may apply to the commissioner for
19 an education grant. The application shall be submitted in a
20 form approved by the commissioner by rule. Every public or
21 private nonprofit agency which receives an education grant
22 shall comply with all rules of the commissioner related to
23 the administration of education programs.

24 Sec. 3. [DUTIES OF COMMISSIONER.] The commissioner
25 shall:

26 (a) Review applications for designation as a pilot
27 program, and designate four pilot programs pursuant to
28 section 2, subdivision 1;

29 (b) Review applications from and award grants to public
30 or private nonprofit agencies which submit proposals to

1 develop and implement education programs pursuant to section
2 2, subdivision 4;

3 (c) Appoint the members of the advisory task force
4 created under section 4, and provide staff and other
5 administrative services to the advisory task force;

6 (d) Appoint a project coordinator to perform the duties
7 set forth in section 5;

8 (e) Design and implement a uniform method of collecting
9 data on battered women and of evaluating the programs funded
10 under section 2;

11 (f) Provide technical aid to applicants in the design
12 and implementation of the programs funded under section 2;

13 (g) Promulgate all rules necessary to implement the
14 provisions of sections 1 to 7, including emergency rules;

15 and

16 (h) Report to the legislature on January 1, 1978,
17 January 1, 1979, and November 15, 1979, on the programs
18 funded under section 2.

19 Sec. 4. [ADVISORY TASK FORCE.] Subdivision 1.

20 [CREATION.] Within 60 days after the effective date of
21 sections 1 to 6, the commissioner shall appoint a nine
22 member advisory task force to advise him on the
23 implementation of sections 1 to 6. The provisions of
24 Minnesota Statutes, Section 15.059, Subdivision 6, shall
25 govern the terms, compensation, and removal of members of
26 the advisory task force.

27 Subd. 2. [MEMBERSHIP.] Persons appointed shall be
28 knowledgeable in the fields of health, law enforcement,
29 social services or the law. Five members of the advisory
30 task force shall be representatives of community or

1 governmental organizations which provide services to
2 battered women, and four members of the advisory task force
3 shall be public members.

4 Subd. 3. [DUTIES.] The advisory task force shall:

5 (a) recommend to the commissioner the names of five
6 applicants for the position of project coordinator,

7 (b) advise the commissioner on the rules promulgated
8 pursuant to section 3;

9 (c) review and comment on applications received by the
10 commissioner for designation as a pilot program and
11 applications for education grants; and

12 (d) advise the project coordinator in the performance
13 of his duties in the administration and coordination of the
14 programs funded under section 2,

15 Sec. 5. [PROJECT COORDINATOR.] The commissioner shall

16 appoint a project coordinator. In appointing the project
17 coordinator the commissioner shall give due consideration to
18 the list of applicants submitted to him by the advisory task
19 force pursuant to section 4, subdivision 3, clause (a). The

20 project coordinator shall administer the funds appropriated
21 for sections 1 to 7, coordinate the programs funded under
22 section 2, and perform other duties as the commissioner may
23 assign to him. The project coordinator shall serve at the
24 pleasure of the commissioner in the unclassified service.

25 Sec. 6. [DATA COLLECTION.] Subdivision 1. [FORM

26 PRESCRIBED.] The commissioner shall, by rule, prescribe a
27 uniform form and method for the collection of data on

28 battered women. The method and form of data collection

29 shall be designed to document the incidence of assault on

30 women by their spouses, male relatives or other males with

1 whom they are residing or have resided in the past. All
2 data collected by the commissioner pursuant to this section
3 shall be summary data within the meaning of Minnesota
4 Statutes, Section 15.162, Subdivision 9.

5 Subd. 2. [MANDATORY DATA COLLECTION.] Every hospital
6 licensed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 144.50 to
7 144.58, every physician licensed to practice in this state,
8 every public health nurse, and every local law enforcement
9 agency shall collect data related to battered women in the
10 form required by rule of the commissioner. The data shall
11 be collected and transmitted to the commissioner at such
12 times as he shall, by rule, require.

13 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 1976, Section 256D.05, is
14 amended by adding a subdivision to read:

15 Subd. 3. [RESIDENTS OF SHELTER FACILITIES.]
16 Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions 1 and 2,
17 general assistance payments may be made to individuals
18 receiving aid to families with dependent children who are
19 residing in a secure crisis shelter, a housing network, or
20 other shelter facility which provides shelter services to
21 women who are being or have been assaulted by their spouses,
22 other male relatives, or other males with whom they are
23 residing or have resided in the past.

24 Sec. 8. [DISPLACED WORKER PROGRAMS.] The executive
25 director of the governor's manpower office may enter into
26 arrangements with existing private or nonprofit
27 organizations and agencies with experience in dealing with
28 displaced homemakers to provide counseling and training
29 services. The director shall assist displaced homemakers in
30 applying for appropriate welfare programs and shall take

1 welfare allowances received into account in setting the
2 stipend level. Income received as a stipend under these
3 programs shall be totally disregarded for purposes of
4 determining eligibility for and the amount of a general
5 assistance grant.

6 Sec. 9. [APPROPRIATION.] There is appropriated from
7 the general fund to the commissioner for the biennium ending
8 June 30, 1979, the sum of \$500,000 for the purposes of
9 sections 1 to 6. Of this sum, no more than \$50,000 may be
10 spent for education program grants pursuant to section 2,
11 subdivision 4 of this act. No more than 15 percent of the
12 funds appropriated may be spent by the commissioner of
13 corrections for purposes of administration of the program.

14 There is appropriated from the general fund to the
15 executive director of the governor's manpower office the sum
16 of \$100,000 for the purposes of section 8.

17 Sec. 10. [EFFECTIVE DATE.] Sections 1 to 6 are
18 effective the day following final enactment. Sections 7 and
19 8 are effective July 1, 1977.

Violence On Television Is Hazardous To Your Child's Health *

By Ronald Ellis, M.D., Chairman Department of Internal Medicine
Group Health Plan, Inc.

"For a considerable proportion of American children and youth, violence has become a major health problem. For an alarming number it is a way of life. One major contributing factor is television's massive diet of symbolic crime and violence in 'entertainment' programs."—*New England Journal of Medicine*, April 8, 1976, p. 711.

There can be little question that violence is a serious problem in the United States.

In fact, murder is our fastest growing cause of death. According to an MIT statistical analysis of urban homicide: "An American boy born in 1974 is more likely to die by murder than an American soldier in World War II was to die in combat."

In our country someone is killed or wounded by gunfire every four minutes. Someone is robbed at gunpoint every three minutes.

If this is the way things are, why the concern over showing violence on television?

It is true that violence always has been a part of American life, from the "cowboy and Indian days" to the present.

But it has been adult violence in the past. Now we read accounts of a 14 year-old girl killing another girl with a fingernail file during a jumprope argument, or a 10 year-old boy being robbed of one dollar and hung by a rafter in his garage, or a 3 year-old being beaten to death by another child. Why?

There is indisputable evidence that violence on TV is a contributing factor.

Michael Rothenberg, M.D., in his article "Effect of Television Violence on Children and Youth" states that "146 articles in behavioral science journals, representing 50 studies involving 10,000 children and adolescents from every conceivable background showed that violence viewing produces increased aggressive behavior in the young:

- "1. Novel, aggressive behavior sequences are learned by children through exposure to aggressive actions shown on TV or in films.
- "2. There is a decreased emotional sensitivity to media violence . . . and an increased ability to be violent with others.
- "3. There is no evidence that the observation of pain, horror, and suffering results in catharsis."

Likewise, the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence found that "television enters powerfully into the learning process of children and teaches them a set of moral and social values about violence which are inconsistent with the standards of civilized society. . . . What younger children see on television is peculiarly 'real' for they are still in the process of learning to discriminate between fantasy and reality. . . . It is a matter of grave concern that television is emphasizing violent, antisocial styles of life."

Admittedly, violence on TV is not the the only factor contributing to violence in America. But it is clearly an important factor when we consider the preceding research findings together with the TV viewing habits of our children.

A Nielsen survey reports that preschoolers watch an average of 54 hours of TV a week and that many children of school age spend more time watching TV than attending school.

By age 18, the average American child will have seen between 15,000 and 18,000 murders as well as countless vividly portrayed beatings, robberies, bombings, and the like.

These viewing habits in conjunction with the research establishing a casual relationship between televised violence and antisocial behavior led the Surgeon General Scientific Advisory Committee on Television and Social Behavior to call for "appropriate and immediate remedial action."

The question now becomes, what action should be taken?

An important first step is to recognize the seriousness of the threat and to take a stand against it. Such a stand was taken in September, 1975 by the Federal Communications Commission when it established the Family Viewing Hour.

Inevitably, controversy flared. And, controversy continues. Billions of ad-

vertising dollars are at stake, and there is the eternal question of censorship. Those who oppose the family hour and regulations of violence on TV claim infringement on their civil liberties.

Ironically, if such programming contributes to development of a generation of youth who believe that aggression and violence are the means for resolving differences, our civil liberties may be in greater jeopardy.

