




Together we can create a culture
in Colorado that values and upholds healthy relationships
based in equity and respect.

Violencefree
COLORADO

**Promoting Safety and Resiliency in Cases
Involving Domestic Violence**

Together we can end relationship abuse

HOW WE WORK TO END RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE
As Colorado's state domestic violence coalition, Violence Free Colorado works with hundreds of organizations and individuals in local communities across the state to prevent and end relationship violence, and support those affected by relationship abuse.



Tailored Support
State Coalition builds the capacity of local organizations to meet the needs of all survivors
*
Local Organizations provide survivor defined and culturally responsive advocacy to promote immediate safety and long-term independence

Advocacy & Policy
State Coalition educates policy leaders and advocates for state, local and federal policies that end relationship violence and support victims of relationship abuse
*
Local Organizations advocate on behalf of survivors and their children, and with local policy and community leaders

Collective Action
State Coalition advocates for survivors in legislative and other systems, and represents community-based organizations and survivors with funders, decision-makers, and the media
*
Local Organizations work in concert as a coalition to advance the movement to end relationship violence and linked forms of oppression

Social Change
State Coalition mobilizes communities to take action and works to create conditions where freedom and peace are possible for all Coloradans
*
Local Organizations work in schools and communities to increase awareness and understanding about relationship violence and healthy relationships

Why are we here?

- 34 incidents reviewed by the Colorado Child Fatality Review Team in 2018
 - 14 fatal incidents/11 near fatal
 - 42.9% (6/14) were identified to have had some history of identified domestic violence
 - 27% (3/11) near fatal incidents had DV history
- Children ... who are exposed to abuse of their mother are more likely to be diagnosed with a psychological disorder and to show difficulties with early attachment, emotional regulation, peer relationships, school adjustment, and pro-social behaviors
(Evans, Davies & DiLillo, 2008; Kitzmann, Gavlord, Holt & Kenny, 2003; Wekerle & Wolfe, 2003; Wolfe, Crooks, Lee, McIntyre & Jaffe, 2003)
- Among children living in two-parent families, fathers are perpetrators in the majority of substantiated cases of exposure to domestic violence (88%)
(Trocmé et al., 2005 as cited in Scott, 2010)

Best Interest

"The attorney appointed as a GAL or a CLR shall diligently take steps that s/he deems necessary to represent and protect the best interests of the child..."

What is safety?
resiliency?
thriving ?

"...in serving the best interests of children,
we serve the best interests of all humanity."
-- Carol Bellamy, Esq.



Video/Rachel



CRS § 18-6-8003

(1) "Domestic violence" means an act or threatened act of violence upon a person with whom the actor is or has been involved in an intimate relationship.

"Domestic violence" also includes any other crime against a person, or against property, including an animal, or any municipal ordinance violation against a person, or against property, including an animal, when used as a method of coercion, control, punishment, intimidation, or revenge directed against a person with whom the actor is or has been involved in an intimate relationship.

(2) "Intimate relationship" means a relationship between spouses, former spouses, past or present unmarried couples, or persons who are both the parents of the same child regardless of whether the persons have been married or have lived together at any time.



Power and Control



Power and Control



Beyond Behavior – Getting to Context

What you see...

1. Read through partner's text messages without partner's knowledge
2. Locked their partner out of the house
3. Bit their partner
4. Created a secret email account
5. Instructed child not to tell grandma about the 'fights' between mom and dad
6. Put money in a secret bank account
7. Hid the partner's keys
8. Spent rent money on alcohol



Think: Intent? Impact?

Offender

- Entitlement
- Controlling partner

Adult Victim

- Partnership
- Equal input



Impact on Children

- Perpetrator might:
 - Behave abusively towards others in home
 - Parent in negative ways
 - Directly abuse or neglect
- Children might:
 - Directly observe the abuse of their parent
 - Overhear arguments and fights
 - Observe injuries, property damage, or emotional distress after abusive incidents



Resilience: What Kids Need

- The #1 factor determining children's resiliency & healing is an attached relationship to a caring adult
- Other factors:
 - Child's strengths/resources
 - Sense of self-efficacy
 - Beliefs/values - spiritual or religious
 - Social support/resources for the family



Guiding Principal

“When there is a co-occurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment, the safety of children and youth is enhanced through

- promoting adult victim safety & empowerment,
- holding the perpetrator accountable, and
- engaging in community collaboration(s).”

