Preteens & Domestic Violence

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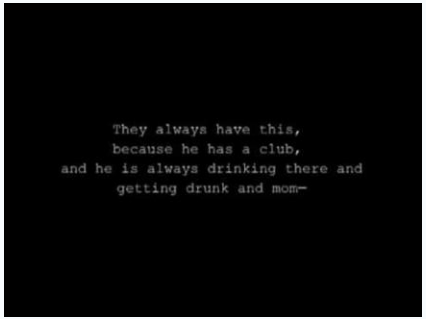

“I'm Lisa, a survivor with a future, because of my past.”

– Lisa Floyd

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Florida Statutes

Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, & Abuse

Domestic Violence

- F.S. 741.28(2)

"Domestic violence" means any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member **by another family or household member.**

Child Abuse

- F.S. 827.03(1)(b)

"Child abuse" means:

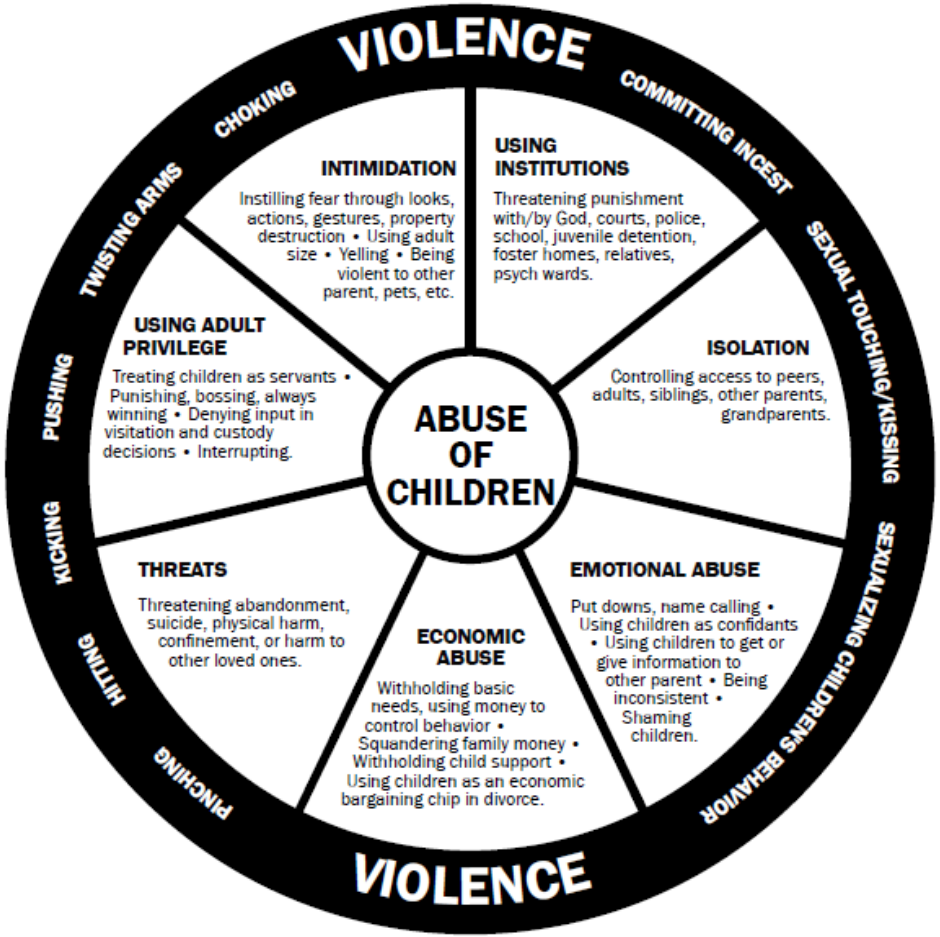
1. Intentional infliction of physical or mental injury upon a child;
2. An intentional act that could reasonably be expected to result in physical or mental injury to a child; **or**
3. Active encouragement of any person to commit an act that results or could reasonably be expected to result in physical or mental injury to a child.

Abuse

- F.S. 39.01(2)

"Abuse" means any willful act or threatened act that results in any physical, mental, or sexual abuse, injury, or harm that causes or is likely to cause the child's physical, mental, or emotional health to be significantly impaired. Abuse of a child includes the birth of a new child into a family during the course of an open dependency case when the parent or caregiver has been determined to lack the protective capacity to safely care for the children in the home and has not substantially complied with the case plan towards successful reunification or met the conditions for return of the children into the home. Abuse of a child includes acts or omissions. **Corporal discipline of a child by a parent or legal custodian for disciplinary purposes does not in itself constitute abuse *when it does not result in harm to the child*.**

