

The Batterer's Role as a Parent

Authoritarian

- ❖ The batterer is the final and only authority on all matters including those related to the children
- ❖ As a parent, he may be verbally abusive, yelling and barking orders at the children
- ❖ The batterer is rigid and expects that his orders will be obeyed without question
- ❖ The children are expected to adhere to his authority uncritically

Under Involved

- ❖ Focused on himself and not the children, his needs, wants, ways and time frames
- ❖ Children are to meet his needs and not him meeting the children's needs
- ❖ Neglectful and not provide adequate supervision of the children
- ❖ Parenting is seen as the female's job
- ❖ Presents himself to the outside world as a responsive, caring and warm father

Undermines the mother's authority and parenting

- ❖ Batterer overturns the mother's decisions about the children
- ❖ Ridicules the mother in front of the children
- ❖ Children witness the arguing, name-calling, disrespect and humiliation of their mother; father may have them believing she deserves that treatment
- ❖ Children may learn to disrespect the mother

Use of children as weapons

- ❖ The children may be asked to spy on their mother and report to the batterer
- ❖ Engages the children in his excuses for the abusive behaviors
- ❖ Threatens to hurt the children if she leaves or if they tell anyone about the violence

The Batterer's Role as a Parent (continued)

Limited sense of age appropriateness

- ❖ As an under-involved parent whose needs are foremost, batterers do not understand nor care to understand the developmental needs and abilities of children
- ❖ Children are expected to behave in ways beyond their capacity
- ❖ Children can become parentified

Children seen as possessions

- ❖ The family belongs to the batterer
- ❖ No one will tell him how to parent or ever parent the children besides him
- ❖ Lack of care or empathy for the children's feelings