In advocating censorship of the mass entertainment of the youth, Walter Lippman contends that "a continual exposure of a generation to the commercial exploitation of the enjoyment of violence and cruelty is one way to corrode the foundations of a civilized society . . . until some more refined way is worked out of controlling this evil thing, the risks to our liberties are, I believe, decidedly less than the risks of unmanageable violence."

The campaign against violence on TV is somewhat like that against cigarette smoking. The facts are in. The hazard is clear. But vested interests and individual indifference perpetuate the hazard. Fortunately, concerned individuals can protect themselves and their children.

Support of local, state, and national efforts to reduce violence on TV is needed. But these efforts take time. You can protect your own children now by following the steps recommended by the Minneapolis Health Department:

1. Choose TV programs with your children. Make use of Public TV.
2. Watch TV with your children. Look for programs that encourage values and ideals you consider worthwhile.
3. Talk about TV with your children. Discuss programs they like and dislike. Talk about the difference between real life and make believe, about violence and how TV characters might solve problems without it.

You do not need to wait for a reduction in the amount of violence on TV. You as a parent can control television's influence on your child's values by simply using your common sense and the on-off switch.

* REPRINTED BY PERMISSION OF RONALD ELLIS, M.D.

It is also extremely important for referral sources to be kept up-to-date about their client's success at The Center. Consequently, an integral part of TEGIS is to provide referral sources with periodic information regarding the client's movement through The Center. The free flow of communication between The Center and the referral source will serve to benefit the client, as well as The Center's therapeutic programs.

TEGIS was developed using a system's analysis approach to the delivery of mental health services and can easily be generalized to any social or mental health service setting. Kiel, Duffy, Arnold, Ryan and Associates, Inc., a sister corporation to The Center for Behavior Modification, can provide further information regarding the implementation of TEGIS in such settings.

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STRATEGIES FOR WORKING WITH ASSUALTED WOMEN,
THEIR FAMILIES, AND THE SYSTEMS AROUND THEM

Developed by:
Frances Woods and Miriam Habib
Women Helping Women
Metuchen, New Jersey 1976

I. INTERVENTION WITH WOMEN

In working with victims of wife assault the following are important:

1. Affirmation of the women is of primary importance. Her strengths, the efforts she has and will take to end her being assaulted are very important.
2. A group approach - working with more than one woman at a time is useful for several reasons: it cuts down on the isolation that most women who have been assaulted feel, it provides concrete information that is accurate and sensitive to the women's needs - other women who have experienced the problem are the best experts on it.
3. Recognize that women don't identify themselves as abused because to do so would make them susceptible to society's blaming, ie. there is something wrong with me, if I put up with it, it's my fault, I must be stupid, etc.
4. Sensitive listening is of utmost importance - we are just learning what this crime is all about, the usual experience of battered women is that no one listens to them or takes them seriously.
5. Stress the fact that the woman is not all alone; stress the fact that you can help the woman.
6. Where possible, give concrete information and aid, for instance have a lawyer available to give legal advice, or better, representation. Be available for going to court with the woman, taking her to welfare, etc.
7. Help the woman develop alternatives, where she can go to spend the night, what job training is available.
8. Recognize and deal with guilt and shame.
9. Recognize and deal with extreme mental and physical exhaustion.
10. Recognize and deal with the fear of being murdered or seriously hurt.
11. Some women will want to try marriage counseling again or for the first time. Some women will recognize that their mates need help. In our experience, these approaches are successful only if both partners are sincerely interested. This means the male is willing to deal with the issue of his violence and is willing to work on his own problems, with some motive besides keeping the wife in the marriage.

12. Women tend to rationalize and feel sorry for the man since he is "mentally ill", drinks, etc. Help her to take care of herself first.

13. Recent evidence about assaulted women point up that most women can end the abuse only by leaving the marriage. Discuss this in a straightforward manner which recognizes that it may take the woman some time to reach a decision. Let her know that you support her no matter where she is in her decision making process.

14. Recognize the usual pattern of going in and out of the relationship until a final decision is made. This includes the woman's decision to try marriage counseling for the first time or again.

15. Recognize and deal with all the societal pressures and role expectation on the woman for keeping her family together at all costs, ie., "it's my duty to stay with him, the kids need a father", etc. Particularly important are the financial reasons for which a woman stays with her husband.

16. Help women work out the particular responses which are most helpful to her, ie. should she fight back, go to court, etc. Remember this is individualized.

17. Work on developing all independence skills - education, jobs, assertiveness, love of self, self worth.

18. A social-political perspective to this assault on the woman will help her combat her tendency to accept society's myth that she blame herself for being beaten.

II WORKING WITH CHILDREN

In working with the families of assaulted women, the following are important:

1. Recognize and deal with the child's fear of being in a home where violence may erupt. Such children feel very vulnerable, although this may be hidden by a tough facade.

2. Many children learn from their parents that violence is a way to solve problems - fighting, hitting, brute aggression. These children often have not learned the skills of talking about their feelings so they act them out aggressively. Help the mother, teacher, etc. to help these children talk about their feelings rather than act them out. It is especially useful with some mothers to teach them to model this behavior for kids.

3. Some children react to violence in the home by withdrawing.

4. Many children have a low tolerance for frustration, they are easily upset and thrown off balance.

5. Children have a difficult time separating out their own identity since they are so caught up in their intense conflict. This may result in difficulty with peers.

6. A common dilemma for the child is to be in the middle of the struggle between the parents.

7. Some children become involved in protecting their mothers from physical harm. This may result in their feeling angry at their fathers and consequently feeling guilty about this. It may also result in the children feeling very resentful toward their mothers (disliking them for being weak) etc.

8. Getting the father to be responsible to them is a big problem for children of both sexes.

9. The boys desperately want their father's attention. They may relate to the father only on a play level. They make no demands for understanding or parental responsibility. They sometimes actively side with the father against the mother. Some sons identify with their fathers to the point they fear marriage because they don't want to become like their fathers. Others take on the same stance as their fathers - become "bullies". A high percentage of men who beat their wives saw their fathers beat their mothers.

10. Girls also want their fathers attention. Because they have often been severely punished for being angry or showing anger to their fathers, they tend to identify with the aggressor, feel sorry for their fathers and be angry at their mothers. Girls often grow up insecure about their ability to get men to love them and be caring toward them. Some girls attempt to seek affirmation from men in sexual modes. Many girls learn to fear and distrust men and have difficulty forming equal partnerships in marriage. Such daughters may marry violent men because they learned to expect beatings as normal and inevitable.

11. It is important to help children and help the mothers help the children deal with the realities of the father's behavior.

12. Many mothers, not wishing to turn their children against their fathers, protect the father and make excuses for him. Mothers must be helped to deal more realistically so they can help their children.

13. Help the mother to discuss honestly the new financial situation with the children. Many mothers, not wanting to worry their children, hide the facts from them. Consequently, the children do not understand and cannot react appropriately.

14. Mothers under severe stress don't have the energy to nurture their children, so they are deprived and neglected. It is important to give active support to such mothers, for instance, day care for younger children, involve supportive school counselors with older children, etc.

15. When, as is often the case, the child acts out in school, the mother's tendency is to get angry with the child and punish him/her. It is important to help the mother see how this isolates the child and help her to see how she can support the child in his/her difficulty.

16. In most families, violence is never spoken of openly. Help the children and mother talk about it so that they can share their fear, hurt, and anger.

III INTERVENTION WITH SYSTEMS

1. Recognize wife assault as a broad social problem which requires institutional changes.
2. Attempt to sensitize and form cooperative approaches with other agencies - courts, police, hospitals, etc.
3. Recognize and deal with the resistance there is to seeing wife assault as a more than a family issue. Resistance will come in the form of trying to blame women and keep family together at all costs. Male authority of systems may be threatened, when the issue of battered women is raised.
4. A shelter for women needs to be set up. A stop gap measure is a shelter network of private homes.

INFORMATION ON BATTERED WOMEN

Battered Women by Lenore Walker

Definition

Battered Woman is a woman who is repeatedly subjected to any forceful physical or psychological behavior by a man in order to coerce her to do something he wants her to do without any concern for her rights. The couple must go through the battering cycle at least twice before defined as battered.

There are many myths in our society about battered women. These myths can continue to victimize women and keep the batterer caught by their socialized need to maintain dominance. Men are socialized into believing it is their duty to defend their women and have the right to discipline their "property." Women are socialized in believing she has no choice but to be a victim and that they must be doing something wrong if men beat them.

Myths and Realities: All myths come from the mistaken notion that the victim has provoked her own assault.

Myth: The battered woman syndrome affects only a small percentage of the population.

Reality: Statistics are hard to get. Studies on divorcing wives in Cleveland, Ohio by Levinger states 36.8% of these women were battered. In 1976, physical assault occurred in 28% of all American homes, in a study by Murray Straus, Richard Gelles and Susan Steinmetz.

Myth: Battered women are masochistic, which means she experiences some pleasure, often akin to sexual pleasure, through being beaten by the man she loves. "Good Wives" stop assaults by examining their behavior and try to change to please men: to be less provocative, less aggressive and less frigid.

