

# Batterer's behavior as it specifically relates to substance abuse, mental health (his/hers/child's)

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## Coercive control: substance abuse and mental health specific tactics

- Assaulting/ abusing her because she uses or has mental health problems
- Blaming her use or mental health for his control/violence to others
- Blaming his substance use or mental health issues for his violence
- Controlling money to control her drug use
- Controlling money so he can use
- Controlling her access to medications and/or mental health providers
- Forcing her to do use with him/making it safer for her to use with him than not using with him/abusing her when she doesn't use with him
- Emotional/psychological abuse related to her addiction/mental: "bad mother, "
- Threatening to use her addiction/mental issues against her, eg call child welfare, tell family, tell children, call police
- Threats, attempts or actual use of child welfare and/or Family Court to take children away from her
- Using support from mental health and substance abuse providers to avoid responsibility for battering
- Using a denial of services ("I was told I don't need substance abuse treatment.") and or a failure to be diagnosed for a mental health disorder to gain advantages, such as visitation or custody of a child, closing of a child welfare case; dismissal of criminal court charges.
- Attacking the relationship between her and her child-"You're mother's sick." "Your mother is crazy."
- Interfering with child's mental/behavioral health treatment
- Preventing a child from taking prescribed psychotropic medication
- Lying about behavior/failing to take responsibility for abusive behavior in conversations with child's mental provider
- Targeting a child because of his or her mental health or emotional issues
- Scapegoating a child with identified mental health and/or substance abuse issues
- Without insurance coverage/payment for child's mental health and/or substance abuse needs