

8th Annual Domestic Violence Symposium: Deepening the Dialogue
WORKSHOPS – Session 3
9/8/2016

3A	<u>The Colorado Differentiated DV Offender Treatment Model: From One Size Fits All to Data-Driven Differentiation</u> – Speaker: Jesse Hansen
3B	<u>Mobile Technology Safety</u> – Speaker: Dana Lockhart
3C	<u>From Domestic Violence to Coercive Control</u> - Speaker: Lisa Aronson Fontes
3D	<u>Innovations in Family Courts: Child Custody, Child Protection and Support</u> – Speaker: Liberty Aldrich
3E	<u>Screening and Discussion of The Long Night: A Compelling Documentary about Sex Trafficking in Seattle and What to Do about It</u> – Speakers: Tim Matsui, Kelly Mangiaracina

Materials were not provided for this session by the publication deadline. If materials are provided later, they will be posted individually by the Session Number, on the materials webpage at <http://law.seattleu.edu/x20576.xml>.

Session **3A**

The Colorado Differentiated DV Offender Treatment Model

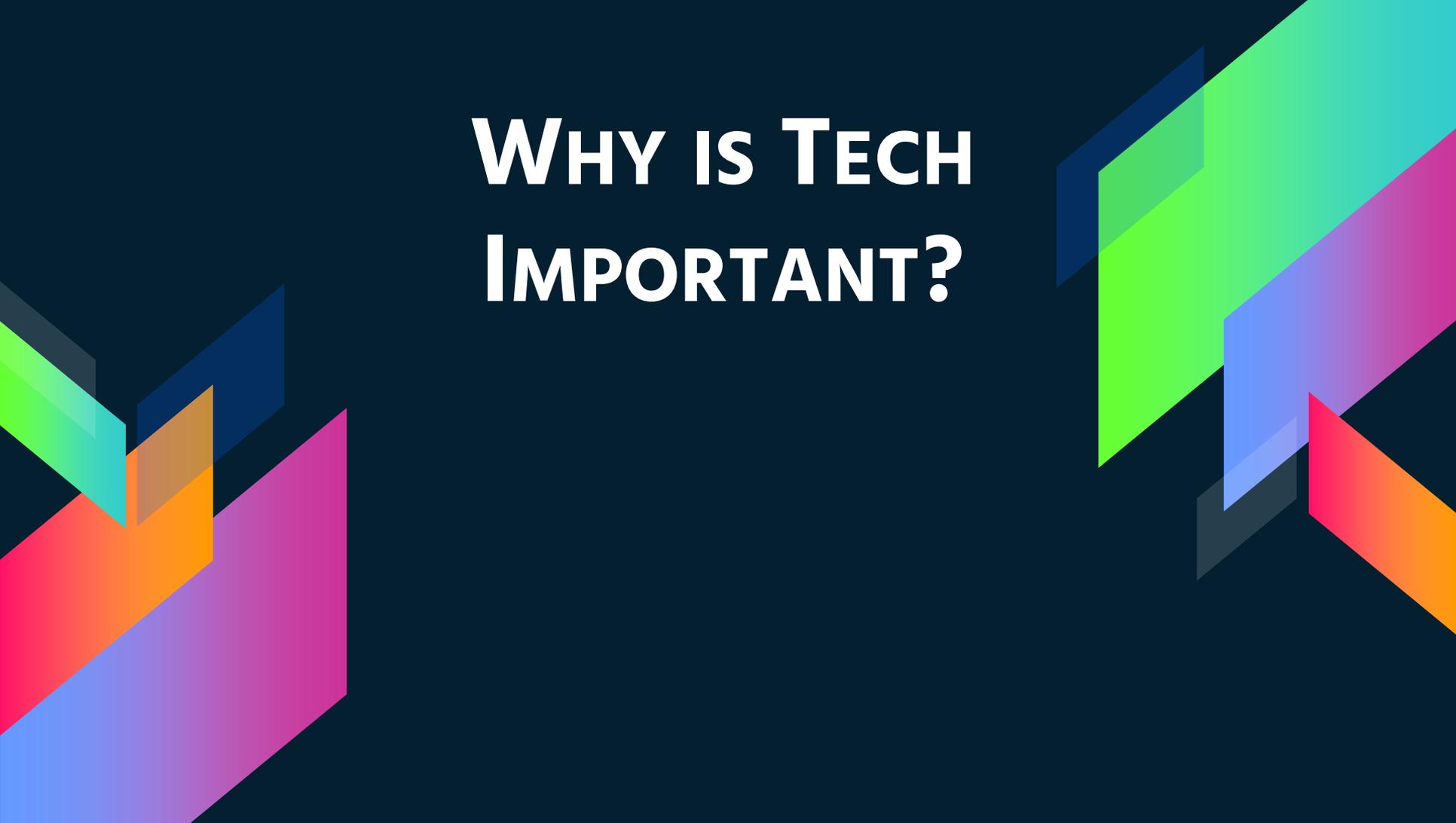
Mobile Technology As a Tool for Abuse

Learn to identify abusive behaviors &
support survivors in maintaining
safety and privacy

Dana Lockhart

Program Manager
Victim Support Team
Seattle Police Department

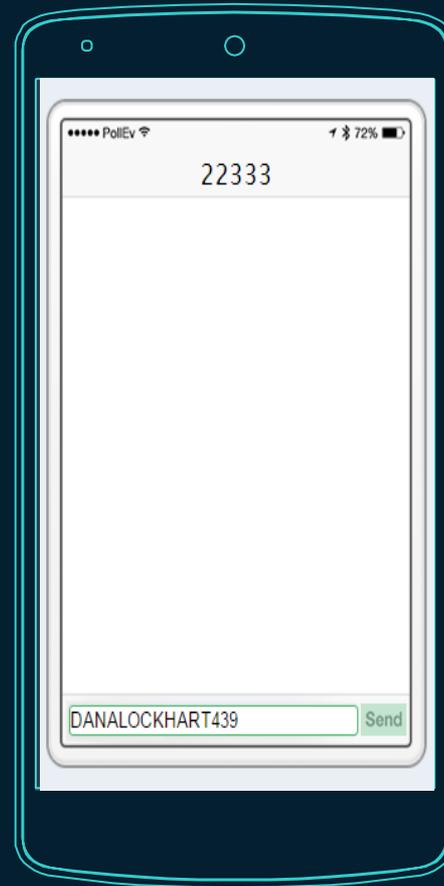
WHY IS TECH IMPORTANT?





TO: 22333

TEXT: DANALOCKHART439



Your poll will show here

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Slide Show mode

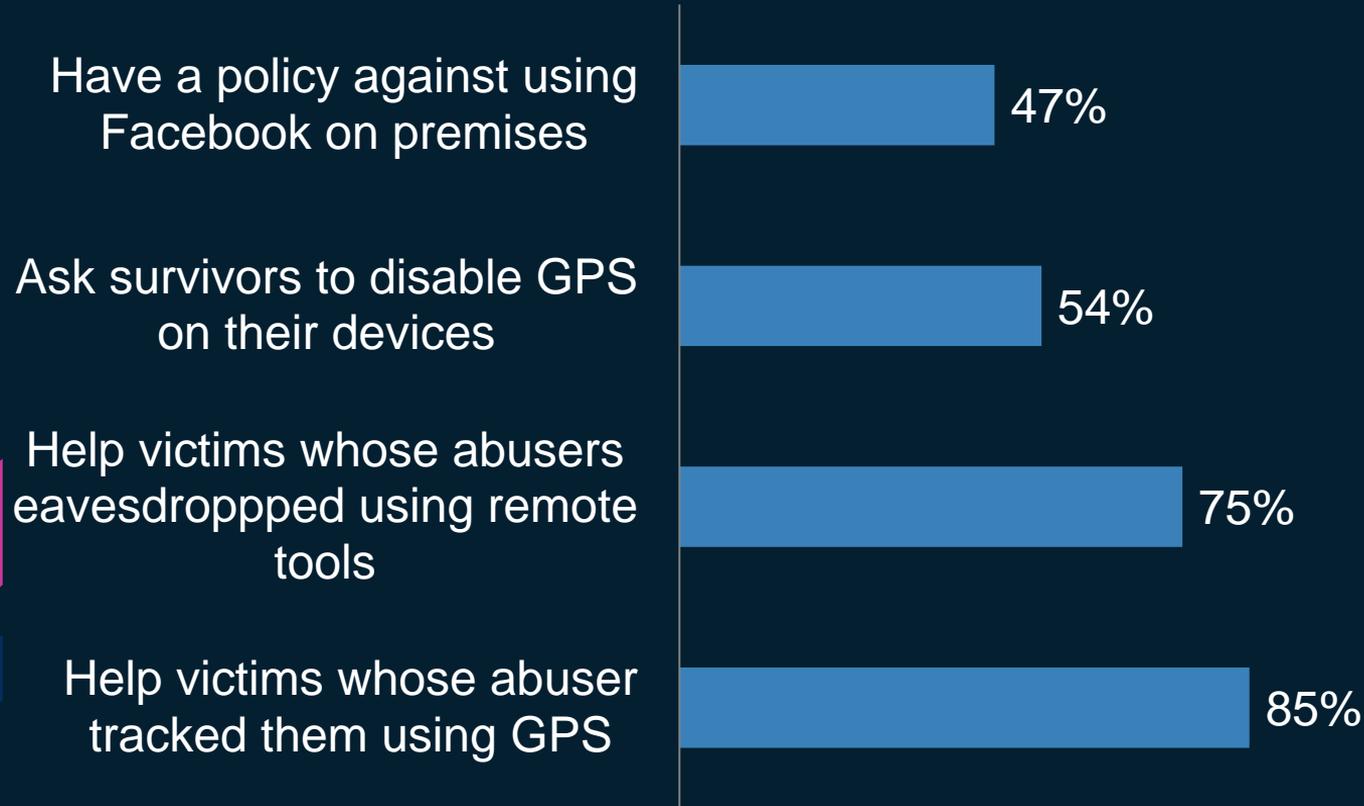
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Survivors use of Technology