Reality: The provocative behavior might occur for other than masochistic reasons. The aggressiveness may be an attempt to ward off further assault and the frigidity might be a very natural result of subjection to severe physical and psychological pain.

Myth: Battered women are crazy.

Reality: Battered women's survival behaviors have often been misdiagnosed as being crazy. Unusual actions may help them survive in battering relationships.

Myth: Only poor minority group women are battered.

Reality: Battered women are all ages, all races, all religious groups, all educational groups and socioeconomic groups.

Myth: Religious beliefs will prevent battering.

Reality: All religious women in this study indicated that their religious beliefs did not protect them from their assaultive men. For some, belief in a deity helped them endure their suffering, offering comfort and solace. Others gave up

religion in disillusionment, feeling that a just and merciful God would not have let them suffer so.

Myth: Batterers are violent in all their relationships.

Reality: Most men who batter their wives are generally not violent in other aspects of their lives. One study showed only 20% of batterers are violent in others aspects of their lives.

Myth: Batterers are unsuccessful and lack resources to cope with the world.

Reality: A study in England showed that the highest incidence of wife beating were physicians, service professionals and police. In another study many batterers were affluent and donated a good deal of time and energy to the community. Often they were unable to maintain their high productivity level, if not supported by their wives.

Myth: Drinking causes battering behavior.

Reality: There is some association between drinking and battering but it is only part of the battering relationship.

Myth: Batterers are psychopathic personalities.

Reality: Batterers have many kinds of personality disturbances other than just being psychopathic. One trait they do have in common with psychopaths is their extraordinary ability to use charm as a manipulative technique. Unlike the psychopath, he feels a sense of guilt and shame at his uncontrollable actions.

Myth: The batterer is not a loving partner.

Reality: Batterers are often described by their victims as fun loving little boys when they are not being coercive.

Myth: Once a battered woman, always a battered woman.

Reality: Most battered women wanted another intimate relationship with a man. Women who had received some beneficial intervention rarely remarry another batterer. They were extremely careful not to choose another violent one.

Myth: Once a batterer, always a batterer.

Reality: Batterers can be taught to release their aggressive responses. Assertion rather than aggression, negotiation rather than coercion is the goal.

Myth: Long standing battering relationships can change for the better.

Reality: Relationships that have been maintained by the man having power over the woman are stubbornly resistant to an equal power sharing relationship. With best help available, these relationships do not become battering free. At best, violent assaults are reduced in frequency and severity.

Myth: Battered women deserve to be beaten. They provoke the beatings by pushing their men beyond the breaking point.

Reality: Assuming that if the women would change her behavior, the batterer would regain his self control is incorrect. Studies show that batterers lose self control because of their own internal reasons, not because of what the women did or did not do.

Myth: Battered women can always leave home.

Reality: These women have difficulty leaving because of complex psychosocial reasons. Many stay because of economic, legal and social dependence. Others are afraid to leave because they have no safe place to go. Police, courts, hospitals, social service agencies do not offer adequate protection. Psychologists tend to counsel them to keep the family together at all costs. A battered woman is not free to end her victimization without assistance.

Myth: Children need their fathers even if he is violent.

Reality: There is usually enormous relief in living with a single parent by children who formally lived in violent homes.

Myth: Batterers will cease their violence when we get married.

Reality: This does not happen. Rather, the batterers' suspiciousness increases along with his escalating rate of violence.

THE SAINT PAUL INTERVENTION PROJECT
435 Aldine Street St. Paul MN 55104
612-645-2824

1987 SUMMARY OF PROGRAM SERVICES

MISSION STATEMENT

The Saint Paul Intervention Project is committed to helping protect victims of domestic assaults in the City of St. Paul, by using the criminal justice system to impose and enforce legal sanctions on the abuser in order to stop the violence.

ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Project Advocates help victims gain access to the criminal justice system. The success of the intervention is dependent on daily monitoring and advocacy in the system, as well as one-on-one support services to victims.

In 1987* 451 contacts were initiated by Project volunteers and staff immediately after an assault and arrest to offer services.

750 informational packets were given to victims of domestic violence in Ramsey County.

214 assault victims received continuing case management and extended support services.

327 victims of domestic assaults received information, referrals, and support services where there was not an arrest. Out of that total, 177 received assistance in obtaining an Order for Protection from Ramsey County's Family Court division.

Advocates provided information at pre-court orientation sessions sponsored by District Court to battered women seeking Orders for Protection in 1987, as part of a cooperative effort with the Ramsey County Domestic Abuse office.

An evaluation of program services (Client Survey) is currently being conducted.

* 1987 St. Paul police data shows:

1096 misdemeanor assault reports

456 arrests

563 Gone On Arrivals (usually no arrest)

77 non-arrests

The Saint Paul Intervention Project (SPIP) has received a special nine-month grant for 1988 from the Justice Department to expand services by reaching out to victims immediately after an assault when the abusive partner is gone on arrival. This will increase the number of victims receiving information, who are presently isolated and unaware of options available to them.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Saint Paul Intervention Project provides 24-hour crisis intervention services to victims of domestic assault. Upon notification by the police, a telephone call is made to the Project's hotline and two volunteer advocates are dispatched to offer emergency support services to the victim and other family members.

Project volunteers provide approximately 139 hours per week to the community. They are on call nights and weekends providing outreach services to victims and assailants.

Fifty (50) volunteers received at least 12 hours of training in 1987. They work on a rotating basis providing support, outreach, advocacy and court room monitoring, and jail visits for victims and abusers.

Recruitment: Volunteers are recruited from every socio/economic, racial, religious, ethnic and age group throughout the Metro area. 300 volunteer recruitment packets were distributed in 1987.

Training: Criminal justice professionals, battered women, former batterers, therapists and community leaders volunteer their time on a quarterly basis to help train the Project volunteers.

Volunteers learn the historical perspective and dynamics of battering; they become acquainted with laws pertaining to domestic assault; and proper responses to women (victims) in crisis. This is also an opportunity for personal growth in empathy communication skills, listening and assertiveness. Letters of recommendation are available upon request.

Internships are available to students and others planning a career in law and/or human services.

These training sessions are open to any interested persons.

SYSTEMS RESPONSE

Given that battering tends to escalate in severity, the response of the community in the early stages of domestic violence is critical.

Improved responses have been developed by various criminal justice agencies, i.e., mandatory police arrest in St. Paul, but not all criminal justice personnel agrees that domestic violence should be regarded as a crime. In order to ensure the consistent enforcement of laws and agency policies, it is necessary to have Project Advocates involved daily with police, prosecutors and judges in order to promote an effective and coordinated response in St. Paul.*

"The members of this Project provide much-needed emotional support and encouragement as the victim goes through the court system.... We are convinced that for the presence and support of these workers, many assault cases would never be pursued because of the initial reluctance of victims to follow through with prosecution, not to mention their predictable frustration with the legal system itself."

-- Quote from a letter signed by 5 Ramsey County District Court judges.

Police: SPIP staff provided education and feedback at 12 police roll call/shift changes in 1987. Twenty (20) volunteers and staff participated in the police ride-along program in order to promote understanding and cooperation between street officers and Project personnel. Meetings and in-service trainings were held with police administrators as needed throughout the year of 1987.

Prosecution: In order to enhance the number of successful prosecutions where there was Project involvement in 1987: SPIP advocates met with City prosecutors every day to provide victim information in order to encourage appropriate charging decisions and provide immediate feedback on court decisions to victims to increase their protection and safety. Advocates were present daily at Arraignment Court**, at pre-trial hearings, trials, and sentencing hearings, appearing with victims and on behalf of victims.

* SPIP has negotiated a Purchase of Service contract with the Maplewood Police Department to provide intervention services in the city of Maplewood in 1988.

** In 1987 an agreement was reached with Women's Advocates Shelter to provide one trained system's advocate one day per week to advocate for victims and to work with the prosecutor's office and monitor court proceedings.

In 1987, 74% of domestic assault arrests were charged by city prosecutors where there was Project involvement. This is a decrease from 1986 when 88% of cases were charged. This is due to a change in policy by the St. Paul City Attorney's office.

Many of these cases were dismissed on motion by the prosecutor without prior notice to the victim, thus increasing danger of further violence to the victim when the abuser is released from custody without court restraints. (61% overall charging rate with no Project involvement.)

Seventy-five percent (75%) of cases charged resulted in a guilty plea or finding, and 86% of sentences included treatment related to violent behavior and/or jail time.

Twenty-three percent (23%) of these cases were dismissed at trial. Two percent (2%) pending.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Informational meetings and in-service training meetings were held with: city prosecutors, SMRLS (Legal Aid), Ramsey County Probation, Ramsey County attorneys, victim advocates, the state Attorney General's office, Women of Nations, Casa de Esperanza, MN Coalition for Battered Women, Midway Center for Domestic Abuse, Wilder CAP, Women's Advocates, Alexandra House, Ramsey County judges and referees, Ramsey County Domestic Relations and Domestic Abuse office, and Police Chaplain Corps.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

In order to stop the epidemic of domestic violence, community responses need to improve. Prevention must start in the home and in the neighborhood. Battered women are isolated by fear -- "I would not leave my home to reach out for help unless I knew I would be safe doing so."

