

**WHY DOES HE DO THAT?:
THE PROFILE AND TACTICS
OF ABUSIVE MEN**

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Definition of Domestic Violence

- A pattern of coercive control that may be primarily made up of psychological abuse, sexual coercion, or economic abuse, that is punctuated by one or more acts of frightening physical violence, credible threat of physical harm, or sexual assault.

BATTERER PROFILE
Consistently true:

- **Coercively controlling**
- **Entitled/ Self-centered**
- **Believes he is the victim**
- **Manipulative/ Good public image**

BATTERER PROFILE

Consistently true:

- Skillfully dishonest
- Disrespectful, Superior, Depersonalizing
- Good early in relationship
- Externalizes responsibility

BATTERER PROFILE

Consistently true:

- Social isolation of the victim (and sometimes of the children as well)
- Mentality of ownership, often including severe possessiveness

BATTERER PROFILE

Consistently true:

- Denial
- Minimization
- Lack of empathy for victim

BATTERER PROFILE

Consistently true:

- Punishes, retaliates
- Batters serially
- Danger increases post separation

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

- Substance abuse
- Mental illness
- Community collusion
- Lack of consequences
- Victim-blaming

MYTHS ABOUT BATTERERS

- Loss of control
- Lack of education
- Poor communication skills
- Low self-esteem
- Insecurity
- Poor, ethnic minority

AREAS OF CONTROL

- Arguments and decision-making
- Child-rearing
- Her freedom of movement and association
- Labor

AREAS OF CONTROL

- Finances
- Sexuality
- Her freedom of speech and thought
- Her attention

TACTICS IN SEEKING ALLIES

- Seeking sympathy
- Minimizing seriousness of the offense
- Blaming alcohol
- Bonding with males against women
- Flattering/flirting with females

TACTICS IN SEEKING ALLIES

- Shifting blame to victim
- Lying
- Promising change
- Getting people to pressure or criticize the victim
- Manipulating

PROCESS OF CHANGE

- Full disclosure
- Acceptance of responsibility
- Relinquishing excuses
- Development of empathy

PROCESS OF CHANGE

- Identifying pattern of coercive control
- Identifying abusive attitudes
- Development of empathy for children
- Making amends

PROCESS OF CHANGE

- Developing respectful behaviors
- Accepting consequences of his actions
- Committing to lifelong change

ELEMENTS OF CHANGE

- Consequences
- Education
- Confrontation
- Accountability

Educating and Challenging Batterers

- Firm, respectful confrontation
- Educational style
- Non-inflammatory
- Avoiding collusion

CRITICAL FEEDBACK

- Pointing out controlling behavior
- Pointing out entitled attitudes
- Taking the woman's side
- Speaking about the children's experience of him
- Questioning his stated motives / intentions

CRITICAL FEEDBACK

- Challenging his excuses and justifications
- Showing what respectful behavior would be
- Pointing out disrespect for his partner
- Challenging him about the effects he has had on his partner and children
- Asking him to meet his responsibilities

HOLDING BATTERERS ACCOUNTABLE

- Close monitoring and supervision
- Avoiding collusion
- Pressing him to deal with his abusiveness
- Don't take his word on his progress or behavior
- Maintain relationship with victim

HOLDING BATTERERS ACCOUNTABLE

- Imposing new consequences for new abusive behaviors
- Taking the victim's side
- Changing the abuser's public reputation
- Remaining connected to the abuser if possible

REDUCING RISK

- Perform danger/lethality assessment
- Maintain confidentiality of victim's address
- Increase the use of incarceration

REDUCING RECIDIVISM

- Accelerate trial process as much as possible
- Address any substance abuse issues
- Require rapid starting of batterer intervention program
- Refer victim to services for self and children

REDUCING RECIDIVISM

- Avoid diversion whenever possible
- Incarcerate the batterer
- Split sentence where statute permits
- Revoke probation quickly when violations occur

REDUCING RECIDIVISM

- See *The Criminal Justice Response to Domestic Violence* by Andrew Klein, retired probation officer.

INTERVENTIONS TO AVOID

- Conjoint counseling or mediation
- Anger management
- Substance abuse treatment *as a substitute for* legal consequences and batterer intervention services.
- Diversion