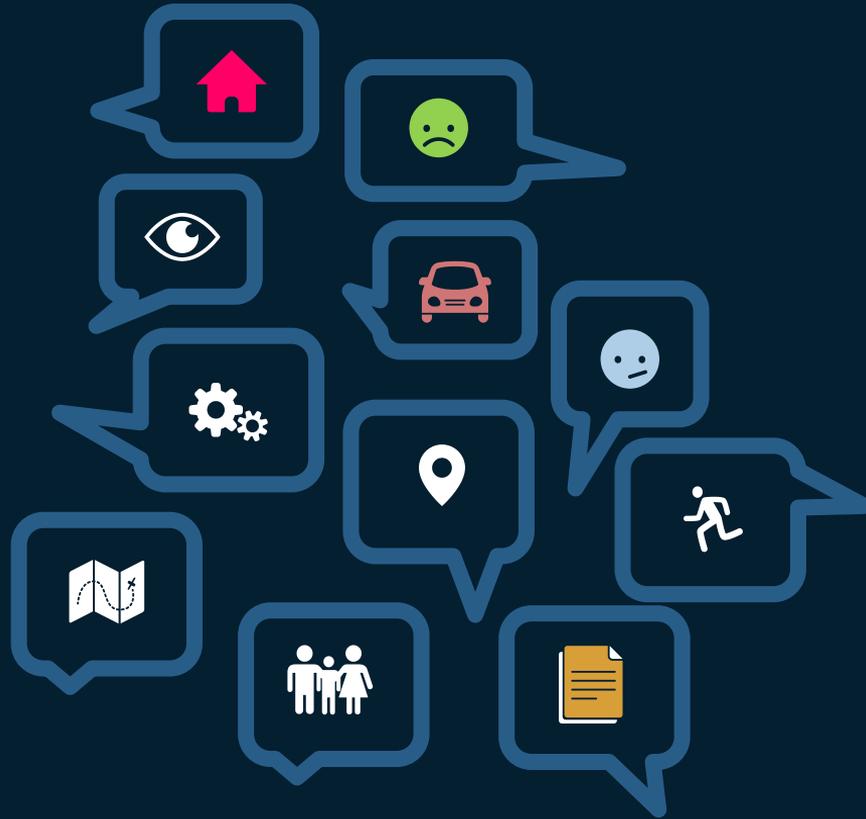
- Technology can be empowering and offer more opportunities.
- Many survivors use technology as part of their safety plan.
- Getting rid of technology is not the answer.

What are advocates concerned about?



Source: NPR Research

What are survivors concerned about?



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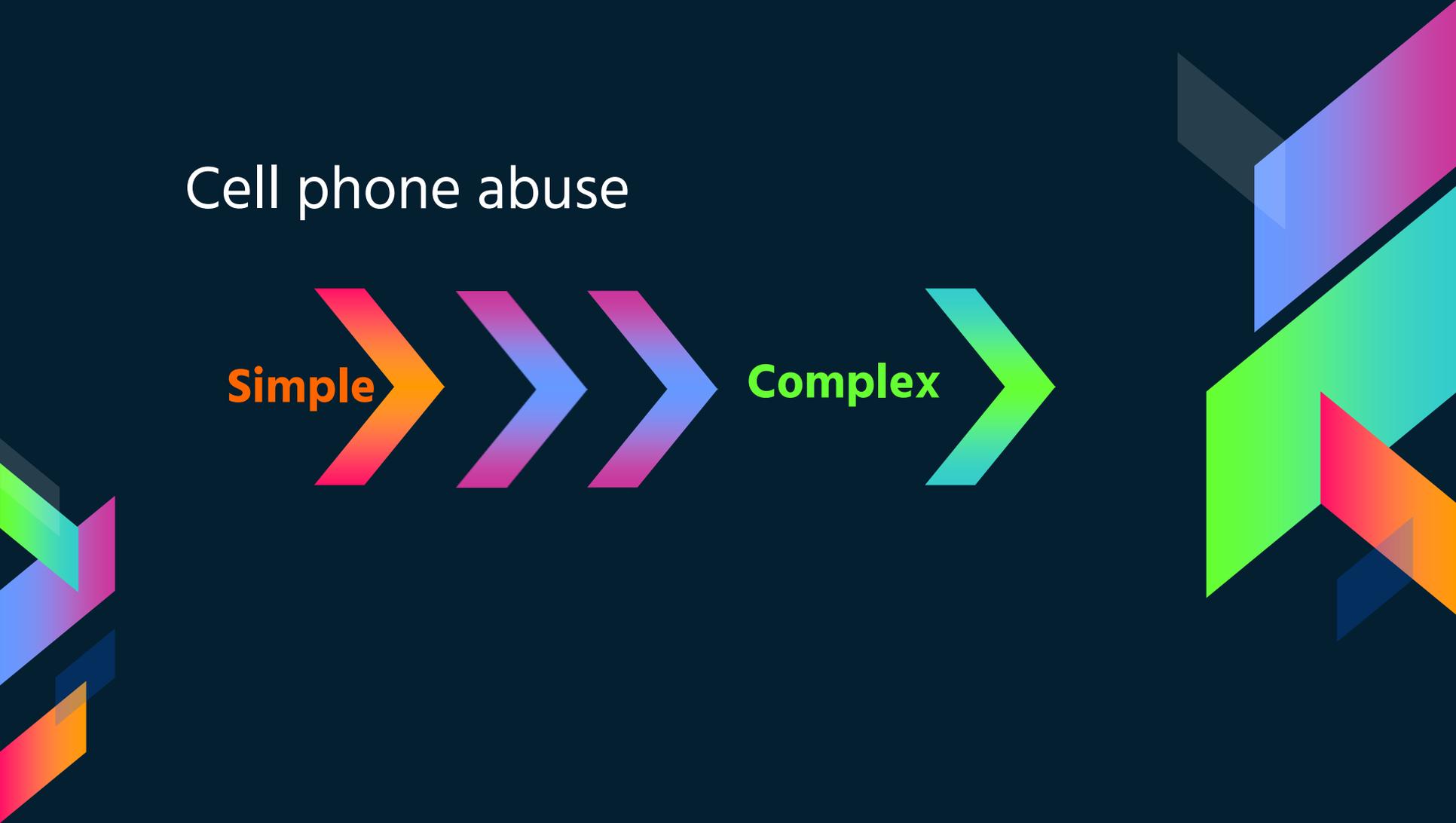
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Cell phone abuse