(Quote from a battered woman)

From the beginning the Saint Paul Intervention Project has focused its victim educational efforts on the neighborhoods because we hope that survivors of abusive relationships will be able to organize in their own communities and develop their own programs using the Project as a resource.

Three weekly neighborhood educational groups for battered women were held in three high-incident areas of St. Paul in 1987. They were: the East side, at Bethany Lutheran Church; Midway area, at 435 Aldine, and; Summit-University, sponsored alternatively by IBCA, MLK, New Beginning Center and Model Cities Health Center.

These groups were attended by 8-12 battered women weekly who received information on community resources and help developing an alternative support system.

Media presentations and specially developed educational materials were used at these groups.

Transportation and child care costs were reimbursed to those requesting it, by SPIP.

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Thirty-three (33) battered women have completed the SPIP volunteer training program and four (4) have become group leaders/organizers. One (1) battered woman has completed facilitator training and facilitates the Midway group weekly.

Survivors of violent relationships have participated in SPIP's professional training and community education presentations, MN Coalition's legislative committee, United Way's A Fair of the Heart, television and radio presentations, newspaper interviews, and other community activities during 1987.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Twenty-eight (28) presentations were made by Project staff to community groups, colleges, churches, agencies and organizations.

Staff participated in production of two training videotapes: "Broken Promises" in cooperation with BIHA, reflects the cultural dynamics of family violence in the Black, Hispanic and American Indian communities. "Old Women: Breaking the Silence", in cooperation with Home Free, addresses the problems of older battered women in shelters. These films will be distributed statewide, possibly nationwide.

The Saint Paul Intervention Project has been featured in two radio programs, two television shows, two Minneapolis news articles, four St. Paul news articles and one national magazine in 1987.

Saint Paul Intervention Project

435 Aldine Street Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104 Phone 645-2824

May 1988

1987 ANNUAL REPORT

The Saint Paul Intervention Project is pleased to submit this report which marks the end of our second full year of providing comprehensive support services to families suffering the effects of domestic abuse in St. Paul.

"That stuff [information packet] you gave me... I've used it over and over... I never used anything as much as I've used that stuff." -- A victim, to one of our advocates.

SPIP works with all facets of the legal system to assure that victims of domestic assaults are protected and that their assailants are held responsible for their violence.

Joan is the mother of 3 children and in a second violent marriage. Last year during another assault, her 11-year-old son, Jimmy, called the police. The police had responded 6 to 8 times before, but this was the first time Joan's husband was arrested and charged with domestic assault.

Joan started coming to our groups right after the assault. Still fearful, even though she had a restraining order, her son would walk with her. She said, "Being pregnant makes me feel wimpy."

Her husband was court-ordered into a batterer's treatment program and Joan continued coming to group and calling regularly for support.

One night Jimmy left a note for us. It read:

"Thanks for helping my mom."

Our data shows that there have been 51% more arrests in St. Paul in the first three months of 1988 than in the first quarter of 1987. We believe this is because of increased awareness of, and cooperation with SPIP by the police department and court personnel. That means more work for us, but more families are getting needed help, too.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely,

Lois Severson
Lois Severson
Director

Michael Fiske Driscoll

Michael Fiske Driscoll
President, Board of Directors



United Way
affiliated agency

He often can be very loving, gentle and apologetic, and she may hope and believe that he will change. All of these reasons are complicated by the fact that she may feel that she has no power to change her situation and no place to go. If she has no job, few skills, and no way to support herself, and if she lacks confidence and self-esteem, she sees no alternative but to stay where she is.

Battered women are also afraid to leave for fear they will be killed. Often they have been told they will be hunted down and killed and no place feels like it will be safe enough.

Does A Battered Woman Always Stay A Battered Woman?

Women who receive some beneficial intervention or counseling usually do not get involved in another abusive relationship.

Can My Partner Change?

Batterers can be re-educated to become aware of their feelings and learn other ways to deal with their anger and stop the violence. There are counseling and self-help groups which provide support and teach these new behaviors.

The Battered Woman Has The Following Rights

- RIGHT** *Not To Be Abused*
- RIGHT** *To Anger Over Past Beatings*
- RIGHT** *To Choose To Change The Situation*
- RIGHT** *To Freedom From Fear Of Abuse*
- RIGHT** *To Request & Expect Assistance From Police And/Or Social Agencies*
- RIGHT** *To Share Her Feelings & Not Be Isolated From Others*
- RIGHT** *To Want A Better Role Model Of Communication For Her Children*
- RIGHT** *To Be Treated Like An Adult*
- RIGHT** *To Leave The Abusive Environment*
- RIGHT** *To Privacy*
- RIGHT** *To Express Her Own Thoughts & Feelings*
- RIGHT** *To Develop Her Individual Talents & Abilities*
- RIGHT** *To Legally Prosecute The Batterer*
- RIGHT** *Not To Be Perfect*

Assertive behavior is behavior which enables a person to act in her own best interest, to stand up for

herself without undue anxiety, to express her honest feelings comfortably, or to exercise her own rights without denying the rights of others.

Does A Battered Woman Have To Be Beaten, Broken And Bloody?

That's the picture that comes to mind when we hear the phrase, battered woman. Actually a woman can receive less severe abuse but still feel the same fear, pain and shame. This is what makes her battered.

Is Alcohol And Excessive Drinking The Cause Of The Battering Behavior?

There is little support for the idea that alcoholism is the cause of physical abuse; in fact, where it is a factor it seems to be used as an excuse. However, the violence seems to be more severe when alcohol is involved.

Is Battering Ever Life-Threatening?

A recent survey concluded that a woman is more likely to die at home at the hands of her batterer than by any other form of violence. Another study reported that over 80% of the women who were murdered by their husbands had called the police to their home at least once before the murder.

Does The Abuser Ever Threaten To Commit Suicide?

The abuser may threaten to commit suicide anytime, especially if he senses she may want to leave him. But he rarely follows through. This is another way he may manipulate her, through guilt, to stay with him.

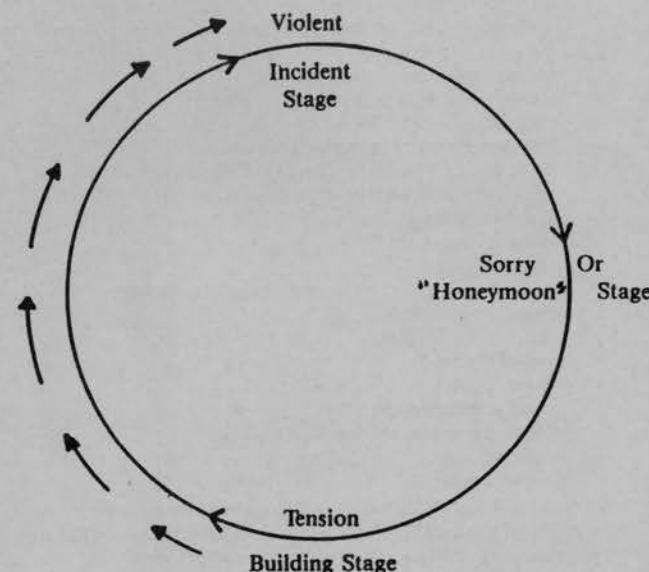
What Are The Effects Of Violence In The Home On The Children?

Whenever there is abuse or violence within the family **everyone** is affected. Sometimes the physical scars heal more quickly than the emotional ones. Children risk becoming victims of the abuser. They may also become loners because they can't talk with friends about the family secret or feel free to invite friends over. They may learn to become violent themselves as they grow older, or themselves become battered because this is what they have seen at home.

Why Does The Battered Woman Stay Where She Is?

A woman stays for many different reasons. She may feel responsible for making the marriage work; she may want her children to have a father; she may feel that somehow she has caused and deserves the beating (she is often blamed); she may feel ashamed and guilty and not want to admit she is being beaten; she may be financially and emotionally dependent upon the assailant.

WHAT IS ABUSE?



WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?

Saint Paul/Maplewood Intervention Project

435 Aldine St.

St. Paul MN 55104

645-2824 24 Hours



What Is Physical Abuse?

Physical abuse can take many different forms. The following are some of them.

The abuser has:

- pushed and shoved you.
- held you down and kept you from leaving or getting up.
- bitten you.
- kicked you.
- choked you.
- hit or punched you once, twice and/or repeatedly which may or may not have resulted in visible physical injury.
- tied or otherwise physically restrained you.
- thrown objects at you which may or may not have hit you.
- locked you out of your house.
- abandoned you in dangerous places.
- refused to help you (ex. get medical attention) when you were sick injured or pregnant.
- forced you to ride in the car when abuser is driving recklessly and endangering your life and/or the life of your children.
- pulled your hair.
- dragged you.
- pulled your arms or legs or other body parts.
- ripped your clothing.
- forced you off the road or kept you from driving.
- raped you.
- threatened you with a weapon.
- used a weapon on you.
- hit or beat you with other objects.
- stabbed you.
- burned you.

You will note that many of the above do not result in a physical injury. Physical abuse does not always result in physical injury. The atmosphere of violence and fear that these acts create is abusive and results in the emotional pain which always accompanies abuse.

