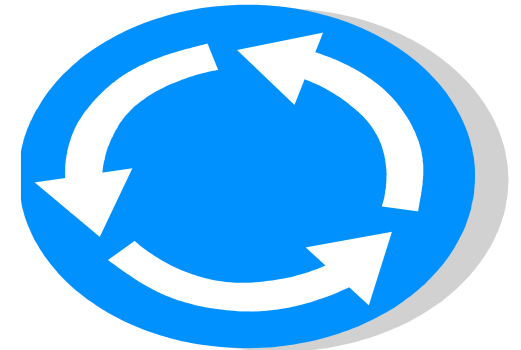


Pattern of Domestic Violence

NORTH QUEENSLAND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCE SERVICE



There is a sequence of events which may lead to extreme violence and which is common enough to be seen as a pattern. The pattern, once described, is easily recognised by people involved in these events and by workers who have observed it time and time again in many relationships.

The pattern of Domestic Violence is predominantly male violence against women

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS FOR A PURPOSE:

- Makes her do something;
- Stops her from doing something;
- Punishes her for doing or not doing something

NQDVRS

Funded by the Department of Communities

- Information and referral
- Aardvarc program for children
- Community education & training
- Resources
- Court Support
- Men's Behavioral Change Program

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11) She wants to believe him. She feels needed and valued at last, and guilty. She feels pressure to go home from:

- the children
- financial difficulties
- housing problems
- physical and emotional isolation
- social attitudes to single parents
- others.

12) At this point, she may go home. If she does friends and family may think it's all sorted out, or that she must be crazy to go back. The pattern starts again.

13) If she doesn't go home, the man may escalate his pursuit, become angry and use:

- physical violence
- threats to abduct the children
- create legal obstacles to custody and property settlements
- create problems with family and friends.

14) If she resists and stays away, he finds someone else, and the pattern begins again with his new partner.

While these events usually occur in the following sequence, some stages may not occur, and the timing in moving from one to the other will vary from couple to couple, depending on a variety of factors.

- 1) A "violent" incident occurs where the man uses some form of physical force against his partner. The woman or her partner may not see this as "violence", or may believe that the behaviour is appropriate.
 - "it was just a slap/ shove"
 - they both may believe she deserved it.
- 2) These violent incidents increase in severity and/or frequency. Other forms of abuse may occur:
 - sexual abuse
 - psychological abuse
 - social abuse
 - financial abuse
 - verbal abuse
- 3) At some point in time the woman realises some-thing is "wrong". However she believes she is responsible:
 - For the family's stability
 - For his happiness, well-being and good temper.

They both believe she has "provoked" the violence and abuse. They both believe something else is the cause of the violence, and the real problem is: work; the children; stress or alcohol etc..

- 4) She may consider telling someone, but...
 - She doesn't think anyone will believe her, because he is charming to everyone else.
 - She doubts her own judgment about how serious the situation is (he has told her she is too sensitive / neurotic / over emotional).
 - She has kept the secret for so long that she fears she will be asked "Why haven't you left if it's so bad?" (and she probably will be asked this.)
 - She still believes it's probably her fault.
- 5) She considers leaving him, but he threatens that if she leaves she won't get custody of the children, will get no money from him, will lose the house etc..
- 6) She tries harder
 - to please him
 - to not provoke the violent behaviour and abuse
 - to make things the way he wants
 - to work out what she is doing wrong.

- 7) The violence and abuse continues or escalates, in spite of her efforts.
- 8) When she has done everything possible, and the violence continues, she might leave. Or some other incident might bring home to her the seriousness of the situation and prompt her to leave (eg. him hitting the children, almost killing her, etc.)
- 9) Once she leaves she experiences:
 - guilt at having failed as wife and mother
 - her fear of being alone
 - the attitude of family and friends who often still won't believe that anything has happened.
- 10) The man responds to her leaving by: pursuing her; buying presents; telling her he needs her; getting angry about the fact she is not there.