Simple



Complex



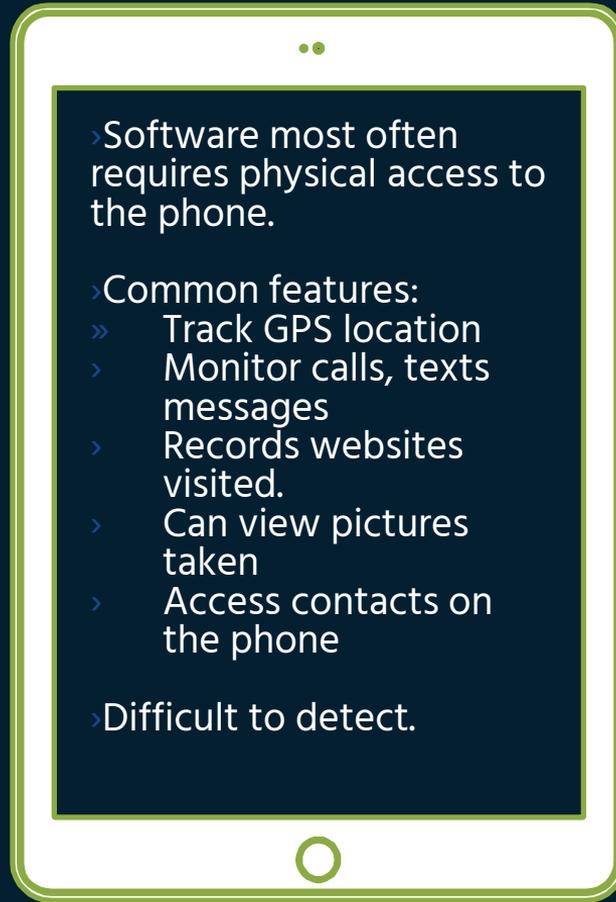
Wiretapping, webcams and monitoring devices

Introducing Manything...

Spyware/monitoring software



Spyware and monitoring software



Geo-fencing



- A variety of geo apps enable someone to keep track of someone else.
- Features often include messaging systems, geo-fencing capabilities that send out alerts, built-in sirens and more.
- Apps & sites:
Footprints,
Family Tracker,
SecuraFone,
NearParent, Lookout,
Trick or Tracker

How it works...



Detecting Cell Phone Spyware

- Usually battery drain or battery warm when not in use
- Spikes in data usage
- May take longer to shut down
- Screen may light up when not in use
- May hear clicks or sounds when on calls
- Additional incoming calls on bill that users didn't receive.
- Abuser knows things that s'he could only know if they had access to the phone.
- Perpetrator has or had physical access.

Text Messaging



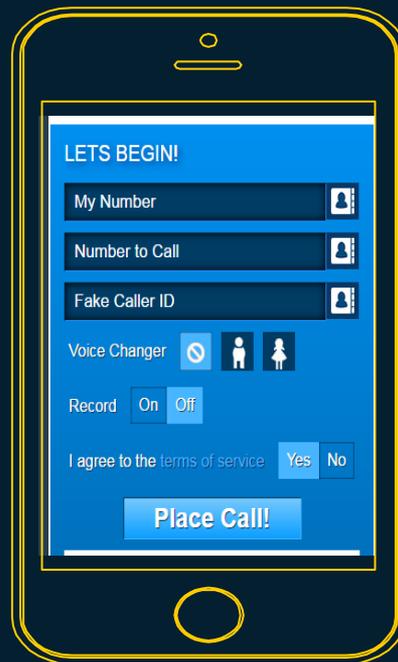
- Can be sent by phones, a PC, and even email using a 10 digit number (@tmobile.com)
- Falsified, spoofed, or sent anonymously
- Nearly all 50 states include electronic communication in stalking laws.
- Apps and services makes evidence collection harder
- ***Take a screenshot**



Caller ID Spoofing

- Gives caller ability to change number shown in ID
- Name and number is pulled directly from contacts on the phone
- Call records (of victim) even show impersonated contact. However, the call record will not be on the impersonated person's bill.
- These apps will be in the download history of the abusers phone

calleridfaker.com



Truth in Caller ID Act of 2009

Signed into law Dec. 22, 2010

Prohibits caller ID spoofing for the purposes of defrauding or otherwise causing harm.

The FCC's rules: – Prohibit any person or entity from transmitting misleading or inaccurate caller ID information with the intent to defraud, cause harm, or wrongfully obtain anything of value.

Penalty of up to \$10,000 for each violation of the rules

Remotely Control Devices

BEST
OF
2015



Location, Location, Location

- Family Locator Plans
- Joint Carrier Accounts
- [Phone locator Apps](#)
- Social based location apps
- Geotagging
- GPS



Change location settings





Give power back to the survivor

- Find the connections that create vulnerabilities
- Document threatening calls and messages
- If monitoring is suspected, limit what is said and use safer phones
- Use virtual phone numbers

[There's also an app for that...](#)





Password

[Forgot your password?](#)

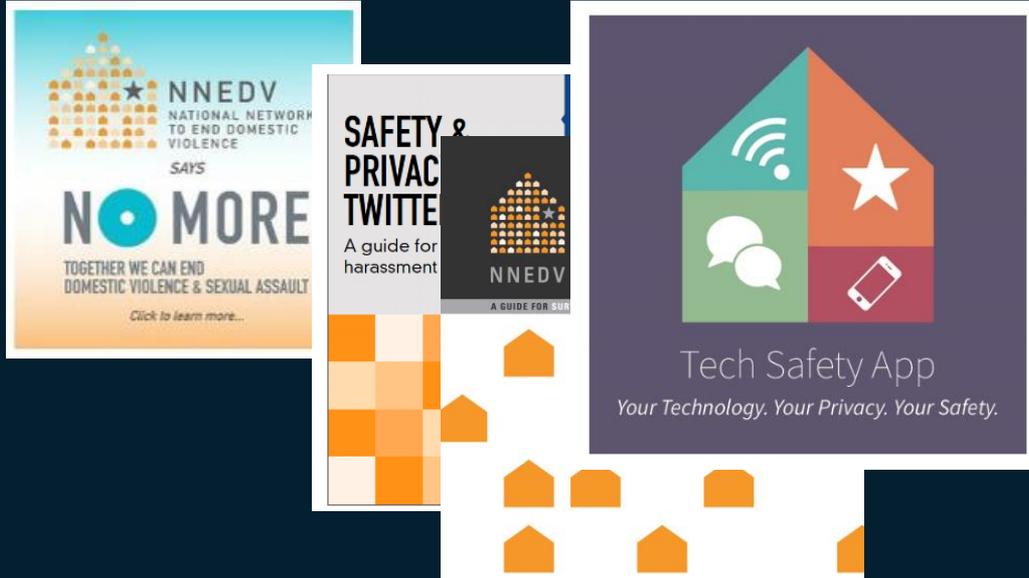
Give power back to the survivor

- Get to know the phone settings
- Limit location access
- Change passwords
- Be strategic when creating accounts or downloading new apps
- Advocacy skills!
- [Resources](#)
- [Stop. Think. Connect.](#)

More resources

><http://techsafety.org/resources/>

><http://techsafetyapp.org/>



Confronting Coercive Control in Queer Couples

06/19/2015 2:59 pm EDT



Lisa Aronson Fontes, PhD, University of Massachusetts Amherst Senior Lecturer & author, *Invisible Chains: Overcoming Coercive Control in Your Intimate Relationship*



Genny Beemyn, PhD Co-author, *The Lives of Transgender People*

Only straight, cisgender* women are isolated, manipulated, emotionally abused, stalked, micromanaged, sexually coerced, and physically abused by their partners, right?

Ah, no.

These tactics form a strategy called [coercive control](#). It does not always include physical violence. Coercive control is more than just bossiness or having a temper; it is the systematic domination and abuse of an intimate partner. People of all genders and sexual orientations can be victims or victimizers. Because coercive control most commonly involves straight, cisgender men abusing straight, cisgender women, the coercive control that can occur in same-sex couples and in relationships involving a transgender partner(s) is often invisible or dismissed as "not really abuse."

LGBTQ people have often been discriminated against by those who should be protecting them: the police, courts, and mental health and medical professionals. This history may make them hesitate to turn to such authorities for help. In addition, many service providers do not know how to help LGBTQ victims of relationship violence, or they do not have resources to meet their needs. Some therapists, clergy, and family members will use the relationship crisis to push LGBTQ individuals to question their sexual orientation or gender identity, even though the problem is in the controlling relationship rather than their identity or orientation. Additionally, few domestic violence shelters welcome trans women or [non-binary trans](#) people. Almost no shelters are open to male victims (including trans men). LGBTQ people who are not open about their sexual orientation or gender identity may feel that they have nowhere to turn. If they are being financially supported by their parents, for instance, they face the risk of being disowned when they disclose their sexual orientation or gender identity, which could render them homeless. If they are "out," they may receive little acceptance -- or be alienated from their families -- making it difficult to turn to them for emotional support.