What Is Sexual Abuse?

Sexual abuse can take many different forms. The following are some of them.

The abuser has:

- told anti-women jokes and/or made demeaning remarks about women (of a sexual nature).
- treated women as sex objects.
- gotten jealous, angry and/or assumed you would or were having sex with any available man (or woman).
- insisted that you dress in a more sexual way than you wanted or made demeaning remarks about how you dress.
- made demeaning remarks about your body and/or body parts.
- minimized your feelings about sex.
- berated you about your sexual history; blamed you if you were sexually abused in the past or as a child.

- criticized you sexually—ex. called you frigid etc.
- insisted on touching you sexually when you did not want to be touched—when you were alone and/or in the presence of others.
- called you a whore and a slut.
- withheld sexual affection.
- forced you to beg for sexual affection.
- forced you to strip when you did not want to—alone and/or in front of others.
- openly showed sexual interest in other women when you were in public or at home, for example while watching TV.
- had affairs with other women (often flaunting them) after agreeing not to have sex with anyone but you.
- forced you to engage in sex with him.
- forced you to have sex with others.
- forced you to watch others having sex.
- forced particular unwanted sexual acts.
- forced sex after battering.
- forced sex when you were sick or it was a danger to your health.
- forced sex with the purpose of hurting you with objects or weapons.
- committed sadistic sexual acts.
- forced you to pose for sexual photographs.
- forced you to have sex with animals.

Sexual abuse is not just forced intercourse. The above are some of the many forms which sexual abuse may take. They all demean and humiliate us, making us feel shameful and exposed.

What Is Emotional Abuse?

Emotional abuse takes on many different forms. The following are some of them.

The abuser has:

- ignored your feelings and/or belittled them.
- ridiculed or insulted women as a group calling them crazy, emotional, stupid, etc.
- withheld approval, appreciation, or affection as punishment.
- continually criticized you, calling you names, shouting at you; nothing is ever good enough no matter what you do or how hard you try.
- insulted your friends and/or family; driving them away.
- humiliated you in private or public.
- refused to socialize with you—going out with you, but then totally ignoring you or never going out with you.

- kept you from working, controlled your money, made all the decisions, demanded you seek permission to do or have anything.
- refused to work or share money.
- taken car keys or money away.
- destroyed, sold or given away things which are of importance or value to you.
- regularly threatened to leave or told you to leave.
- threatened to hurt your family and/or friends
- punished or deprived the children when he was angry at you; or treated the children specially, excluding you, when he was angry at you.
- threatened to kidnap the children if you ever left him.
- blamed you for any problems (real or perceived) with the children.
- abused pets to hurt you.
- told you about his affairs to humiliate you.
- harassed you about affairs he imagined you were having.
- manipulated you with lies or contradictions.
- manipulated you with emotions—ex. threatening to kill himself if you left him and other forms of emotional blackmail.
- told you it was your fault when he physically or sexually abused you—that you asked for it, deserved it, liked it, etc.
- denied that his behavior is abusive and/or minimized his abusiveness—calling you crazy, stupid—accusing you of making it up, not being able to handle it and so forth.

Is The Woman "To Blame" For The Abuse In The Relationship?

The batterer is always responsible for the violence. 77% of the women in a survey reported that their husband's assault upon them was not preceded by a verbal argument. There is no support for the idea that the wife who nags causes the battering. It is the batterer's own attitudes and problems that cause him to be abusive.

Do Battered Women Ever Feel Like They're Crazy?

Many men are good at manipulating women into thinking they are crazy. He may be a "nice guy" to everyone else so other people tell her how lucky she is to be married to him. When he hits her and tells her it's her fault, it's hard not to believe him since no one else makes him so angry. He may also hide things on her deliberately and then blame her for losing them. She comes to doubt her own sanity and loses track of what's "real".

WE'RE FREE. NO CHARGE.

No matter your race, color, creed,
sexual orientation, disability or
language.

And we're confidential.

You don't have to take it anymore.
Even if you've tried before and it
didn't work, ask for help again.
Take charge of your life.
Call the Police - 911.
Then call us. 645-2824.
And be safe at home.

HELP LINES

24-HOUR HELP:

Shelter: Women's Advocates ----- 227-8284
Shelter: Casa de Esperanza ----- 772-1611
St. Paul Police information ----- 291-1111
Maplewood Police information ----- 777-8191
Crime Victim Center ----- 340-5400
Women of Nations ----- 292-9487

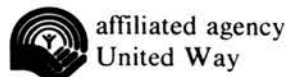


Other Services:

Order for Protection ----- 292-6680
St. Paul City Prosecutor ----- 298-5475
Maplewood City Prosecutor ----- 224-4703
Adult Detention Center ----- 292-6052
Ramsey County Jail Annex ----- 292-3698



435 Aldine Street • St. Paul, MN 55104 • (612) 645-2824



affiliated agency
United Way

Funds for this project were provided by the Minnesota
Department of Corrections through the Justice Assistance Act of 1984 as
administered by the State Planning Agency

BATTERING IS NOT LOVE — BELIEVE IT.

We know it isn't easy.
And it's confusing.
Most victims are torn between love
and common sense.
But common sense is the only safe
way to go.
Battering sometimes kills.
Sometimes in the name of Love.
But Love is not beating your brains
in.
Or making scrambled eggs of your
face.
Or turning you into an emotional
basket case.
Or threatening the kids or others
you love.
Battering is all of those things and
more:
It's using a lousy temper to frighten

you.
Or demanding to approve your
buying food and clothing, or
writing checks or making any
other kind of decision.
It's accusing you of things you've
never done — and knowing it.
Or forcing you to choose friends
as a way of pleasing.
Making you feel powerless to
choose the way you dress, what
you can say, where you can go
and with whom.
Battering is using power and control
to hurt you, make you
crawl, make you hate yourself.
Even using the threat of suicide, if
necessary.

THE ORDER FOR PROTECTION.

One important thing
we can do is help you
get an Order for Protection
from the court.
The court can keep
your abuser away and
order your partner
into a batterers' treatment
program.
It can establish temporary
custody and child
support.
You don't have to seek



a divorce for any of this
protection.
Once your abuser gets
a copy of the Order for
Protection, if he or she
harms you, threatens
you or comes into your
home — even if you
allow it — the court
order has been violated.
Call the police or sheriff
right away.

EVERY ONE SHOULD BE SAFE AT HOME

...ARE YOU?

HOME.
It should mean love. Caring.
A refuge.
It usually does.



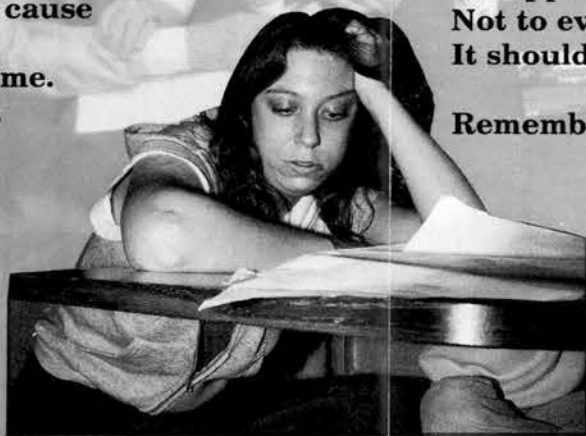
But for too many, home is just the opposite. For too many, it's the most dangerous place to be.

A place of violence.
Of battering.

Battering can happen to anyone;
But for women, battering is the leading cause of injury.
And it's a crime.
A real crime.

ARE YOU A VICTIM?

You may be asking, "What did I do wrong?"



The answer is: Nothing.
Nothing makes violence right.

You might feel embarrassed.
Ashamed.
Not wanting anyone — family, friends, anyone — to know.

DON'T BLAME YOURSELF.

You don't have to be ashamed.
But hiding doesn't help.
Neither do apologies like, "I'm sorry," or "I promise it'll never happen again."

Because it will. Again and again.
The words all too quickly become lies.

It's not just a bad temper.
It doesn't just happen.
Violence like that is planned.



It happens to a lot of people.
Not to everyone, but far too many.
It shouldn't be happening to you.

Remember, hitting you is a crime.

But just knowing all that won't make it stop.
You can stop it.

START BY KNOWING YOUR RIGHTS!

It's your right to control your life.
To be safe in your home.
To have it safe for your children.
To accept the support of friends and family.

No one can take those rights away.

STOP THE VIOLENCE! CALL THE POLICE! CALL 911.

If you've been slapped, punched or beaten...
If you've been stabbed, burned, even raped for fear of more beatings...
If a weapon's been used to hurt you or even threaten you...



Get OUT. NOW. Get away.
CALL THE POLICE! At 911.
If you do it quickly, they should come and arrest the batterer.

Then call us.
The Saint Paul Intervention Project.
645-2824.
We'll be there to help, too.



After the police leave, we'll work with you, support you and help you through the legal maze.

We're ready 24 hours a day — on hand right after an arrest. And we'll stick with you as long as you need us.



We'll help you:

Get in touch with other agencies (some of them are listed on the back of this pamphlet) that can help you — or the kids...or



Get into a support group of people going through the same thing you are — providing child care or a way to get there — or both, if you need them.

