



▶ FLOWERS OR THORNS?.....1

○ March | ○ 2010

▶ SHOP TO STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.....1



▶ MEET THE FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER'S COURT ADVOCATE.....2



▶ KNOW THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS LEGAL ACTIONS.....2

Spotlight On Domestic Violence

First Step Newsletter
A Program of
The Family Guidance Center

THE MISSION OF FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER'S FIRST STEP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE NEEDED SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND TO INCREASE THE COMMUNITY'S AWARENESS ABOUT THE PROBLEM.

Love Blooms Flowers; It cannot Bloom Thorns

Healthy relationships bloom flowers. This involves trust, respect, negotiation, and fairness. However, some relationships are not equal and are centered on control and power.

Abusive relationships produce thorns. The thorns in abusive relationships can be anything from intimidation, threats, isolation, jealousy, guilt, physical and/or emotional abuse. Abuse is a behavior that physically harms, arouses fear, or prevents a victim from doing what he/she wishes.

The Power and Control Wheel (shown on the right) was developed to identify the most common tactics abusers use to control their victims. It is a helpful tool to allow victims and others to see the overall pattern of abusive behaviors.

Perpetrators use the behaviors on the wheel, to achieve and maintain power over their victims.

Abusive relationships can easily fall into a vicious cycle. There are three phases within an abusive relationship. Phase 1,



Developed by:
Domestic Abuse Intervention Project
202 East Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802

everything may seem perfect; however, tension begins to build. An increase of anger, blaming, jealousy, and arguing can lead to phase 2, a battering incident. Battering may include humiliation, hitting, threatening, and/or degradation by name calling. Phase 3 is the "honeymoon", after an abusive incident. During this period, he is sorry, he sends flowers, gifts, and promises he will never do it again. It is calm and a non-violent period that may also include denial or blaming i.e. "I was drunk." All three phases include the power and control behaviors

Let's prevent thorns in relationships by helping the community become more aware of the common abusive behaviors on the Power and Control wheel.

Knowledge is power. For more information about abuse call the Family Guidance Center at 828-322-1400.

For a presentation on domestic violence email Liz Jordan at ljordan@fgcservices.com

Shop to stop Domestic Violence

The Purple Ribbon Thrift Store helps support Family Guidance Center's Shelter for Battered Women. There are new and used clothing for the whole family, furniture, household items, toys, books, and much more. It is like a new store every week.



Why Shop Resale?

There is a bigger selection, bargain prices, good karma, and great deals. Stop by, donate items, or shop. All proceeds help victims of domestic violence.

360 Highway70 SW
Hickory, NC 28602
828-322-3423

Public Awareness: Options for DV Victims



Hello, I am LaWanda Brown and I am the First Step Advocate for Domestic Violence victims/survivors here in Catawba Co. I provide advocacy services in the Catawba County legal system. Often victims need to pursue criminal charges or civil litigation or both, that is where advocacy is so important. Advocacy is making sure victims of domestic violence have support, safety planning, education on options, and coordination of services, court preparation, and most importantly a voice. The legal system can be overwhelming and even more so when suffering from an abusive partner. As an Advocate, I am passionate about serving victims of domestic violence in our community. It is my job to stay current on state and federal legislation that may affect victims in our community. My greatest desire is helping survivors become empowered and successful in their pursuit of a healthy life.

Q What options does a person, who has been abused, have?

A There are two options. First, victims can pursue criminal charges against their batterers or offenders. Dialing 911 gets law enforcement involved immediately. Law enforcement shall arrest an offender if the officer sees signs that an assault has occurred. Examples are: marks on face, arms, or body; bruises, swelling, torn clothing, or strangulation marks around the neck etc. Victims can also obtain criminal charges by going to the magistrate office. A magistrate can issue formal charges against an offender, only if the magistrate has probable cause to believe a crime has occurred. This can be done at the Newton Justice Center or the Hickory Police Department. Victims are required to be in court if a charge has been taken out either by law enforcement or by a magistrate. The second option would be to file a civil action to obtain a domestic violence protective order (DVPO/50B). This action can provide a victim with several methods of relief from their batterer. Some of the methods of protection offered under the 50B are:

- Limiting or preventing contact between the victim and the offender
- Preventing the offender from assaulting, harassing, following, or otherwise interfering with the victim
- Removing the offender from the residence

- Removing weapons from the offender

Just to name a few; however, it also offers more protection.

Victims can obtain assistance with filling out DVPO's at Newton Justice Center, or the *Family Guidance Center*.

Q What are the most challenging obstacles in accessing the legal options?

A There is the fear of repercussions from the batterer. There is also a lack of understanding the options available to all victims. In addition, the time spent in court can be a deterrent for victims seeking judicial relief.

Q What services does *the Family Guidance Center* offer for domestic violence victims in court?

A The Family Guidance Center offers court advocacy services, which includes *court accompaniment and court preparation*. Clients can have the support and assistance during the entire court process. Our court advocate can assist clients in filling out and filing a DVPO. Advocacy is working with the district attorneys office and the victim. Advocacy also consists of making recommendations and qualifying victims for legal service referrals.

**HOW DO YOU
KNOW IF
YOU MAY
QUALIFY FOR
A
PROTECTIVE
ORDER?**



Ask Yourself if "I am"

- Married or divorced
- Opposite sex, who are not married, but live together, or have lived together
- Have a child in common
- Parent or child
- Grandparent or grandchild
- Current or former household members
- Attempted or intentionally caused bodily injury
- Placed person or member of family household in actual fear imminent serious bodily injury by the threat of force
- Committed sexual offense on victim
- Or any of the above offenses to minor children

If you fit any of these categories call the Family Guidance Center 828-322-1400



A UNITED WAY AGENCY



If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship seek help immediately.

Contact the Family Guidance Center

First Step Program

828-322-1400

Nights /Weekends Crisis Line

828-228-1787