Within LGBTQ communities, many people assume that same-sex relationships are "naturally" more equal because they lack the male/female power dynamics of different-sex relationships. As a result, when lesbian and gay victims of coercive control reach out for help, they may discover that some of their friends would prefer to ignore or deny their

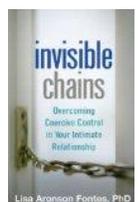
reality, acting as if only heterosexual people use violence and control in relationships. Some lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals may also feel that talking about control and violence contributes to further stereotyping of the community or is "airing dirty laundry" in public. Similarly, some trans victims of coercive control, or some cisgender victims of trans partners, may fear that denouncing the abuse will reinforce the still common belief that trans people are unstable or mentally ill.

Societal prejudice and discrimination also make LGBTQ people vulnerable to particular forms of coercive control. If the controlled person has not publicly disclosed their sexual orientation or gender identity, the abuser might exert control by threatening to "out" them to family members or to an employer. As a result, the controlled person's relationships, jobs, and [safety](#) are constantly at risk. In places where the non-biological same-sex partner does not have established legal rights, the abuser might threaten to deny the partner contact with children whom they have raised together. If the controlled person is trans, the abuser might threaten to fight for custody or seek to deny visitation rights, based on the person's gender identity. Moreover, in jurisdictions where property rights are not accorded fairly to LGBTQ partners, a controlling person might use economic threats to control their partner. Trans people may face additional controlling mechanisms in an abusive relationship. If the person is transitioning, their partner might threaten to interfere with their transition process, such as by taking away their hormones, cutting off their health insurance, or abandoning them in the midst of their surgeries. The abuser might also seek to humiliate the partner by telling them that they are "not really a woman" or "not really a man." If the trans person is non-binary, the abuser might say that they are "not trans enough." The victimizer might also seek to increase their control by telling a trans partner that "no one else will ever love you" due to their gender identity. It can be difficult for a trans person to leave a controlling and abusive relationship if they think poorly of themselves and believe that they will never find anyone else or anyone better.

When subject to further marginalization because of their race, class, immigration status, a disability, or other concerns, LGBTQ victims of coercive control face additional obstacles to escaping from these dominating relationships. As two people who have been subject to coercive control in very different kinds of relationships, we know how hard it can be to break away. Although we have seen a few [excellent resources](#) available for people in LGBTQ relationships that involve violence, we know of only one book that directly discusses coercive control in LGBTQ relationships: [Invisible Chains: Overcoming Coercive Control in Your Intimate Relationship](#). We hope to further the discussion to include all people who may be subject to coercive control relationships, whether or not physical violence is present.

* Cisgender refers to individuals who identify with the gender that was assigned to them at birth. In other words, they are not transgender.

[Invisible Chains: Overcoming Coercive Control in Your Intimate Relationship](#)





Is Your Relationship Making You Sick?

Being controlled and abused by a partner leads to physical illness.

Isolated. Degraded. Manipulated. Threatened. Stalked. And sometimes subject to physical or sexual violence. It's no wonder some people's relationships make them sick.

Coercive control is a strategy some people use to dominate their intimate partners—mostly men over women^{1,2}. It's not just bossiness—it's domination. Over time, people who are treated this way lose their autonomy, self-esteem and sense of well-being. Between the direct acts of control and possibly violence, people live in fear of doing anything that might anger their partners. The distress is ongoing, even during periods that seem calmer. Additionally, some controlling people deliberately weaken their partners physically: forcing them to miss sleep, restricting their access to food and medical care, obligating unwanted pregnancies, pushing them to use alcohol or drugs, and beating or sexually assaulting them. In England, recently, a man was convicted of coercive control and domestic violence; he obligated his wife to run on a treadmill and prevented her from eating anything other than beets and tuna fish for weeks on end, all in an attempt to make her look "hotter."

Here are examples of controlling people directly interfering with their partners' health:

- Gita's husband would not let her go anywhere unaccompanied. He insisted on sitting in on her medical appointments, explaining to the clinic staff that this was "cultural."
- Cindy's boyfriend insulted her appearance and whittled away at her self-esteem. She hated to have anyone look at her and could barely stand to see herself in the mirror. Cindy developed an eating disorder—binging in secret but hardly eating anything around others.
- Sam's boyfriend turned him on to an exciting life of "clubbing" and drugs. When Sam grew tired of the late nights and said he wanted to go to college, his boyfriend told him to get off his high horse and insisted they continue to use drugs together.
- Shanique's wife made her cancel her counseling appointment, saying she was disloyal for wanting to tell others about their private matters.

- When Grace, 16, attended a routine checkup, her provider noticed that her breasts and arms were bruised. Grace said her boyfriend did it and it was “nothing.” The provider was alarmed but didn’t quite know what to ask to determine if Grace was safe.
- The medical staff noticed that Carmen had to check with her boyfriend about “everything”—which exams they’d give her, where she should pick up her prescriptions, what medicines she should take, and referrals to specialists. They heard her explaining to him on her phone from the waiting room that she was delayed at the doctor’s and would be home soon. They saw her snap a photo of the waiting room, as if to prove her whereabouts.
- Janelle's husband severely restricted her movements but was often out late at night with no explanation. He refused to let her use contraceptives and sometimes "inspected" her vagina, looking for "signs" that she was unfaithful. She was distraught when her medical provider diagnosed her with herpes and syphilis, which her husband had apparently contracted and given to her.
- Tammy was transitioning to life as a woman, taking hormones and engaging in surgeries to make her appearance more in keeping with how she felt inside. Tammy depended on her boyfriend to pay for the medications and procedures. Occasionally he'd hide Tammy's medication as a "punishment" when he felt Tammy had not been sufficiently submissive. Stopping the hormones cold turkey in this way made Tammy feel moody and sick.

People whose partners abuse them live with near constant anxiety and fear: this also causes physical changes. Victims of coercive control frequently experience medical problems, including heart trouble, non-specific head, back, and stomach pains, and difficulty sleeping and eating. Often, patients don’t realize their relationship is the cause of their ailments. Of course, being controlled by their partner can also contribute to psychological symptoms such as depression, anxiety, substance abuse and suicidality. Providers sometimes prescribe medication, tests, and referrals to specialists for a problem that has roots in the patients' intimate relationship.



Liz Bannish, with permission

Physical violence and coercive control reinforce each other. Even minor acts of physical violence make it easier to control a partner and intensify the effects of insults and threats. Similarly, people who feel entrapped and isolated become more afraid of physical blows. The abuser uses whichever tool seems to make the most sense at a given moment, including loving acts, to make the partner more compliant.

“Sex on demand” is a common rule in coercive control relationships. A victim who tries to decline sex may be accused of not loving her partner, or cheating on him, or she may simply be pushed until she gives in. If the partner uses physical force to get sex even once, the victim knows she has no real choice.

The line between violence and safety can be especially blurry during sex. If an abuser insists on sexual activities that a woman has said she does not want, or he handles her sexually in a way she has said she does not want, or he gets her drunk or high so she will do things she does not want, he is victimizing her sexually. Often, a woman gives her partner the benefit of the doubt if the painful acts occur during sex. She decides to define the actions as passion rather than violence. In this way, she avoids a risky confrontation.

Often people who use coercive control against their partners go out of their way to seem charming and helpful to others. The person being controlled struggles to keep up appearances—afraid to speak about what is really going on in the relationship. Victims tend to blame themselves. If only she could “be better,” she thinks, maybe her partner wouldn’t degrade or hurt her. If she tries to end the relationship or demands changes, the threats escalate.

What can be done? Coercive control can be hard to recognize. It is important to take stock of the ways you are being controlled. Sometimes, abusers can change. However, more commonly, the abuser’s grip tightens over time and the person being controlled grows to be less and less free. Domestic violence advocates help people who are being controlled develop safety plans, even if they are not physically abused and choose to remain in the relationship. It is important to remember that physical, psychological, and social recovery is possible. Relationships can make people stronger; no one should have to stay in a relationship that makes them sick.

¹For information on Coercive Control in same sex relationships click [here](#).

²Those who wish to claim that women are just as likely to abuse and coercively control men are urged to read this article: Stark, E. (2010). Do violent acts equal abuse? Resolving the gender parity/Asymmetry dilemma. *Sex Roles*, 62, 201-211.

For more information on Coercive Control, please check out **[Invisible Chains: Overcoming Coercive Control in Your Intimate Relationship](#)**.