Most importantly, we'll help get you protection through the court system. (See other side — Order for Protection)

**TAKE
ONE**



Because you have struggled
so long to be heard...

**The
Women's
Meeting**

for women in abusive relationships

Call 645-2824

WHAT IS ABUSE?

It is more than physical violence. But our society is so tolerant of abusive behavior that we often do not even recognize some behavior as abusive.

If you have feelings of emotional pain, abandonment, helplessness, confusion, shame, etc., you may be suffering from abuse. For instance:

Are you the one who is always trying to be agreeable?

Do you 'give in' to protect children, pets or your personal property?

Do you have to ask permission for most everything?

Have you been humiliated, insulted, embarrassed?

Have you been called crazy, weak, or stupid?
Are you starting to believe it?

Have you been told that you are to blame for everything that goes wrong? Are you starting to believe it?

Have you been told that your wants, needs and ideas are secondary or are of no importance? Are you starting to believe it?

Have you been told you 'deserve it', you 'ask for it' or you 'must like it', otherwise you wouldn't stay? Are you starting to believe it?

Do you feel trapped, alone, hopeless?

Then THE WOMEN'S MEETING is the place for you!

Come share with women who are joining together in a safe place to talk. YOU ARE IMPORTANT!

Change IS possible!

No Charge
Child Care by Arrangement
Time and Place is Confidential

No One Deserves To Be Hit

IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OR IF YOU KNOW A VICTIM, YOU SHOULD KNOW:

Domestic violence not only affects the victim, it affects her children and everyone around them.

The victim is not to blame for someone else's violence.

It is no longer the victim's responsibility to press charges. Domestic Abuse is a crime against the state.

Victims of domestic violence need intervention in order to break the cycle of violence that hurts us all.

The victim will be shown how to work with the justice system to get what she wants; call SPIP.

There are many resources -- transportation, safe shelter, medical care, etc. -- at the victim's disposal.

There are support groups and educational groups for the victim and the batterer.



**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS
A PROBLEM THAT NO
FAMILY SHOULD HAVE
TO SOLVE ALONE**

24-Hour Help Lines

Shelter: Women's Advocates	227-8284
Shelter: Casa de Esperanza	772-1611
Police Emergency	911
St. Paul Police Information	291-1111
Transp.: Crime Victim Center	298-5531

Other Services

Ramsey County Family Court (for Order for Protection)	292-7271
St. Paul City Attorney	298-4271
Adult Detention Center	292-6050
Ramsey County Jail Annex	292-3698

Saint Paul Intervention Project
612/645-2824

For Other Information:
24-HOUR GENERAL CRISIS LINE FOR WOMEN
(TDD for hearing impaired)
(Collect calls accepted)
(612) 646-0994

Saint Paul Intervention Project
435 Aldine Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104

HITTING SOMEONE YOU LOVE IS AGAINST THE LAW

MINNESOTA CRIMINAL CODE: 629.341. Subdivision 1. Arrest....a peace officer may arrest a person anywhere without a warrant, including at the person's residence if the peace officer has probable cause to believe that the person within the preceding four hours has assaulted, threatened with a dangerous weapon, or placed in fear of immediate bodily harm his or her spouse, former spouse, or other person with whom he or she resides or has formerly resided. The arrest may be made even though the assault did not take place in the presence of the peace officer.

435 Aldine St.

Saint Paul Intervention Project
St. Paul, MN 55104

812-845-2824



What is battering?

Battering is the most common and least reported crime in America today. Two to four million women, of all races and classes, will be battered this year.

Battering is using physical force to establish control and maintain power over a person. It involves intimidation over a period of time, and may include psychological abuse, threats, harassment, humiliation, forced sexual acts, the use of weapons, and many other forms of abusive behavior. It is not just a fight between two equal partners that gets out of hand.

In Minnesota over 43,000 women are battered each year and the number is escalating!

Battering is the single major cause of injury to women, exceeding injuries caused by rapes, muggings, or even automobile accidents.



**It's Not
Just A
"Woman's
Problem"**

What can you do if someone you know is in a battering relationship?

- If she has recently been assaulted, encourage her to call the police and report the crime.
- Let her know that she is not the only woman being battered, and that no one deserves to be beaten.
- Be there as a friend; she needs to know she is not alone.
- Help or encourage her to get emergency medical help if you suspect injuries.
- Call SPIP for more information on how to help; 645-2824

How/who does it hurt?

- * Violence is learned behavior and leads to violence in the schools and streets.
- * Children experience learning disabilities and low self esteem because of family violence.
- * Children learn violence in the home as a way of coping or even showing love. They grow up to be abusers or to choose abusers as mates.
- * 80% of the inmates in Stillwater Prison grew up in violent homes.
- * Health systems are used six (6) times more often by persons experiencing family violence.
- * Once begun, battering becomes more and more severe. In Minnesota at least 12 battered women were ultimately killed in 1986 by husbands, ex-husbands or boyfriends.

It's Everyone's Problem!

Are you in a battering relationship?

You may be a battered woman if you:

- have ever been threatened, hit, kicked, shoved, or had things thrown at you by your partner.
- are frightened by your partner's temper.
- need your partner's permission before buying food or clothing, writing checks, or making other daily decisions.
- often go along with plans you don't like because you're afraid of your partner's anger.
- are often accused by your partner of things you've never done.
- make choices about activities and friends according to how your partner will react.
- feel you have no choice about what you wear, what you say, who you spend time with, or where you go.

The Saint Paul Intervention Project (SPIP):

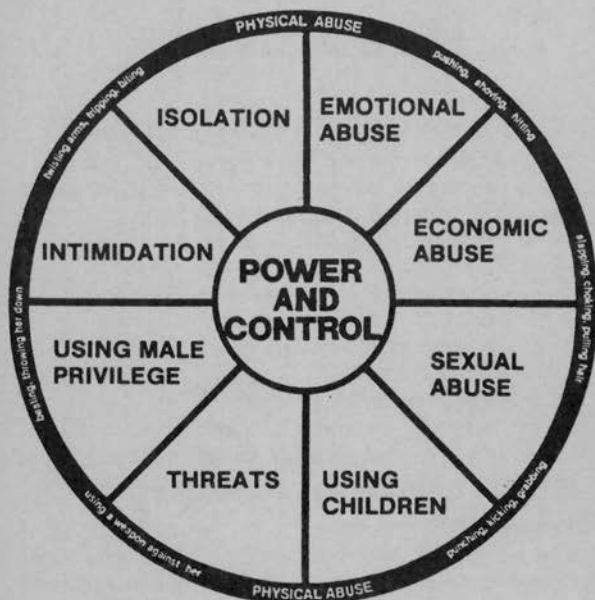
- * provides crisis intervention and follow-up support services to victims of Fifth Degree (domestic) Assault immediately after their partners have been arrested.
- * provides advocacy and support to victims of domestic assault who have not been reached before.
- * provides information on available support services to suspected domestic assault assailants immediately after arrest.
- * provides up-to-date information to the victim about her legal rights, alternatives and court procedures.
- * will assist and accompany the victim in obtaining an Order for Protection.
- * monitors assailants' court proceedings and works closely with city officials to ensure close adherence to existing laws.
- * coordinates services to victims with other St. Paul/Ramsey County agencies.
- * provides community education, speakers, audio-visual resources and education groups for battered women.
- * provides learning/service opportunities for volunteers and interns.

645-2824

If you are in a battering relationship, have a flight plan.

- Keep a list of phone numbers of friends who are reliable and who will be able to help you.
- If possible, keep ready cash on hand in case of an emergency.
- If you drive, hide an extra key for the car. You may need it for a hasty departure.
- Know the phone number of the police department if you have been hit or dial 911.
- See back of this brochure for additional numbers.

What is battering?



Battering, or the use of physical force, is part of a system of behaviors used to establish and maintain power and control over another person.

Intimidation

Putting her in fear by using looks, actions, gestures, loud voice, smashing things, destroying her property.

Isolation

Controlling what she does, who she sees and talks to, where she goes.

Emotional Abuse

Putting her down or making her feel bad about herself, calling her names. Making her think she's crazy. Playing mind games.

Economic Abuse

Trying to keep her from getting or keeping a job. Making her ask for money, giving her an allowance, taking her money.

Sexual Abuse

Making her do sexual things against her will. Physically attacking the sexual parts of her body. Treating her like a sex object.

Using Children

Making her feel guilty about the children, using the children to give messages, using visitation as a way to harass her.

Threats

Making and/or carrying out threats to do something to hurt her emotionally. Threatening to take the children, commit suicide, report her to welfare.

Using Male Privilege

Treating her like a servant. Making all the "big" decisions. Acting like the "master of the castle".

These behaviors are more powerful because they are reinforced by the threat or use of physical abuse.

For help or information, call the

Saint Paul Intervention Project
645-2824

Order for Protection

What is an Order for Protection?

An Order for Protection (OFP) is an order the court makes to protect you from domestic abuse. It may direct the person who has abused you to:

- a. stop threatening or abusing you;
- b. leave your household;
- c. stay away from where you live, go to school, or work;
- d. pay support to you and your children if legally required to do so;
- e. enter a counseling program.

