



Classification System for Those Arrested for Domestic Violence

- 1. One time event
 - No other history of any kind of abusive behavior
 - Family is not afraid or concerned
 - Pro-social belief system
 - No intervention needed beyond possible legal sanctions (e.g., fine, restitution)

- 2. Limited occurrence due to other psychological issues
 - Limited incidents of any kind of abusive behavior, not forming a significant pattern
 - Family is not afraid or concerned about the abusive behavior
 - Pro-social belief system
 - Limited abuse that has occurred is explained by some other issue/condition (e.g., PTSD, Bipolar Disorder)
 - Therapy to address underlying psychological issues, possibly brief anger management, no abuse intervention needed

- 3. Secondary aggression
 - Limited history of abusive behavior of any kind and only towards the specific abusive partner
 - Abusive partner has the more significant and substantial history of abusive behavior towards the “abuser”
 - Abusive behavior has only been done in response to/within the larger context of the other person’s abusive behavior
 - Family is concerned about the “victim’s” behavior, not the “abuser’s”
 - Pro-social belief system
 - Accountable for the abuse they have done
 - Either abused partner services, secondary aggressor group, or, if no alternative, an abuse intervention group

- 4. Continuing subtle pattern
 - A single extreme incident or a single incident of physical abuse
 - An on-going pattern of milder and more subtle patterns of abuse and control likely in any long term romantic relationship
 - Family is concerned about the behavior—either afraid, frustrated, or confused
 - Pro-abuse belief system

- Typically not particularly accountable and minimizing of their abuse
- Full length abuse intervention

- 5. Continuing obvious abuse
 - Clear pattern of abusive and controlling behavior
 - Family is concerned about the behavior—either afraid, frustrated, or confused
 - Pro-abuse belief system
 - Typically not particularly accountable and minimizing of their abuse
 - Full length abuse intervention

- 6. Larger criminal pattern
 - Abusive behavior is just one of a variety of criminal behaviors
 - There may not be a legal history or formal charges related to the domestic violence
 - The abusive behavior is often eclipsed by the other criminal behavior which leads to the individual being defined by that behavior (e.g., drug dealer, gang member)
 - Family is concerned about the behavior—either afraid, frustrated, or confused
 - Pro-abuse belief system
 - Typically not particularly accountable and minimizing of their abuse
 - Full length abuse intervention, specialized intervention for more psychopathic individuals