Lisa Aronson Fontes, Ph.D., is a senior lecturer at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and the author of *Invisible Chains: Overcoming Coercive Control in Your Intimate Relationship*.



Lisa Aronson Fontes Ph.D.

Posted Feb 09, 2016

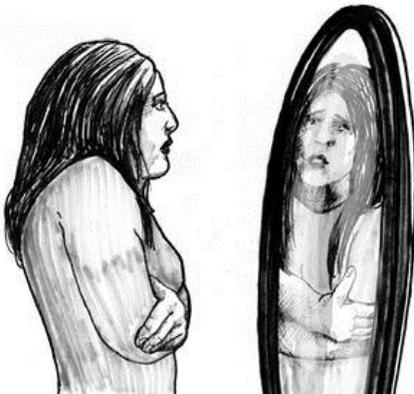
Psychology Today

Erased by Your Partner: Stories of "Perspecticide"

Disoriented, dazed, and confused by a controlling relationship? Read on!

Living with an abusive and controlling partner can feel like living in a cult. Except lonelier. Victims' viewpoints, desires and opinions may fade as they are overwhelmed by the abusers'. Over time, victims lose a sense that they even have a right to their own perspectives. This is called **perspecticide**—the abuse-related incapacity to know what you know ([Stark, 2007](#)). Perspecticide is often part of a strategy of Coercive Control that may also include manipulation, stalking, and physical abuse.

Deciding how you should spend your time—Abusers make their partners narrow their worlds. Once isolated, it is easy to lose one's sense of self.



- Doug insisted that Val watch him play video games rather than doing what she wanted. He demanded that he be the center of her attention at all times. Gradually she accepted this as an obligation.
- Corey's husband only "allowed" her to socialize along with him, with other couples. He did not permit her to go leave the house without him, even to shop for food.
- TeyShawn's boyfriend, Angelo, grew so angry whenever he tried speaking on the phone or seeing friends or family that TeyShawn ended up severely curtailing his social life. It just wasn't worth the hassle.

Micromanaging—Abusers insist on controlling minute aspects of their partners' lives. Over time, victims internalize the rules and forget what life was like when they were freer to make their own choices.

- Herman drew up an extensive chores chart and insisted that Marta keep a detailed log of her activities.
- Ken gave his partner, Steve, a list of expectations for his diet, workout routine, and grooming, and implied that their relationship would be over if he did not comply.
- Darnell expected Sara to dress modestly when outside the home but insisted that she dress sexy when they were alone together. He told her to stop speaking to the cat, reading magazines, or sleeping on her back. He chose her makeup, dictated her bedtime, and weighed her daily. He meticulously controlled the way their house was organized, down to how towels were folded and food stored on the shelves. To avoid explosive conflict, Sara followed Darnell's demands and began to them as "normal."

Defining you—Abusers make their partners feel badly about themselves. Because they are isolated, people victimized by perspectivecide begin to believe the negative descriptions of them and lose self-esteem.

- Imani's husband told her repeatedly that she was a gloomy, depressed person by nature. He told her she was selfish to ask for changes in their marriage since she would never be happy anyway. Over time, she stopped asking.
- Lori's boyfriend told her she was oversexed and he needed to keep an eye on her or she'd be out of control. He had sex with her at least once on most days, which was more than she wanted, but he told her it was what he needed to do to keep her "honest." Over time, she stopped protesting the way he monitored and forced himself on her. She accepted the idea that the sex was "for her own good."
- Clarice's husband, Dre, did not have a job for the first decade of their marriage. Clarice worked long days and when she returned home he berated her for "choosing work over family." In front of the children, he defined her as cold, unloving and nonmaternal. Clarice constantly felt obliged to prove that she was a good mother. The children joined their father in blaming Clarice for "not being around much," as if she was making a deliberate choice to be out of the home for long stretches. In the evening, sometimes Dre would take away Clarice's phone saying, "Now you're going to have to pay attention to us."

Setting the terms of life in a couple—Abusive partners create the expectations. The abuser demands certain acts as proof of love and over time, the person being victimized gives in.

- Kelly's husband insisted that they share a toothbrush and that they use the same water or wine glass at all meals. He couldn't seem to tolerate her having anything that was hers alone. Kelly dreamed of being able to close the door when she showered but her husband wanted to be able to see her at all times.
- Lily pushed her boyfriend to share all his social media and email passwords and when he refused, she secretly installed a keystroke logger so she could access them against his will. When he found out and confronted her, she replied, "Loving couples keep no secrets." He gave up on the idea of Internet privacy.
- Karen told Carmen that she should never say "no" to her; pleasing her should be her number one and only priority. Carmen tried hard to follow this rule, and grew ashamed when she had longings of her own.

People who are subjected to perspectivecide often blame themselves as they feel despairing and disoriented. It can be hard for them to figure out exactly what's wrong. Controlling partners serve as a filter for the outside world, gradually forcing their victims to lose the support of family, friends, and coworkers. Isolated and controlled in this way, victims lose self-esteem and have trouble remembering what they once thought, felt, and believed.

For more information on how to recognize perspectivecide and reclaim your sense of self after a controlling relationship, please check out by book, [Invisible Chains: Overcoming Coercive Control in Your Intimate Relationship](#) (2015).

*If you don't like the words "victim" and "abuser," feel free to substitute terms that you prefer.

Lisa Aronson Fontes, Ph.D., is a senior lecturer at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and the author of *Invisible Chains: Overcoming Coercive Control in Your Intimate Relationship*.

Teens Trapped by Coercive Control



Lisa Aronson Fontes, PhD, University of Massachusetts Amherst Senior Lecturer & author, *Invisible Chains: Overcoming Coercive Control in Your Intimate Relationship*

Posted: 08/28/2015 2:08 pm EDT Updated: 08/28/2015 2:59 pm EDT

Sometimes teen romance can be downright dangerous. Early relationships can be traps for young people, spoiling months or years of their lives and setting the pattern for future coupling.

A crush can turn soul-crushing if it includes sexual assault, domestic violence, or **coercive control**. Maybe you're not familiar with that last term. Coercive Control describes a strategy of domination through isolation, manipulation, verbal abuse, sexual coercion, and sometimes physical violence. Coercive control exists in some adult as well as some teenage relationships. Most commonly, men control women in this way, but **people of all genders and orientations can be victims or victimizers**. Here are signs to look for, if you're worried about a teenager's relationship.

- 1) Isolation:** Is the teen spending less time with friends and family? Has the teen dropped out of much-loved activities? A certain degree of wanting to live on cloud nine alone together is to be expected in a new relationship. However, sometimes a controlling teenager deliberately isolates his girlfriend (or a girl he's hooking up with) by monopolizing her time and badmouthing her family and friends. He may insist that she stop hanging out with certain people. He may grow angry if she chooses to see others instead of him, so she cuts off her contacts to keep the peace. Once young people lose close touch with their circle of friends, they become even more dependent on their romantic partners for support and companionship.
- 2) Cyberstalking and Monitoring:** Most teens today use cell phones or computers regularly, providing opportunities for controlling partners to cyberstalk and harass. Some abusive teens will almost constantly text, call, or instant message their partners when they're not together. If the abuser cannot detect a girl's whereabouts through technology, he may track her down in person or by texting her friends. Technology allows an abuser's reach to extend even into his victim's parents' house, where he may insist on speaking with her, texting her, or chatting with her for hours on end. Not infrequently, parents think their adolescent children are asleep while the teens are busy chatting or texting in their rooms. I have known teens whose boyfriends insisted that a webcam be on or a phone connection be open at all times when they are not in the same room. While this is extreme, frequent monitoring through technology is not unusual

among teens and young adults. A teen who grabs and looks through another teen's cell phone is showing worrisome signs of control.

- 3) **Threats:** Healthy relationships do not include threats or punishment. Because they don't have a lot of relationship experience, it can be difficult for teens to determine when others are being unreasonable. Teen boys often threaten girls overtly or covertly with breaking up, humiliation, or even physical violence. Like adults, when teens punch or kick walls, smash things, drive too fast, threaten suicide, or physically fight with others, they are conveying their capacity for violence.
- 4) **Cyberthreats:** Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, [Ask.fm](https://ask.fm/), and similar sites can all be used to threaten, express ownership over, or punish a partner or ex-partner. These communications can be hard to document and extremely frightening, as when a boy sends a picture of a bloody knife over Snapchat to his ex-girlfriend and the image is set to dissolve in seconds. Or when a girl anonymously posts humiliating information about her exboyfriend on Ask.fm.
- 5) **Sexual Coercion:** Controlling teens use public displays of affection to assert ownership and dominance. Abusive teens often push girls to engage in unwanted sexual activities or to have sex without protection. A controlling teen may encourage a girl to drink or get high so she'll have less of an ability to resist his advances. Of course, I'm not referring to situations where the young woman is happy to participate. I'm referring to situations where she feels that she cannot say "no," or where she has said "no" and he pushes her to go along with it anyway. This is sexual coercion, and--depending on the



Drawing by Liz Bannish

circumstances--it may be rape or another crime. As we have seen in the Saint Paul's School rape case, sexual coercion can have dire consequences for all involved.