An OFP may also award you temporary custody of your children and set up conditions for visitation.

Who is eligible for an Order for Protection?

You may file an OFP if you have recently been a victim of domestic violence. Domestic violence is defined as any act of abuse, including pushing, shoving, grabbing, slapping, punching, pulling hair, kicking, forcing sexual acts, or threatening with a weapon. You are eligible for an OFP if you and the person who has abused you:

- a. are married, or used to be married
- b. live together, or used to live together
- c. have a child in common
- d. are related by blood.

Under certain conditions, you may also file an OFP on behalf of your child if she or he has been physically or sexually abused.

What happens if an Order for Protection is violated?

If the abuser assaults you, threatens you, or violates the order to stay away from you, call the police (911) immediately. In some cases, they are required to make an arrest.

If the abuser doesn't follow another part of the order — for example, doesn't pay child support, doesn't attend counseling, harrasses you by phone, or doesn't abide by the child visitation order — the Women's Coalition can help you bring the case back to court.

Where to go to get an Order for Protection

For assistance in obtaining an OFP, or further information, call the

Saint Paul Intervention Project
645-2824



United Way
affiliated agency

St. Paul Intervention Project and the East Side Connections

Battle and “

By Bernice Sisson

This is the first in a series of articles on domestic assault as it relates to the East Side, and considers how Eastsiders can respond effectively in this worst blight on the community.

For the purpose of these discussions we will be considering assault as physical, emotional, and sexual violence in the home by adult partners who are living together or who have lived together. Since over 95% of assaults are committed on women, we will be discussing battered women.

It was not an exaggerated statement when former Surgeon Everett Koop called domestic violence the greatest, most severe health/social problem in this country. Let's look at some statistics to get a broader view of the seriousness of this crime.

Research indicates that wife beating results in more injuries that require medical treatment than rape, auto accidents and muggings combined. In the U.S. a woman is more likely to be assaulted, injured, raped or killed by a male partner than any other type of assailant. (In Minnesota over 20 women were killed by their partners in 1989).

An estimated four million American women are battered each year by their husbands or partners. In Minnesota, according to police reports, the Department of Corrections estimates that 63,000 domestic

assaults occur annually. In Minnesota over 9,000 women and children were in battered women's shelters in 1988 (last figures available), about 65% of the total number of requests for shelter are denied annually because of no space and about 77% of shelter requests are denied annually in the Metro area for the same reason.

That is why it is so important that women can get help through the justice system and be safe in their own homes. It is a double injustice when women who are the victims should have to flee to a shelter for safety for themselves and their children. One legal tool is called the "Order for Protection." If you are a battered woman in danger or know of someone being battered, call the Intervention Project for information at 645-2824. The Order for Protection will be explained further in a later article.

A few more statistics highlighting the terrible social and economic costs of the crime of wife beating reveal that each year more than a million women seek medical assistance for injuries caused by battering, and the FBI reports that 30% of female homicide victims are killed by their husbands or boyfriends while 6% of male homicide victims are killed by their wives or girlfriends.

In the City of St. Paul it is estimated that about half of all domestic assault calls that

police answer are from the East Side. Transfer these national and state statistics to our neighborhood level and it can be abundantly clear that as neighborhoods organize "crime watch" groups we may be missing the most prevalent and serious crime of all. Often physical and sexual abuse of children is involved. Often drugs and alcohol are involved, compounding the crimes that overflow the "closed doors" of the home.

The St. Paul Intervention Project has demonstrated that aggressive intervention by law enforcement officials, prosecutors and judges is an effective tool for preventing further violence in the home. In addition to working with the justice system, the Intervention Project advocates coordinate an array of community services for each family.

In the following articles there will be information on how volunteer advocates become involved on a neighborhood level and why the East Side needs that kind of involvement in neighborhood crime control.

In the meantime, if you are in an abusive relationship, please call the Intervention Project at 645-2824 for information and support in finding a safe way out. If you are physically assaulted — hit, kicked, bitten, punched, slapped down, or suffer any other type of physical attack including threats with weapons — call 911!

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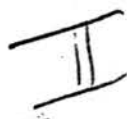
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St. Paul Intervention Project and the East Side Connections

By Bernice Sisson

Part II: "WHAT IS ABUSE?"

In response to the first article on domestic assault, some readers have asked about the dynamics of battering and abuse. As one woman said, "I don't know if I am battered; he only hit me once, but I and the children live in fear of him, and my life and my children's lives are controlled in every way." Some women have said they never thought of what was happening to them as battering or abuse. They just don't have words/labels for it, they say. So in this article we will begin the discussion of abuse.

If you are a battered or abuse woman, or wondering if you are, it might be helpful for you to answer the questions that follow. To you neighbors, friends and relatives of women whom you are worried about: please look over the questions on abuse here, and then pass on this article to the woman you are concerned about. Also, if you belong to neighborhood block clubs concerned about neighborhood crime, don't disregard probably the most prevalent crime you have in the

neighborhood. And bear in mind that frequently children are the greatest victims of all, not only as witnesses to violence and abuse against their mother (and feeling helpless to protect her) but they too are often physically and/or sexually abused by the same person.

How then does a woman know if she is abused? Abuse is more than physical violence. If you have feelings of emotional pain, abandonment, helplessness, confusion, shame, etc., you may be suffering from abuse. For instance:

—Are you the one is always trying to be agreeable?

—Do you "give in" to protect children, pets or your personal property?

—Do you have to ask permission for most everything?

—Have you been humiliated, insulted, embarrassed?

—Have you been called crazy, weak or stupid? Are you starting to believe it?

—Have you been told that you are to blame for everything that goes wrong? Are you starting to believe it?

—Have you been told that

your wants, needs and ideas are secondary or are of no importance? Are you starting to believe it?

—Have you been told you "deserve it," you "ask for it" or you "must like it," otherwise you wouldn't stay? Are you starting to believe it?

—Do you feel trapped, alone, helpless?

Then the **Women's Meeting** is the place for you! Come share with women who are joining together in a safe place to talk. You are important! Change is possible!

Call the St. Paul Intervention Office, 645-2824, for times and places of the women's meetings. There is no charge for the group meetings and there is reimbursement for child care if needed.

The next article will contain a checklist of behaviors in physical, sexual and emotional abuse. In the meantime, if you have any questions or want to talk about how to get out of a destructive, dangerous relationship, call the St. Paul Intervention Office, 645-2824. If you are being assaulted, call 911!

Saint Paul Intervention Project

435 Aldine Street Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104 Phone 645-2824

VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION

VOLUNTEER TITLE: Systems Advocate for Battered Women

LOCATION: St. Paul

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

On an on-call basis, with a beeper, to contact victims of domestic assault after police arrest or involvement. Provide crisis counseling, support, information on available legal options, referrals to human service agencies and assist with safety plans. Work cooperatively with partner to follow-up on battered women's needs. Make home visits to provide services to assault victim when assailant has been arrested and is in custody. Keep records of all calls and women contacted. Attend monthly volunteer meetings and participate in periodic trainings.

BENEFITS:

The volunteer will gain exposure and contacts with human service organizations for battered women, the criminal justice system and related community agencies. This is also an opportunity for personal growth in empathy, communication skills, listening, and assertiveness. Our volunteers are proud to be the ones who reach out, without being asked, and take pride in the knowledge that they are part of the solution to end the violence. Free training is provided on the criminal justice system, law enforcement, protection through family court and crisis intervention skills. Letters of recommendation available if requested.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Sensitivity to the needs of battered women. Ability to relate to people of diverse racial, socio-economic, lifestyle and cultural backgrounds. Desire to learn non-judgmental advocacy skills. Access to a car helpful but not a requirement.

DATES:

Volunteer positions are available year round. The minimum commitment requested is six (6) months. Volunteers share responsibility and work with a partner, usually no more than one shift per month (full weekend or four weekday evenings/nights) on a flexible rotating schedule.

Contact Pat Kasper, Volunteer Coordinator. Weekdays @ 645-2824.

5

The Battering Man

Shelter workers know that women stay in battering relationships for many different reasons:

- ★ Fear of what the batterer will do if she tries to leave; he may threaten to kill her, commit suicide, or kidnap the children.
- ★ Awareness of the serious obstacles she will face.
- ★ Lack of confidence in herself.
- ★ Emotional ties to the battering man: he is a man she once loved, might still love in spite of everything, and is someone upon whom she has come to depend.

A battered woman will often continue to feel a sense of attachment and obligation to her partner, and concern about his welfare. She tries to understand the battering man. She may stay in the hope that he will change. What about the batterer? Why does he do it? Will he change? People who have worked with and studied men who batter have made several observations which are especially important to consider.

What Do Battering Men Have In Common?

1. **Low self-esteem.** Though he may present a different picture to outsiders, within himself a battering man is likely to feel insecure and unsure of himself. If you live with a battering man, maybe you have noticed how much he either talks himself up (if he really feels so good about himself, why does he have to keep saying so?), or runs himself down. Because you live together you may see him at some of his weakest moments and he may be afraid you will use this against him. If he feels bad about

himself, getting close to you—which means letting you see his faults—is threatening, and he may get angry at you because he feels afraid.

