



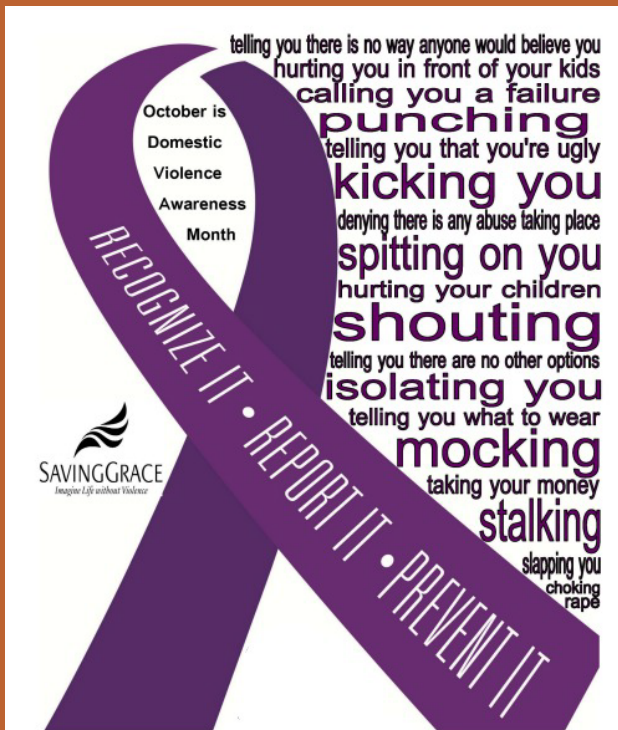
**ERICSA 62ND ANNUAL
TRAINING CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION**

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First Do No Harm: Ensuring Economic Support and Safety for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking



AWARENESS

Human trafficking uses the blue awareness ribbon for its cause.

According to the International Labor Organization, nearly 21 million people are subjected to human trafficking, and 4.5 million of those are involved in sex work.

AwarenessGallery.com





Introductions

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Today's Agenda

01

What is Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking and what is the connection to child support?

02

**How do abusers gain economic power and control?
Is there such a thing as financial abuse?**

03

**Can child support be safely collected?
How to assess and address safety risks**

04

Protections and safe processing measures including the FVI indicator, the Good Cause waiver and Courtroom safety

05

Are protections only afforded to victims with Restraining Orders?

Why are we here?

- One of the primary reasons survivors stay in or return to an abusive partner is financial dependence.
- When received child support is a primary source of income for custodial families and plays a key role in helping survivors leave abusive relationships



- ✓ Almost 40% (or 3.6million) custodial parents with Title IV-D cases have experienced domestic violence in their lifetimes
- ✓ Up to 90% of women continue to experience harassment stalking or abuse after separation from an abusive partner
- ✓ The birth of a child, the establishment of a child support Order, and child support enforcement activities can all be triggers for violence

Over 90% of women with
current/former abusive partners
indicate an interest in pursuing child
support if they can do so safely

First Scenario

Child Support Enforcement Proceeding



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE)

- A pattern of abusive behaviors, including physical, sexual, and psychological abuse as well as economic coercion, used against an intimate partner.
- Often involves the use of a combination of tactics of one partner aimed at establishing control over the other.

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is present in every community in the US

- Domestic Violence affects all people regardless of age, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion or nationality
- More than 12 million people a year are physically abused by their intimate partners
- 1 in 4 women and 1 in 10 men experience interpersonal violence in their lifetime
- The LGBTQIA+ community is equally if not more likely to experience intimate partner violence in their lifetimes than their heterosexual and cisgender peers

Second Scenario: Board of Social Services



“ I was just looking at the child support questionnaire if you want to file child support online, and all the questions on there address issues of domestic violence. I would really like to see that child support address issues with human trafficking as well because sometimes women have children by their traffickers. I know, I've had two kids by my traffickers. ”

Survivor



The Overlap of Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence

- The vast majority of human trafficking victims experience multiple forms of abuse, such as domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Human trafficking, especially sex trafficking, often involves the same dynamics of power and control present in patterns of domestic violence



Federal Definitions

Human trafficking is the use of **force, fraud, or coercion** to compel a person into commercial *sex acts* or *labor* against their will.

- **Sex Trafficking:** The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act which is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age
- Any minor (under 18) engaged in commercial sex is considered a victim

“Love” & Sex Trafficking

- Sex traffickers frequently groom their victims by using romantic/familial “love” to manipulate them into cooperating in their own exploitation.
- People in sex trafficking situations almost always know and even trust or love their traffickers.
- Traffickers target vulnerable people who have needs that the traffickers can fill such as a place to live and financial support or drug dependency, or emotional support and a sense of belonging.
- *Many people in active sex trafficking situations do not recognize themselves as being victims because they have been expertly groomed by a trafficker to believe they have chosen to participate in commercial sex.*

Dynamics Common to Both

TACTICS

- Physical and emotional abuse
- Isolation from friends and family
- Economic abuse.
- Physical threats to themselves or their family
- They make promises aimed at addressing their victims' needs to impose control.
- Identify and leverage their victims' vulnerabilities to create dependency

CONSEQUENCES

- Hard to Leave
- Feel trapped
- Fear
- Financial dependency
- Isolation
- Trauma
- Emotional Attachment
- Shame

Personal Responsibility and Work Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) 42 U.S.C.602 (a)(7)

- Imposed strict requirements on people receiving TANF including the obligation to comply with the establishment of paternity and support against the parent of their child
- Required states to meet case processing mandates such as achieving a 90% establishment of paternity rate or risk financial penalties
- Expanded Federal Parent Locate Services and other data bases making it much easier to locate parents to establish support orders and to strengthen enforcement

Family Violence Option (FVO)

A protective mechanism established by federal law that allows states to waive certain cooperation requirements in the establishment and enforcement of child support for TANF recipients if ***good cause*** exists to do so such as the risk of family violence.

Family Violence Indicator (FVI)

A protective mechanism required by Federal Law which prohibits the release of personal information in a child support case when there is evidence of domestic violence or child abuse and where there is ***reason to believe*** that disclosure could be harmful. Prevents the release of any information on the protected person(s) from the FPLS (Federal Parent Locate Service)

States are given wide latitude to decide what constitutes “***reasonable evidence***”.

RESOURCES

- National Domestic Violence Hotline –1 (800) -799-(SAFE)7233
- National Human Trafficking Hotline – 1 (888) – 373-7888
- National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (supporting the LGBTQIA+ community) – 212-714-1141
- National Coalition Against Domestic Violence <https://ncadv.org/>
- Freedom Network USA <https://freedomnetworkusa.org/>
- Polaris Project <https://polarisproject.org/>
- The Human Trafficking Legal Center – <https://htlegalcenter.org/>
Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence Factsheet



THANK YOU!!!

Please remember :

CLE Sign Out

Evaluation in the
WHOVA APP