- 6) **Circulating Rumors and Images:** Many teens care deeply about their reputations. Teens control their partners through spreading or threatening to spread rumors about them. The information does not have to be true to be damaging. Teen boys often press their girlfriends for naked photos or videos. It is not unusual for boys to circulate these photos among their friends or send them to a wide group as a form of ownership or revenge. Circulating a naked picture of a person under 18 is a serious legal offense.

- 7) **Physical Domination and Abuse:** Some adolescents use their size and strength to assert their power. A teenager might tickle a girl or wrestle with her, continuing to roughhouse even when she asks him to stop and is clearly distressed. He might restrain her by holding her down or grabbing her wrists, and then mock her if she becomes

upset. A controlling young man might slap a girl, even in public, and then define his actions as "just messing with you." A controlling boy might grab, push, hit, pinch, or even bite a girl as a threat or punishment, or just to show "who's boss." However he defines it, if the person being hurt does not desire the actions or is intimidated by them, then they are abuse. Once the violence has begun, it can become a routine part of the relationship.

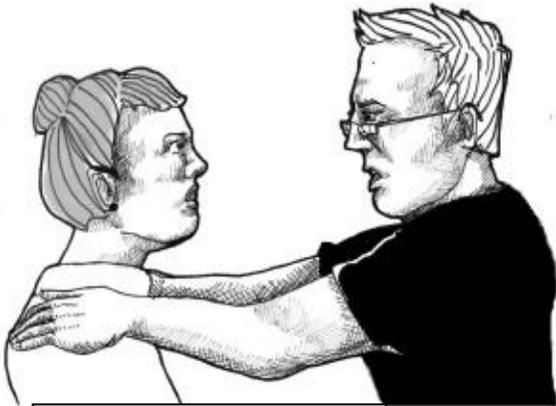
Coercive Control is tricky because many of the behaviors can be concealed in a wrapper of "love." For instance, "I want to know what you are doing at all times because I worry about you." Or, "If you really loved me, you'd have sex with me now." Or, "Don't listen to your parents. They don't understand you like I do." A young person may be confused by **control that masquerades as love**. It feels like control but he says it's love--which is it? The first step in **helping people free themselves** from a relationship trap is to break their isolation. The second step is to help them identify the problem.

For more information about Coercive Control, including a chapter dedicated entirely to teen relationships, please see the book: **[Invisible Chains: Overcoming Coercive Control in Your Intimate Relationship](#)**.



When Relationship Abuse Is Hard to Recognize

Signs of coercive control are hard to spot: support and information will help. Posted Aug 26, 2015 on PsychologyToday.com



Drawing: Liz Bannish

grow anxious and afraid. Coercive control strips away their independence, sense of self and basic rights, such as the right to make decisions about their own time, friends, and appearance.

Isolation. Threats. Humiliation. Sometimes even physical abuse. These are the weapons of coercive control, a strategy used by some people against their intimate partners. A relationship that should involve loving support ends up as a trap designed for domination. Although coercive control can show up in a variety of relationships, the most common situation is where a man uses coercive control against his wife or girlfriend. However, people of any gender and orientation can be victims or victimizers. People subject to coercive control

Many men who use coercive control also abuse their partners physically or sexually, but some use coercive control without physical violence. Outsiders may not be able to see the signs of coercive control in a couple; those who use it are often quite charming.

Do you know someone who is being controlled in this way? Do you wonder if your relationship is too controlling? Here's a [checklist](#) from my book, *Invisible Chains: Overcoming Coercive Control in Your Intimate Relationship*.

Victims of coercive control often feel like hostages. Over time being grilled, criticized, stalked and monitored may come to seem routine and inescapable. Victims often blame themselves as they feel despairing and disoriented. It's easy for a person in this position to lose confidence and accept their partner's view of reality. They may feel confused as they are told again and again that they themselves have triggered their partner's behaviors by doing something wrong. At the same time, to keep the peace, victims may suppress their own desires, silence their voices, and detach from loved ones. Unfortunately, victims typically do not see the connection between their partner's control

and their own isolation until time has passed. Losing self-confidence and close relationships at the same time can be paralyzing.

People who get caught in the web of a controlling person are no different from others. They just have the bad luck to become involved with an abuser at a time when they are especially vulnerable. Typically, an abuser will lavish attention on a woman at the beginning of the relationship. Over time, he becomes jealous, monitors her whereabouts, and restricts her interactions with others. His partner thinks the original “helpful man” is the “real” him, and if she does things right, he’ll go back to being wonderful again. At times he may indeed act loving, if this seems like the best way to maintain his control. Loving acts become another controlling tactic.

Once a controlling man has caught a woman in his web, he will do everything he can to prolong the relationship. Sometimes he will threaten, stalk, assault or even murder her if she leaves or he suspects she’s trying to leave. For this reason, even if there is no physical violence it is important for a person who is being controlled to contact a domestic violence agency and devise a safety plan.



Drawing: Liz Bannish

Only a couple of decades ago, society named the problems of sexual harassment, dating violence, marital rape, and stalking. The problem of coercive control needs to be similarly named and recognized, so we can begin to address it. We all need to learn more about coercive control, so we can offer the right kinds of support and not allow victims to become isolated.

Interested in learning more?
Check out my book: *Invisible Chains: Overcoming Coercive Control in Your Intimate Relationship*.

* If you don’t like the word “victim,” feel free to substitute “survivor” or another term that you prefer.

Improving the Family/Juvenile Courts

Innovations in Responding to Domestic Violence, Child Welfare,
Trafficking and Child Support