(DV Practice Guide for Child Protective Services)



Framework: Safe and Together Model

1

Keeping child Safe and Together™ with non-offending parent
Safety Healing from trauma Stability and nurturance

2

Partnering with non-offending parent as default position
Efficient Effective Child-centered

3

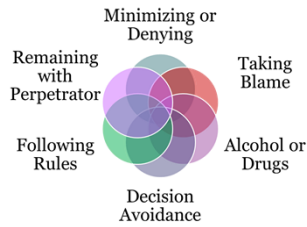
Intervening with perpetrator to reduce risk and harm to child
Engagement Accountability Courts



Safe and Together Model: Critical Components



Promoting adult victim safety & empowerment



Promoting adult victim safety & empowerment: Language to Avoid in Adult Victim's FSP

- Parent will
 - prevent child from witnessing/being exposed to DV
 - ensure that the perpetrator has not further contact with the children
 - make appropriate choices when selecting a partner
 - maintain healthy relationship with his/her partner
 - enroll/participate in couples/family counselling with her/his partner
- Parent will not
 - engage/have role in any DV incident
 - violate the order of protection against her/his partner



Hold Perpetrator Accountable

“There is emerging evidence to suggest that, when fathers’ violence is unaddressed, intervention with children’s mothers is less effective.

For example ... Eckenrode et al. (2000) found that, although most families assigned to home visiting benefited with lower rates of subsequent child maltreatment, treatment impact was nullified when mothers experienced ongoing domestic violence.”

Scott, K. L. (2010). Caring Dads Theory Manual



Hold Perpetrator Accountable

- Consistent Messages
 - Respectful invitation to change
 - Transparency
 - Tether interactions to children's needs
- Risk Assessment: Dynamic Risk Management
 - Will always be both subjective and dynamic (no diagnostic risk assessment tool for re-offense)



Accountability: Offender Treatment

- ✓ *Court oversight,*
- ✓ *Coordinated services,*
- *Case management,*
- *Swift sanctions.*



Contraindicated:

- Anger Management
- Individual Counseling
- Couples Counseling

Accountability
Focus
Format



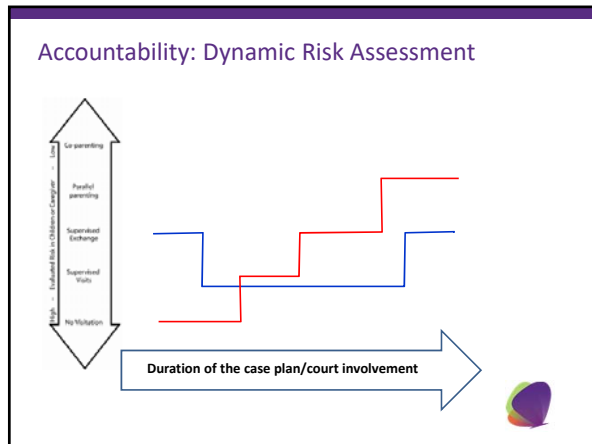
CARING DADS

Continuum of Parenting

- Nurturing
- Caring
- Loving
- Patient
- Supportive
- Encouraging

- Self Centered
- Controlling
- Manipulative
- Hurtful
- Neglectful
- Abusive









Neutrality: Obscuring the Source of Risk?

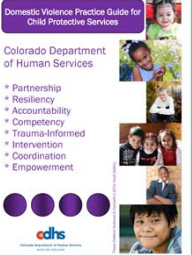
- Not a question of 'siding' with one parent or another
- Neutrality means beginning without bias



- Responsibility to advocate for child's best interest
 - Supporting primary caregiver
 - Accountability for unsafe behavior
- A 'neutral' position ignoring coercive control puts children at continued risk



Resources




Domestic Violence Practice Guide for Child Protective Services

Colorado Department of Human Services


- Partnership
- Resiliency
- Accountability
- Competency
- Trauma-Informed
- Intervention
- Coordination
- Empowerment

https://www.violencefreecolorado.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/DV_CPS_Practice_Guide_5.13.13.pdf



Safety - Stability - Well-Being
Checklist to Promote Perpetrator Accountability in Dependency Cases Involving Domestic Violence

http://www.ncjfcj.org/sites/default/files/checklist-to-promote-accountability_0.pdf



References

- Scott, K. L. (2010). Caring Dads Theory Manual
- NCJFCJ Checklists: www.ncjfcj.org
- Caring Dads website: caringdads.org
- Safe and Together: endingviolence.com/
- <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdhs/child-fatality-reviews>



References, cont.

- Gondolf, E. W. (2012). *The future of batterer programs: Reassessing evidence-based practice*. UPNE.
- Jaffe, P. G., Crooks, C. V., & Bala, N. (2007). Making appropriate parenting arrangements in family violence cases: Applying the literature to identifying promising practices.
- Mederos, F. (2006). Accountability and Connection with Abusive Men
- Tjaden, P. G., & Thoennes, N. (2000). *Extent, nature, and consequences of intimate partner violence: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey* (pp. 1-62). Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice.

