

Intimate Partner Domestic Violence Audio Teleconference

Broadcast June 30, 2004

Training Goals:

“The criminal justice system is, by design and necessity, incident-focused. For example, guilt or innocence is usually determined relative to a single alleged act.”¹ In addition, the strengths or weaknesses of the prosecutor’s case will often be more determinative of the plea or finding of guilt, than the criminal conduct itself. Knowing this, probation and parole officers have nonetheless worked to tailor their intervention to the actual risk and needs of the client, not the limitations of any plea agreement. If I send a raging alcoholic to a one-day chemical health education seminar rather than full blown chemical health treatment, because it is *only* his first drunk driving offense, have I solved the problem? Indeed, I may have made it worse, and reinforced his view that he is not chemically dependent. This ability to put the offender’s behavior in context and address the real problem in a straightforward, meaningful way is at the heart of good probation work. Nowhere is this more important than in working with domestic violence offenders, where the single incident before the court may be only the “tip of the iceberg” of abuse in that relationship. “Some perpetrators are highly dangerous to their victims and other persons, while many are not.”² A failure to distinguish between these offenders will lead to inappropriate case planning, and undermine offender accountability and victim safety.

Participants in this audio conference will come away with a framework for assessing the context of domestic violence in a relationship, and its relevance to appropriate case planning and intervention strategies. The participant will have an understanding of several types of domestic violence perpetrators, their respective characteristics, and interventions which will address the behavior and risk at issue. They will also have a format and some tools for use in interviewing victims and perpetrators to ensure that they consider the intent, meaning and effect of the interpersonal violence in the relationship as they conduct their assessment.

Training Outline:

1. Introduction to concept of “context”
2. Types of Domestic Abusers:
 - Characteristics
 - Risk Factors
3. A Framework for Assessment
 - Preparation
 - Interviews
 - Analysis and Case Planning based on “context”
4. Supervision
5. Summary

¹ Frederick, L. and Tilley, J. (2001). *Effective Interventions in Domestic Violence Cases: Context is Everything*, Battered Women’s Justice Project, Minneapolis, Minnesota. www.bwjp.org

² *i.d.*