LIBERTY ALDRICH
ALDRICHL@COURTINNOVATION.ORG



Overview

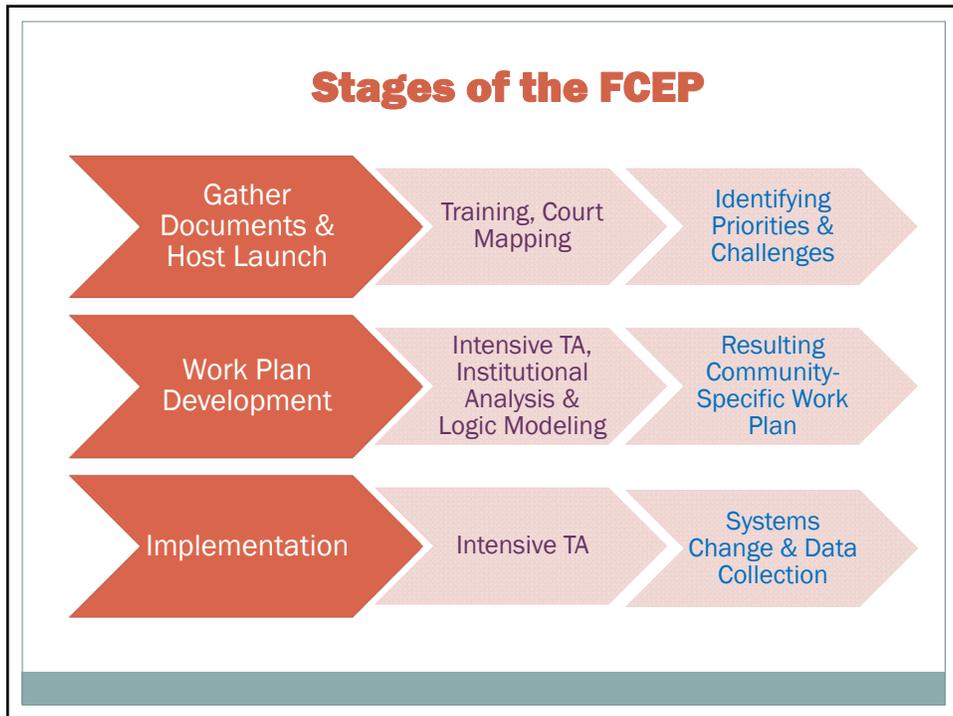
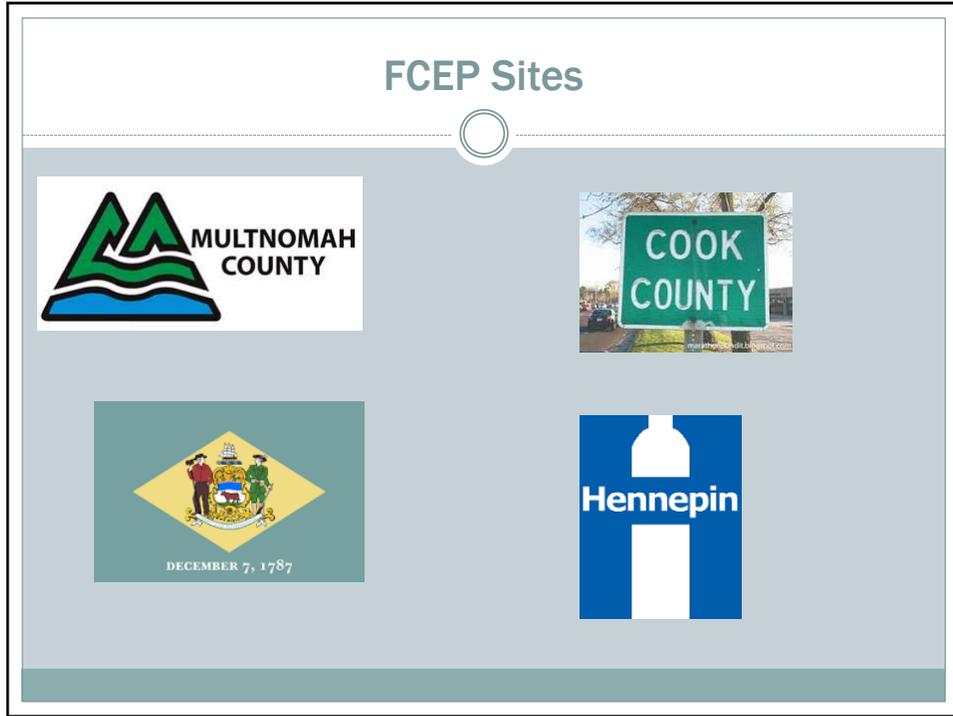
- Improving Court Response to Requests for Child-related Relief in Cases that Involve Domestic Violence
- Human Trafficking Initiatives in the Family Court
- Addressing Infant Mental Health in Child Protective Cases
- Improving Child Support Processes

What is the Family Court Enhancement Project?



FCEP Project Partners

- Coordinated by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, national partners include:
- Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice (OVW)
- Battered Women's Justice Project (BWJP)
- National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice
- Center for Court Innovation (CCI)
- National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)



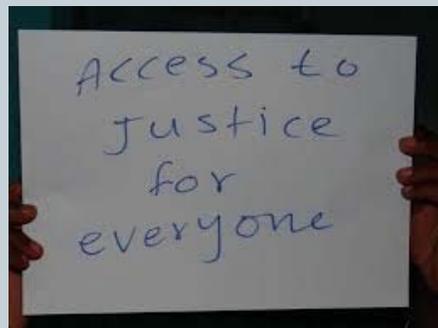
FCEP Values

Safety and well being of children and parents



FCEP Values

Access to justice



FCEP Values

Due process



Happy National
Due Process Day
Honoring every American's right to a fair trial

The graphic features a blue background with white stars and a red and white striped diagonal, reminiscent of the American flag. The text is white and centered.

FCEP Values

Accountability and transparency



Transparency
Not Just A Catchword

The graphic shows a stethoscope on a light blue background. The word 'Transparency' is written on the stethoscope's tubing, and the phrase 'Not Just A Catchword' is written below it.

FCEP Cook County: Long Term Objectives

Decision-makers (including judicial officers, professionals, and parties) in the DVD and DRD have the necessary information to identify domestic violence and to account for the nature, context, and implications of the violence in their substantive and procedural decision-making regarding child-related relief.

FCEP Multnomah County: Long Term Objectives

- Litigants will have an enhanced ability to participate in custody and parenting time proceedings in which domestic violence (DV) is a presenting issue.
- Decision makers (a term which includes the panoply of professionals affecting the path of litigation in DV cases) will have increased capacity to make informed recommendations and decisions regarding parenting time and custody in DV cases.
- DV Victims, and the community-at-large, will report improved confidence in the fairness and respectfulness of family court proceedings that involve domestic violence.

FCEP Delaware: Long Term Objectives

- A Courthouse and court processes that facilitate safe and prompt custody determinations whether initiated through a PFA or a custody petition
- Orders made in PFA proceedings are responsive to safety considerations, and include custody determinations, as appropriate.
- Custody orders made in Family Court are appropriately responsive to Best Interest Factors, including domestic violence and parenting capacity.
- Multidisciplinary systemic approach to identify and address DV in all cases.

FCEP Hennepin County: Long Term Objectives

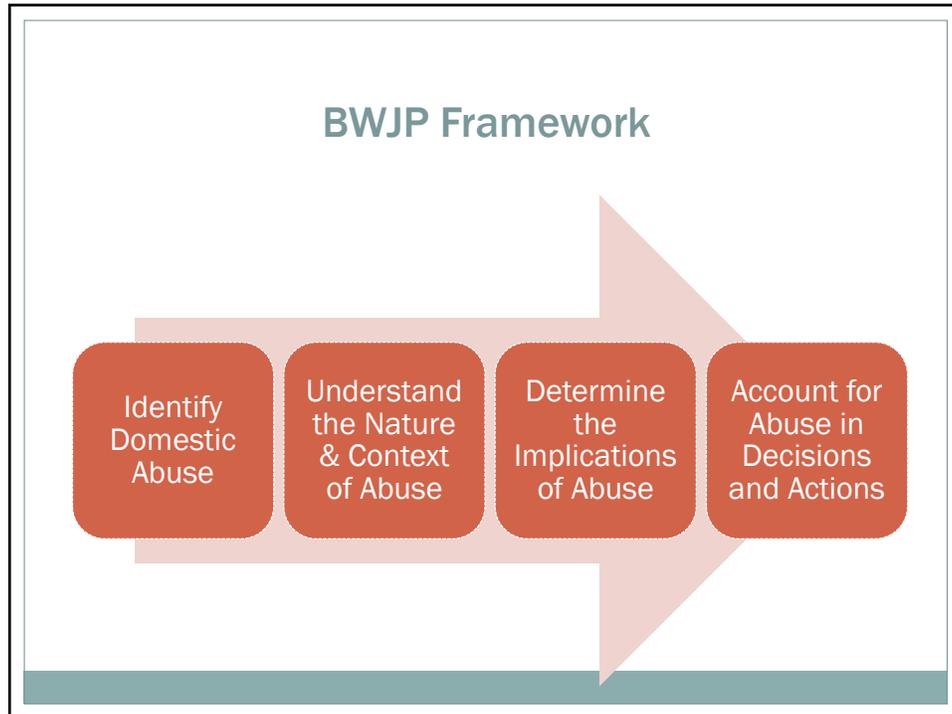
- The development and implementation of comprehensive domestic violence training for judicial officers new to family court
- Assessment of the need for ongoing domestic violence training for judicial officers, and the development and implementation of that training
- Identifying and bridging philosophical differences among judicial officers about the handling of civil domestic abuse cases and other court cases involving domestic violence
- Improving consistency in the handling of civil domestic abuse cases and other family court cases involving domestic violence among judicial officers
- Assess whether victims of domestic violence experience pressure at ICMCs to participate in ADR, and if so, how to remedy that situation; and
- Assess whether victims of domestic violence experience pressure in early neutral evaluations, by Family Court Services staff and/or guardians ad litem to reach custody and parent time agreements that may or may not be in their best interest, and if so, how to remedy that situation

Hennepin Pilot Project: Protection Orders and CRR

- Domestic Abuse Service Center (DASC) – 1-stop shop
- Agency advocates assist in preparing Petition & Affidavit for ex parte relief
- E-signing
- Hearings
- Protection & no contact / Custody, parenting time, support, programming
- By respondent request
- Mass calendar, any of 9 judges
- Timing

Pilot Hearings

- Requested relief
- OBO minor children
- Appointing guardian *ad litem*
- Custody & parenting time
- Financial relief
- Assessments - chemical &/or mental health
- DV programming
- Review hearings

