

CHARACTERISTICS OF ABUSIVE PARTNERS

Control: The "overarching *behavioral* characteristic" achieved with criticism, verbal abuse, financial control, isolation, cruelty, etc. (see Power & Control Wheel). May deepen over time or escalate if the victim seeks independence (e.g. going to school).

Entitlement: The "overarching *attitudinal* characteristic" ; a belief in having special rights without responsibilities, justifying unreasonable expectations (e.g., family life must centre on his needs). The abuser will feel the wronged party when his/her needs are not met and justify violence as self-defense.

Selfishness& Self-centeredness: An expectation of being the centre of attention, having his/her needs anticipated. May not support or listen to others.

Superiority: Contempt for the partner as stupid, unworthy, a sex-object or as a housekeeper.

Possessiveness: Seeing the victim and children as property.

Confusing Love& Abuse: Explaining violence as an expression of deep love.

Manipulativeness: A tactic of confusion, distortion and lies. May project image of self as good, and portray the victim as crazy or abusive.

Contradictory Statements & Behaviors: Saying one thing and doing another, such as being publicly critical of men who abuse women.

Externalization of Responsibility: Shifting blame for actions and their effects to others, especially the victim or to external factors such as job stress.

Denial, Minimization, & Victim Blaming: Refusing to acknowledge abusive behavior (e.g. she fell), not acknowledging the seriousness of his/her behavior and its effects (e.g., it's just a scratch), blaming the victim (e.g., he drove me to it; she made it up because I have a new girlfriend).

Serial Battering: Some perpetrators are abusive in relationship after relationship.

Some abusive partners can exhibit some or all of these characteristics and never physically assault their victim.

Adapted from: The batterer as a parent; addressing the impact of domestic violence on family dynamics. By; Lundy Bancroft and Jay Silverman.

Haven House (G)/cap/forms/forms for new client files/ CHARACTERISTICS OF ABUSIVE PARTNERS 1