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Batterer Intervention Project**

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Some Behaviors of a Batterer with Service Provider:

Presents himself as the victim of his woman partner. Things she has done to project herself and her children (such as call the police, leave without telling him in advance, or lie to him), he describes as ways she has mistreated him. “See how bad she is! See what I have to put up with!”

Presents himself as the more stable, sensible, and responsible person in comparison to his partner. It may even be partly true, if he picked her because he wanted a partner who would be dependent on him—less educated, less earning power, less confident, more emotionally expressive, more addicted.

Minimizes or denies the destructive impacts of his abuse on his partner and any children involved.

Denies any and all sexual abuse, although we know from the testimony of victims that sexual assault and coercion of sexual activity is common.

Does everything he can to get you, as a person with some authority in his life, to side with him and, where he thinks it useful, against her. He can be charming, sincere, appreciative, compliant, agreeable, super-cooperative, boyish, in need of mothering and nurturing, seductive, or whatever else he thinks he needs to be to get you to collude. If you don't do things his way, he may suddenly switch to being pouty, silent, uncooperative, moody, threatening, or whatever else he thinks he needs to be to get you to collude.

Denies being responsible for his own abusive actions, immediately answers your questions about his abusive actions with statements about his

partner's faults (hoping you will collude with the idea that she deserves any abuse he may have done, if you insist in believing that he has done some).

Avoids being accountable for his abusive actions. It's all in the past and there is no point in bringing it up. None of her current actions or feelings are consequences of his abuse. Besides, he's already told her he's sorry she feels that way—not that she has any real reason to feel that way. The fact that the children won't treat her with respect or acknowledge her authority as a parent is due to her character faults, not to his dominating and humiliating her in front of them. He can't afford child support, restitution for her attorney fees and lost wages, fees for batterer intervention classes,...
“excuse me, I left my cigarettes in my new car. What alcohol/drug/pornography habit?”

Avoids actually stopping his abusive behaviors (though he may switch tactics) for as long as he can get away with continuing them. But he will have as many “insights” and “try” as really hard and “learn about himself” as much as he needs to for you to collude in thinking that change is happening. He'd like you to tell his partner how much he is changing, because she doesn't seem to notice.

Stops his abuse when the community both accepts nothing less from him than the stop all forms of abuse and provides his partner with sufficient resources to either leave or stay on her terms, without increasing her danger.