

## **Tactics of Domestic Violence Perpetrators and How they Affect Children**

Physical Violence can affect children in several ways:

- Potential physical harm to children either intentionally or unintentionally or if a child tries to intervene to protect the survivor
- Children may fear for the safety of the survivor, their siblings or themselves
- Potential trauma from witnessing violence
- Children may believe that violence is acceptable

Sexual Violence can affect children in several ways:

- There is the potential for child sexual abuse as well as sexual abuse perpetrated against the adult survivor
- There is the potential for children to witness the sexual abuse of the adult survivor which can lead to issues around sex and violence
- There is the potential that the child may act out what they've witnessed

Emotional/Verbal Abuse affects children in several ways

- Child may feel sad or worried for the survivor
- Child may believe the verbally abusive statements, giving the survivor less credibility with the child
- Child may use the batterer's language and get in trouble in school
- Child may mirror the batterer's behaviors and behave or speak this way

Economic Abuse affects children in several ways:

- Child may have limited access to necessities such as food, clothes, shoes, school supplies or others
- Child may misinterpret sex roles based on the economic control
- Child may not be able to attend activities or visit friends or family, which otherwise might help them regain normalcy

Threatening behaviors affect children in several ways:

- The child may be physically threatened leading to their feeling unsafe
- The child may fear for the safety of the survivor
- The child may fear being taken away from the survivor either by the batterer or DCF
- The child may feel afraid to leave the survivor's side
- The child may believe the batterer will hurt or kill family members, other important people or pets.

Isolation affects children in several ways:

- The child may feel unable to have social relationships
- The child may not have access to friends or family members or to speak to anyone about the violence at home
- The child may feel alone in having domestic violence occur in their home
- The child may have few or no resources in case of emergency