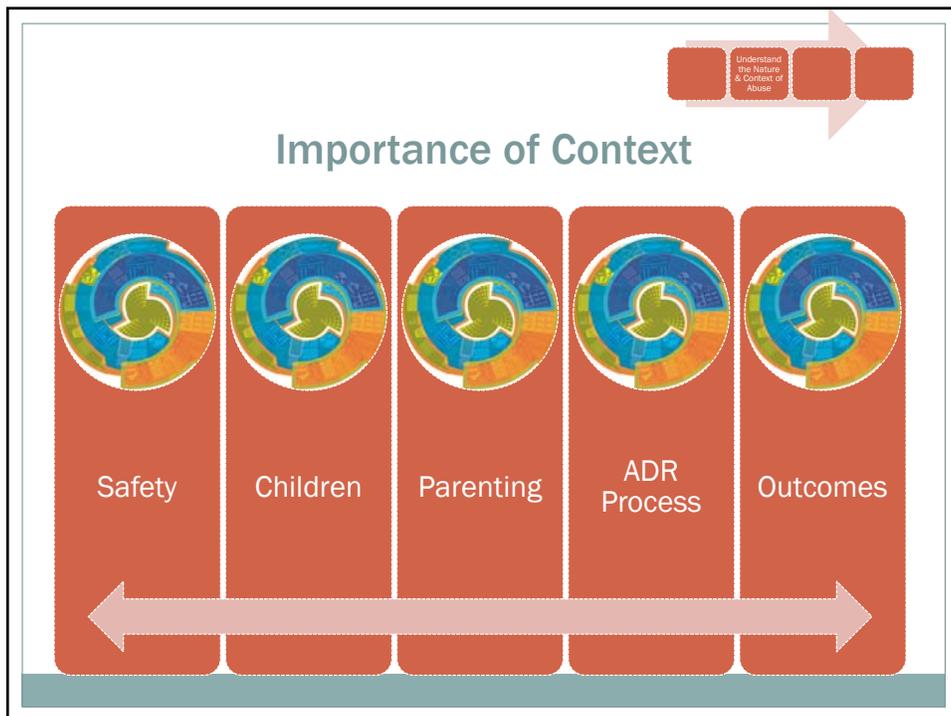
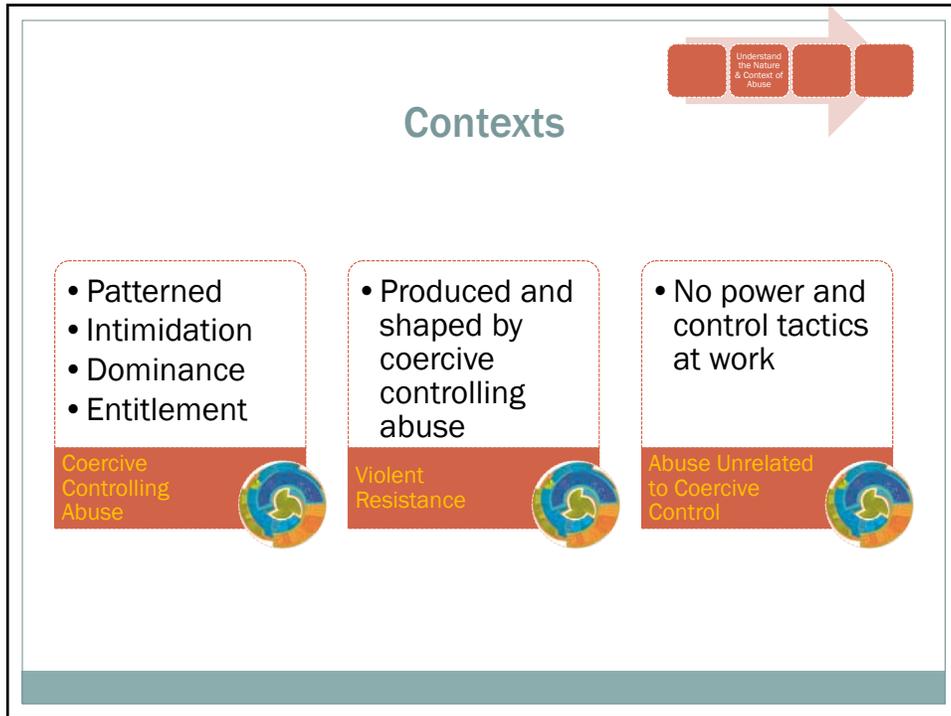


The Nature and Context of Abuse

○

Determining the nature and context of abuse requires us to ask?:

- How are the children experiencing the abuse?
- What is the nature and severity of any abuse of the parent?
- How is the abuser interfering with the victim?
- What are the parenting behaviors and decisions by either parent related to the abuse?
- “What is going on in this family?”



Human Trafficking Initiative (HTI) Overview

- www.htcourts.org
- **Goal:**
 - connect victims and potential victims of trafficking to services
 - offer better legal dispositions
 - ✦ Safe Harbor
- **Design**
 - Short term (proportional) mandates
 - ✦ General offers: 5-10 sessions
 - ✦ Engage and connect

HTI Overview (cont.)

- **Challenges**
 - Victim/Defendant
 - Victims don't identify as victims
 - Overlap but disconnect with DV/SA
 - Resources
 - Stigma
 - Populations vary by area
- **Successes**
 - Enhanced communication across stakeholders
 - Enhanced training across stakeholders
 - Reduction of confinement
 - Connection to services

Linking Victims/Respondents to Services

- Map community resources to address victim/defendant needs
- Consider proportionality when determining the length of engagement
- Broker partnerships with trauma-informed and evidence-based programs
 - ✦ Seeking Safety
 - ✦ Trauma-Focused CBT
 - ✦ Risking Connection
 - ✦ See: SAMSHA's National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices



Collaboration and Capacity Building: Who Should be at the Table



Strong Starts Court Initiative (SSCI)

The Strong Starts Court Initiative (SSCI), a collaboration between the Center for Court Innovation and the Bronx Family Court, is a new court-based initiative in NYC that aims to improve outcomes for infants and toddlers involved in child protection cases.



SSCI: Purpose

- Ensuring that maltreated infants and toddlers are appropriately assessed and obtain high quality infant mental health and early intervention services that remediate their problems and promote their healthy development
- Understanding and meeting the complex needs of birth parents, including their needs for mental health services, substance abuse treatment, and their need for evidence-based relational and parenting supports
- Promoting a collaborative court process so that relevant information is shared openly, with an eye toward targeting appropriate, high quality services for families, problem-solving barriers to service provision, and to providing many and frequent opportunities to track and support family progress
- Achieving safe and timely permanency for young children as the best protection against repeat maltreatment and other adverse childhood experiences
- Ongoing training for the court community (judges and attorneys) on infant development, infant mental health and evidence based interventions in the infant/family field to develop a cadre of child welfare professionals with expertise in this critical and foundational developmental period

SSCI Structure

- A dedicated, science-informed judge who is a champion for young children
- An experienced infant mental health clinician who works full time in the Family Court in partnership with the judge
- Dedicated attorneys from Legal Aid, ACS, and parent representation groups who become specialized in infant cases
- Regularly scheduled training in infant development and infant mental health for the judge, attorneys and partnering community providers
- A network of high quality providers of infant/family services who prioritize referrals from the court and participate in court meetings to address family progress
- Monthly interdisciplinary team conferences in the court that include the parents and infant(s), all attorneys, and all service providers, to track family progress and to address barriers to service provision (Having the baby at these meetings keeps a focus on the baby and on the baby's growth and development month to month.)

SSCI Structure (cont.)

- A shift from an adversarial to a collaborative approach to cases so that child and family needs are understood and agreed upon, relevant services are provided to improve child development, safe and nurturing parenting and family stability, and barriers to permanency are addressed early and frequently
- Monthly conferences with the judge to keep a frequent judicial eye on the case and to comply with mandated timelines to permanency
- A strong focus on frequent visits between infants and birth parents working toward reunification, reduced moves or foster home changes that cause attachment disruption, and post-reunification support for families
- A two-generational focus that assists parents with steps toward economic self-sufficiency to facilitate a path out of poverty

Child Support

- Protection Orders Relief
 - Safe Support
- Procedural Fairness
 - Demonstration Initiatives
- Problem-solving
 - Alternative dispositions

Since this program is a discussion, based on the movie to be shown, materials were not provided for this session. If materials are provided later, they will be posted individually by the Session Number, on the materials webpage at <http://law.seattleu.edu/x20576.xml>.

Session 3E

Screening and Discussion of The Long Night: A Compelling Documentary about Sex Trafficking in Seattle and What to Do about It