2. **Traditional sex role expectations.** Many men and women still believe that a man should be the head of the household and have the final say in family decisions. What sets the battering man apart is that his expectations are more demanding, more rigid and unbending. He will be angry if you cannot live up to his idea of what a wife or girlfriend should be; a task which may be impossible for anyone to do. He will also feel insecure and angry if he cannot be the kind of man he thinks he should be, and he will take it out on you.

It is important to understand that these characteristics reflect long-time feelings the batterer has about himself, feelings with which *he* must come to terms. *You cannot fix them!* No matter how often you praise him, he will still feel bad about himself. No matter how much you try to live up to his expectations, it won't be good enough. No matter how hard you try to reassure him, he will still be unsure of himself. You may think that all a man needs is the love of a good woman to bring him around. Unfortunately, this is not true for the battering man.

3. **Jealous and controlling.** Jealousy at first may seem flattering. You may think that he wouldn't be jealous if he didn't care. However, the batterer's jealousy is extreme. It reflects not so much his caring but rather his insecurity and fears. What kind of caring is it when he insults you, calls you names, checks up on you constantly? What kind of caring is it when he wants to decide where you go, when you go, who you see? In the batterer, jealousy and the desire to be in control are especially dangerous because he feels he has a right to control you with physical force. He justifies his action to himself on the basis of things he thinks you have done "wrong" to make him

jealous or to defy him. "Defying" him might mean anything you do to be independent or to think for yourself—anything that is not what he wants. How can you do only what he wants and still be your own person? If you are passive and cooperative to please him, you may begin to lose your sense of yourself as a separate individual in your own right. You may get out of practice making decisions for yourself. But if you try to assert yourself, the battering man feels threatened and becomes abusive.

4. **Abusive family backgrounds.** Many battering men grew up in violent homes. They either observed their fathers abuse their mothers or were themselves victims of child abuse. These kinds of early experiences affect a child's emotional development and adult personality: they undermine basic feelings of security, safety, trust, love and belonging. A violent family background also teaches violent behavior as a response to stress and fails to provide a model of more constructive ways to deal with conflict in a relationship. Typically, the battering man has not developed positive ways to communicate his feelings and needs or the ability to make necessary compromises. His unmet needs and negative feelings from childhood are sometimes overpowering and, basically, he regards his violence as an acceptable way to express himself because he sees no alternatives.

While knowing he has this kind of background may help you understand why he does what he does, *it does not excuse him*. If you care about him, you probably feel sorry for him. You want to be understanding. You may come to see him as a victim too. Still, this does not give him the right to batter you. Being sympathetic and understanding of him as a person does not mean you must accept his abusive behavior.

5. **Blames others.** Battering men will typically blame everyone and everything but themselves for their actions. As discussed earlier, the battering man will often blame you. While you may want to try to convince him that you are not at fault, your arguments will probably not do much good if he is determined to blame you. The best you can do for yourself is to be sure that *you know* that you are not the cause of the problem. Whenever you start to doubt yourself, re-read the section on blaming the victim. Remember, *you are not responsible for his abusive behavior*.

A battering man will blame other people too—his boss, his customers or co-workers who irritate him; friends who don't come through for him; family members who make demands on him; and outsiders who try to tell him what to do. An abusive man has a lot of trouble dealing with everyday stresses. When things go wrong, his already-low sense of self-worth is threatened, and his need to feel in control is increased. He may also believe that because you are his wife or girlfriend you are supposed to make him feel better. When you can't (he won't let you), he strikes out at you. The "reasons" he gives may be all of the things that have happened to him that "make" him explode this way. But the real reason is within himself. Violence is the way he has learned to react to stress.

In some abusive relationships the battering man also has problems with alcohol or other drugs. If so, both he and the woman he batters are likely to mistakenly blame his abusive behavior on his drinking or other drug use. For example he may say: "I wouldn't have hit you if I wasn't high; I didn't know what I was doing." She may think, "He still loves me; he only gets like that when he's had too much to drink." What's wrong with these kinds of explanations? They are an attempt to explain violence away as if the man is not responsible for what he does. When you focus on the alcohol or other drugs you fail to deal directly with the problem of battering itself.

MYTHS ABOUT BATTERING

1. Battering only affects a small percentage of the population.
2. Battered women are masochistic.
3. Battered women are crazy.
4. Middle-class women are not battered as frequently or as violently as poorer women.
5. Minority women are battered more frequently than Anglos.
6. Religious beliefs will prevent battering.
7. Battered women are uneducated and have few job skills.
8. Batterers are violent in all their relationships.
9. Batterers are unsuccessful and lack resources to cope with the world.
10. Drinking causes battering.
11. Batterers are psychopathic personalities.
12. Police can protect the battered woman.
13. The batterer is not a loving partner.
14. Wife batterers also beat children.
15. Once a battered woman always a battered woman.
16. Once a batterer always a batterer.
17. Battered women deserve to be beaten.
18. Battered women can always leave.
19. Battering will cease "when we get married."
20. Children need their father even if he's violent.

CHARACTERISTICS OF BATTERED WOMEN

1. Low self image.
2. Believes the myths about battering relationships.
3. Is a traditionalist about the home -- strong urge for family units/maintenance and female sex-role stereotype.
4. Accepts responsibility for the batterer's behavior.
5. Suffers acute guilt over her abuse but denies her terror and anger in order to survive.



Battered Women

Resource Center

COMMUNITY PLANNING ORGANIZATION
333 SIBLEY STREET, RM. 503
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA, 55101
PHONE: 612-291-8323

CPO Battered Women Resource Center contains: a collection of articles; books; periodicals; legislative material that grew out of a CPO sponsored study entitled, Battered Women: The Hidden Problem. Also included are audio-tapes and a slide show from the forum entitled, Yes Virginia, There Is A Problem on the subject of abused women and family violence.

- . Materials may be used by any member of the public at CPO
- . Slide show available along with a speaker from The Women's Consortium
- . Photo-copies of material - .10¢ per page
- . Battered Women: The Hidden Problem - a bound copy of study including an annotated bibliography - \$4.00 each
- . Annotated Bibliography - \$.75 each

"I never thought just growing up, that men beat women. I had never even considered that as a possibility that I might have to deal with when I got married, and it was really scary."

"For any woman, the most dangerous and most lonely place may be her own home."
Her problem is a personal problem, but it is also a community problem.



BATTERED WOMEN:
THE HIDDEN PROBLEM

This report was undertaken in 1976 by The Community Planning Organization, Inc. at the request of Women's Advocates, a St. Paul based shelter for Women involved in abusive physical situations.

The study was conducted by a thirteen member citizen's advisory committee and included: a thorough review of the literature available on the topic; extensive interviews with local resource persons; production of a final committee report and an annotated bibliography on the issue.

The findings and problems as identified by the study speak to the issue of physical abuse to women and the need for it to be made public, visible, and credible. "Wife beating is a serious problem; it is a secret problem. It hurts the whole community and needs to be recognized".

MAIL ORDER FORM

Return to: COMMUNITY PLANNING ORGANIZATION, INC.
333 Sibley Street
St. Paul, MN. 55101

Please send:

No. of copies

_____ Battered Women: A Hidden Problem @ \$4.00 per copy (Bibliography included)

_____ Annotated Bibliography on subject @ \$.75 ea.

Note: CPO Member Agencies are entitled to one free copy of each of the above reports, upon request.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ Member Agency Non-Member

Send to:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

Please make check payable to: COMMUNITY PLANNING ORGANIZATION, INC.

6/21/76

DRAFT

Section 1. [SPOUSE ABUSE.] Subdivision 1. It is a misdemeanor for an individual to inflict bodily harm on his spouse.

Subd. 2. A peace officer may take the following course of action when he has reasonable grounds to believe that there has been recent bodily harm inflicted by one spouse upon the other, and where the bodily harm has not occurred in his presence:

1. He may make inquiry of the spouse upon whom he believes recent bodily harm has been inflicted and of other witnesses to ascertain whether there is probable danger of further bodily harm being inflicted upon the injured spouse by the other spouse; and
2. Where he has reasonable grounds to believe that there is a probable danger of further harm, he may order the other spouse to leave the premises for three hours;
3. Refusal to comply with the order or a return to the premises within three hours is a misdemeanor.

Sec. 2. [CRISIS TEAM.] When feasible, a law enforcement agency shall respond to a report of spouse abuse by dispatching a "crisis team" composed of a male officer and a female officer, trained in methods of dealing with domestic quarrels.

Sec. 3. [ALTERNATIVE REMEDIES.] In lieu of a criminal penalty, the court may stay the imposition of the penalty provided in this act conditioned on consultation with an agency selected by the court equipped to counsel and give advice in situations of marital discord, upon such conditions as the court may provide. If a spouse is a complaining party, the counseling shall be mandatory on the first offense. If neither spouse was a complaining party, the counseling shall be available on the first offense and mandatory on the second offense. This act shall not preclude the physically abused spouse from pursuing any other remedy available under law or in equity.