



Working with Parents Who Use Violence When Providing Modified SV Services

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Inspire Action for Social Change Team

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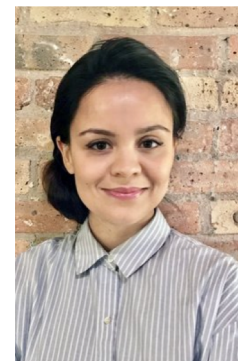
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SOFTEN YOUR FOREHEAD,
UNCLENCH YOUR JAW,
RELAX YOUR SHOULDERS.



THIS IS A REMINDER TO
STOP HOLDING TENSION IN
YOUR BODY.

A Time of Reflection

Take a moment to think about where you hold tension.

What are 2-3 things you can do to help soothe or release it?





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Working with People Who Use Violence



Leading Strategies



CONNECT with every parent and child using center services.

LEAD with care and compassion.

ACKNOWLEDGE the humanity and unique life circumstances of each individual.

SUPPORT safety.

COUNTERACT the experience and tactics of intimate partner violence.



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Messages of Compassion & Responsibility

I understand you are stressed **AND** the pandemic does not justify abuse.

I hear you miss your children **AND** remember abuse hurts them.

We all feel powerless right now **AND** trying to control your family is harmful.



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**Always keep the safety of adult and
child survivors at the center.**

Normalize High Stress in Families

“Sample Script”

It’s completely ok and normal to:

- To feel powerless, insecure, and as if you’re not in control.
- To be afraid of the virus.
- To feel crowded at home – or to feel isolated and have a hard time without social contacts and intimate relationships.
- To worry about your health, family, or financial and professional future.

All this is stressful and limits your ability to take care of yourself and empathise with others. Being stressed out restricts one's views and feelings. It is tempting to look to others for blame.

*Adapted from an umbrella organizations for work with boys, men and fathers in Switzerland (www.maenner.ch), Austria (www.dmoe-info.at) and Germany (www.bundesforum-maenner.de). Adapted from Futures Without Violence Ten Tips for Child Welfare Workers to Work with with People Who Use Domestic Violence During COVID-19 Pandemic (unpublished).

Create Space for Parents to Share Emotions





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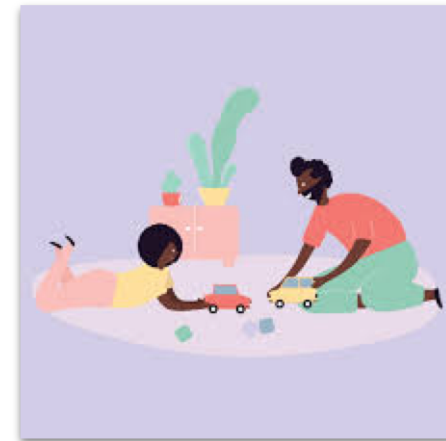
Use Your Relationship

- Build on the existing trust you have with the parent.
- Reach out to parents, offer support, be willing to listen.



Engage Around Positive Parenthood

- Explore how the parent is feeling about their child.
- Build on parenting strengths.
- Acknowledge how difficult this time must be and invite parents to find ways to feel positively connected to their kids even if they can't see them.





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Explore Natural Supports and Social Connections

- Who can this parent reach out to when it feels hard and they need support? Help them create a “go to” list of support people, encourage parents to plan ahead and ask this person/persons in advance to be their support.
- Explore who they trust and go to at other times for support and help them build a plan to connect with those people, not only when they feel they are in crisis but before.

Adapted from Futures Without Violence Ten Tips for Child Welfare Workers to Work with with People Who Use Domestic Violence During COVID-19 Pandemic (unpublished).

Ask about Coping and Offer Strategies

- Take time each day to get outside and move your body in ways that are possible.
- Lean into cultural supports and strengths that feel supportive.
- Connect with people you can talk to and trust.
- Build on strengths, what do they feel good about and how can they do more of it.
- Support parents to create an “Emergency Plan^{*}”

*Adapted from an umbrella organizations for work with boys, men and fathers in Switzerland (www.maenner.ch), Austria (www.dmo-e-info.at) and Germany (www.bundesforum-maenner.de).



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Provide a Warm Referral

Locally

- Know the resources in your area for basic needs: food, financial assistance, housing, health care, employment services
- Crisis lines, parent support lines, suicide hotlines, health support information

Nationally

- Online resources

Adapted from Futures Without Violence Ten Tips for Child Welfare Workers to Work with with People Who Use Domestic Violence During COVID-19 Pandemic (unpublished).



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Strategies for Supporting People Who use Violence During Remote Visits

- Explore with visiting parents their hopes and fears for remote visitation.
- Understand what is important to them during remote visits.
- Explore how they want to spend time with their children and offer to help them plan.
- Try to support the sanctity of the visiting parent and child alone time.
- Make a plan if you have to intervene.



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Strategies for Supporting People Who Cause Harm When Visits Can't Happen

- Provide opportunities for the parent to check-in with staff regularly.
- *If safe*, explore ways the parent and child could share something. For example a drawing or a letter.
- Show compassion and understanding.
- Be transparent and provide parents with regular communication about what is happening, changing, and possible.



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Things to Remember

- It is a difficult time for all of us, so the more humanity we can share, the better.
- Some people who use violence will use this time to abuse their families; further, some won't. Try to listen deeply and avoid assumptions.

(LISTEN)



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Things to Remember

- Job loss, stress, health issues, financial stress, uncertainty don't cause abuse; however, they will create additional challenges that may exacerbate the situation.
- Supporting parents who use violence during this time supports the safety and healing of parents and children now and in the future.





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We are here to provide you support - please contact us anytime
(Evenings and Weekends Included)

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