



Online Training Agenda (15 hours)

Understanding the Dynamics of Domestic Violence for Family Law Practitioners

Day One (8 am—noon) (4 hours - .25 break= 3.75)

8- 8:45—Introduction

- Definitions and terminology
- Prevalence and statistics regarding intimate partner violence (IPV) in Saskatchewan and Canada
- Gendered nature of IPV
- Gendered nature of statistics gathering
- Discussion

8:45- 10—Types of IPV

- Physical, sexual, psychological, financial, stalking and harassment
- Breakdown of Duluth Power and control wheel
- Description of the cycle of violence
- Video case study and discussion
- Warning signs

Break – 10- 10:15

10:15- 11—Importance of family history

- Intergeneration cycle of violence
- Social and cultural influences

11- 11:30—Typologies of IPV

- Summary of research—different types of perpetrators (severity/frequency, victims)
- Johnson's typology—situational couple violence, coercive control/intimate terrorism, violent resistance
- Coercive Control legislation in other jurisdictions

11:30- 12—Vulnerabilities and barriers to support

- Defining intersectionality (work of Kimberlé Crenshaw)
- Intersectionality wheel
- Women who face increased risk (age, trans and gender diverse, disability, newcomer)
- Rural, remote, and northern communities
- Increased risks to Indigenous women
- Barriers to Indigenous women seeking help

Day Two (8 am—noon) (4 hours - .25 break= 3.75)

8-9—*War at Home* Documentary and discussion

9- 10—Warning signs and risk factors

- Most common high risk factors recognized by domestic violence death reviews
- Full list of domestic violence death review risk factors
 - Perpetrator History
 - Family/Economic Status
 - Mental Health
 - Attitude/ Violence
 - Access
 - Victim Disposition
- Strangulation
- Animal abuse, animal safekeeping, and IPV

Break – 10- 10:15

10:15- 10:30—Barriers to leaving and barriers to reporting

- Why don't survivors leave?
- Why don't survivors report?
- What happens after reporting?
- Survivors' journey through the justice system

10:30- 11:15—Impact of exposure to domestic violence on children

- Research overview—children exposed to violence
- Impacts for different age groups: infants and small children, school age, preschool, teens
- Risk after separation
- Concurrent child abuse and IPV
- Video: Multiple Pathways to Harm
- Intersectionality Wheel

11:15- 12— Impact of trauma, trauma-and-violence-informed practice

- Definitions of trauma and complex trauma
- Traumatic symptoms
- Video: Trauma and the Brain
- Traumatic Brain Injury and IPV
- TBI and psychological trauma—complexity of symptoms
- Trauma-and-violence informed approach
- TVI practices for organizations—establishing trustworthiness and safety

Day Three (8 am—noon) (4 hours - .25 break= 3.75)

8- 9:15 —Risk to non-abusive parent, risk to children, domestic homicide case examples

- Domestic homicide case examples—women in Saskatchewan
- Risks to children—situations where children can be killed
- Risks to children—statistics
- Domestic homicide case examples—children killed in the context of separation
- Domestic homicide risk factors for children
- Identifying risk

9:15-10— High conflict relationship vs abuse

- Definitions, key traits of high conflict individuals
- Patterns of behaviour
- Case study: “Dance Recital”
- Interventions for “normal” conflict, high conflict, and IPV

Break – 10- 10:15

10:15- 11—Recognizing post-separation abuse

- Wheel: power and control in separation—examples of post-separation abuse
- Behaviour of perpetrator after separation—control, workplace violence, focus on children, etc.
- Common legal bullying tactics

11- 11:15—Recognizing at-risk and abusive partners

- Demeanor of abusive parent
- Demeanor of at-risk parent

11:15- 12— Analysis of cross allegations

- Patterns of past behaviour
- Harm inflicted
- Motivation
- Impact on children
- Who holds the power?
- Assessments and experts

Day Four (8 am—noon) (4 hours - .25 break= 3.75)

8- 8:45—Parental alienation “syndrome”

- Background
- 4 myths
- Outcomes of PAS claims (research shows victim parent more likely to lose custody, lack of intervention in cases of child abuse)

8:45- 10 – Why screen for domestic violence?

- Reasons and rationale
- Research evidence
- Recommendations from 2018 Department of Justice Canada report
- How screening helps legal professionals (identify concerns, identify appropriate processes, etc.)
- If screening identifies client is a perpetrator of violence
- Identifying stalking behaviour

Break – 10- 10:15

10:15- 10:45—Screening tools available

- Common screening questions
- Recommended practices
- Overview of different tools, from brief to comprehensive
- Appendix B: Recommended screening tool from 2018 Department of Justice Canada report (Cross et al.)

10:45- 11:15—Best Interests of the Child

- Changes to the *Divorce Act*
- Best interests of the child- provisions in new Act
- Best interests of the child- research evidence
- Priorities in child custody (parenting time) disputes
- Importance of hearing the child

11:15- 11:30—Cautions for mediators

- Victim behaviour may be impacted by trauma
- Accommodations and safety planning
- Review of TVI principles
- Safety planning for legal professionals

11:30- 12—Assessing risk and planning for safety

- Risk assessment tools
- Safety planning templates
- Safety planning with children
- Legislation that can help survivors (EIOs, workplace leave, etc.)
- Eight steps to domestic homicide
- Connecting with IPV experts in your local area—available domestic violence services, contact information