PHYSICAL
VIOLENCE
SEXUAL
USING COERCION AND THREATS
Making and/or carrying out threats to do something to hurt her • threatening to leave her, to commit suicide, to report her to welfare • making her drop charges • making her do illegal things.
USING INTIMIDATION
Making her afraid by using looks, actions, gestures • smashing things • destroying her property • abusing pets • displaying weapons.
USING ECONOMIC ABUSE
Preventing her from getting or keeping a job • making her ask for money • giving her an allowance • taking her money • not letting her know about or have access to family income.
USING EMOTIONAL ABUSE
Putting her down • making her feel bad about herself • calling her names • making her think she's crazy • playing mind games • humiliating her • making her feel guilty.
POWER AND CONTROL
USING MALE PRIVILEGE
Treating her like a servant • making all the big decisions • acting like the "master of the castle" • being the one to define men's and women's roles
USING ISOLATION
Controlling what she does, who she sees and talks to, what she reads, where she goes • limiting her outside involvement • using jealousy to justify actions.
USING CHILDREN
Making her feel guilty about the children • using the children to relay messages • using visitation to harass her • threatening to take the children away.
MINIMIZING, DENYING AND BLAMING
Making light of the abuse and not taking her concerns about it seriously • saying the abuse didn't happen • shifting responsibility for abusive behavior • saying she caused it.
PHYSICAL
VIOLENCE
SEXUAL


VIOLENCE
CHOKING
COMMITTING INCEST
TWISTING ARMS
SEXUAL TOUCHING/KISSING
PUSHING
SEXUALIZING CHILDRENS BEHAVIOR
KICKING
HITTING
PINCHING
VIOLENCE
INTIMIDATION
Instilling fear through looks, actions, gestures, property destruction • Using adult size • Yelling • Being violent to other parent, pets, etc.
USING INSTITUTIONS
Threatening punishment with/by God, courts, police, school, juvenile detention, foster homes, relatives, psych wards.
USING ADULT PRIVILEGE
Treating children as servants • Punishing, bossing, always winning • Denying input in visitation and custody decisions • Interrupting.
ISOLATION
Controlling access to peers, adults, siblings, other parents, grandparents.
ABUSE OF CHILDREN
THREATS
Threatening abandonment, suicide, physical harm, confinement, or harm to other loved ones.
EMOTIONAL ABUSE
Put downs, name calling • Using children as confidants • Using children to get or give information to other parent • Being inconsistent • Shaming children.
ECONOMIC ABUSE
Withholding basic needs, using money to control behavior • Squandering family money • Withholding child support • Using children as an economic bargaining chip in divorce.

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DV Effects

Effects of DV on Preteens

Impact of DV on Children

Children Experiencing v. Witnessing DV

Domestic Violence

Experiencing DV

57% of the children who had witnessed domestic violence were also direct victims of child maltreatment

Witnessing DV

1 out of 15 children in the U.S. are exposed to DV each year per DOJ

How Domestic Violence Affects Preteens

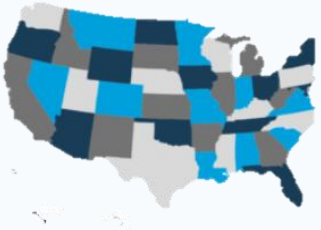
- Children who witness domestic violence or are victims of abuse themselves are at serious risk for long-term physical and mental health problems.

- Children who witness violence between parents may also be at greater risk of being violent in their future relationships.

- Witnessing domestic violence is the single best predictor of domestic violence in adulthood.

- Globally, 1 out of 8 people have witnessed domestic violence as children.

- Annually, ≈ 3-15 million children witness domestic violence in the United States.



- Males who batter their wives batter the children 30% to 60% of the time.

- Living with domestic violence significantly alters a children's DNA, aging them prematurely 7-10 years.

How Domestic Violence Affects Preteens

Symptoms

Newborn to 5 Year Old	Ages 6 to 12
Bed-wetting	Depression
Thumb-sucking	Withdrawal
Increased crying	Low self-esteem
Whining	Low academic performance
Difficulty sleeping or staying asleep	Bad behavior at school
Stuttering	Nightmares
Hiding	Aggression and difficulty with peers
Severe separation anxiety	School avoidance/truancy

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How to Help

Resources and information on how to help address preteen DV

How to Help

- Open Communication
- Making a Safety Plan
- Developing a Reliable Support System
- Seeking Professional Help
- Talk about Healthy Relationships
- Helping Child Feel Safe

Contacting National Domestic Violence Hotline

1 (800) – 799 – SAFE (7233)

Text “START” to 88788

https://www.thehotline.org/

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Sources

Research based upon information found in following resources

Sources

- http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0800-0899/0827/Sections/0827.03.html
- http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0000-0099/0039/Sections/0039.01.html
- http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0700 0799/0741/Sections/0741.283.html#:~:text=741.28%2C%20and%20the%20person%20has,imposed%2C%20 unless%20the%20court%20sentences
- http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0000-0099/0039/Sections/0039.01.html
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- https://www.thehotline.org/

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