

Identifying Power and Control Tactics

The Identifying Power and Control Tactics Worksheet was created by James E. Henderson Jr. a probation officer of the 15th District Court in Ann Arbor MI. After the completion of the questionnaire, it was reviewed by a collaborative team including members of the domestic violence probation department, local batterer intervention agencies, and the local non- governmental victim services agency SAFE House Center. The worksheet was created from the power and control wheel of the Duluth program and from other questionnaires. The worksheet allows probation to assess with both the defendant and victim during separate interviews the history and pattern of abuse or coercive behavior. If used properly it can educate the victim/defendant on what constitutes abuse and help identify power and control tactics. For more information Email: jhenderson@bwjp.org

Defendant Name: _____

Date of Interview: ____/____/____

Victim Name: _____

Date of Interview: ____/____/____

	<i>Defendant</i>	<i>Victim</i>
Uses Intimidation:		
1. I have instilled fear with looks, actions and gestures		
2. I have broken or smashed things. (punched the door, wall, etc.)		
3. I have destroyed her property		
4. I have abused pets/animals		
5. I have displayed weapons in order to intimidate.		
Uses Emotional Abuse:		
6. I have put her down, belittled her, or criticized her.		
7. I have made her feel bad about herself.		
8. I have called her names.		
8. I have humiliated her.		
10. I have made her feel guilty.		
11. I have attempted to make her feel crazy, or she was "losing it".		
Uses Isolation to Control the victim:		
12. I have attempted to control what she does, who she sees or talks to, what she reads or where she goes.		
13. I have attempted to limit her outside involvement/activities.		
14. I have kept her from talking to or directed her to lie about the abuse or controlling behavior to family and friends		
15. I have used jealousy to justify my actions (I'm a jealous man)		
Uses Obfuscation:		
16. I have made light of my choice to abuse or have not taken her concerns or feelings about behavior seriously.		
17. I have said the abuse didn't happen.		
18. I have shifted the responsibility for my choice to use abusive behavior. (it wasn't my fault)		
19. I have used alcohol as an excuse for my choice to use violence		
20. I have told her or believed she caused my abuse.		
Uses Children/Others To Gain An Advantage:		
21. I have made her feel guilty about the children.		
22. I have used children to relay messages.		
23. I have used visitation as a way to harass her.		
24. I have threatened to take the children away.		

	<i>Defendant</i>	<i>Victim</i>
25. I have used the children to gain information about my victim		
Exhibits Male Privilege and Entitlement Beliefs:		
26. I have treated my partner like a servant.		
27. I have believe I should make all the “big” decisions.		
28. I have acted like the “Master of the Castle.”		
29. I have defined and enforced men’s and women’s roles.		
30. I have used physical and/or sexual violence.		
Uses Economic Abuse:		
31. I have prevented her from getting or keeping a job.		
32. I have make her ask for money.		
33. I have given her an allowance.		
34. I have taken money from her.		
35. I have kept information about the family finances from her.		
Uses Coercion and Threats:		
36. I have made and/or carried out threats to hurt her.		
37. I have threatened to leave her, commit suicide, report her to welfare, probation, etc..		
38. I have made her lie about my abuse, or kept her from going to the police or court.		
Uses Physical Abuse:		
39. I have used physical force with her.		
40. I have forcefully grabbed her.		
41. I have pushed or shoved		
42. I have harmed her physically.		
43. I have restrained her.		
44. I have slapped her. (open handed)		
45. I have hit her with objects.		
46. I have thrown objects at her.		
47. I have punched her.		
48. I have choked or strangled her.		
49. I have twisted her arm or leg.		
50 I have pulled her hair.		
51. I have kicked her.		
52. I have thrown food or liquid on her.		
53. I have spit on her.		
54. I have physically beat her.		
Uses Sexual Abuse:		
55. I have pursued sex after she indicated No .		
56. I have made her feel guilty about unwillingness to have sex.		
57. I have her feel bad/inadequate about herself sexually.		
58. I have suggested if she did not give me sex, I could get it elsewhere.		
59. I have had other sexual activity with or without her knowledge.		
60. I have forced her to do sexual things she did not feel comfortable with.		

Please read the following information before utilizing the assessment tools:

“Identifying Future RISK Indicators” and “Identifying Power and Control Tactics”

🕒 In Washtenaw County, Michigan (where Probation Officer Jim Henderson developed these assessment tools) district court probation officers use these tools to collect information for presentence investigation reports and to gather insight into how to best work with a particular defendant and how to help enhance the safety of those victimized by violence.

🕒 These tools guide the initial conversation probation officers conduct with probationers convicted of crimes directed at an intimate partner. These tools are also used to guide separate interviews with the victims and/or current intimate partners of the probationer. In Michigan, information in presentence investigation reports is confidential to the public so there is a level of protection for the victim as well as the probationer. However the probationer can read the report and the victim is made aware of that fact.

🕒 During the interview, probationers are asked to approximate the number of times they have used the various types of abusive tactics listed in the assessment tools. In separate interviews similar information is gathered from the victim. The probation officer compares the victim and probationer reports to get a better picture of the nature of the abuse.

🕒 These tools are **NOT** a scientific measure of future risk of danger or lethality, but are a guide to help probation agents assess the level and nature of the violence used by the probationer. These tools are also helpful in assessing the level of accountability the probationer has for his or her violent behavior. This information is then used to tailor supervision strategies and oversight.

🕒 These are educational tools used to help contextualize and reframe certain behaviors as abusive. Reviewing each question can help give victims a new perspective and framework to understand the relationship and the violence. These tools can also help probationers begin to understand their behavior as a pattern of abusive use of power.

☐ Before interviewing victims, agents must work with victims to identify a safe time and place to conduct the interview. Interviews should not take place in front of the probationer, children, or the probationer’s friends or family members.

🕒 It should be made clear to victims that they are not required to answer questions, and that any information that they share with the probation officer is not fully confidential.

🕒 Probation officers should read each question to the victim, stating that research indicates that domestic violence is a pattern of behavior, whereby a variety of different tactics are used to maintain power and control. Thus, it is unlikely that the abuse that they experienced was related to a singular incident. It must also be made clear to victims that they have the option to pass or skip a particular question that they are uncomfortable answering and that those questions that are skipped will not be identified to the court.

🕒 Victims should be given information about community resources and domestic violence services as a matter of course. Whenever possible, the referrals should be made to a specific advocate instead of the general agency. For example, tell the victim that “Jenny is a very helpful person and she can be reached by calling...” In Washtenaw County, Probation Agent Jim Henderson has built relationships with non-profit victim service agencies so that he can arrange, with permission from victims, a safe time for a confidential advocate to call the victim at a later time.

⌚ Remember that mediation is not appropriate in domestic violence cases. These assessments should be conducted with the victim and defendant at separate times and locations. Information from these interviews should not be used to try to “prove truthfulness” of either party. Interviews are opportunities to educate each party as well as to gather information. Denial and minimization of the abuse are common coping strategies used by both parties, especially early in the intervention process.

⌚ Always remember that your actions with the probationer can potentially put the victim and/or current intimate partners of the probationer at risk for further violence or retaliation. Keeping a victim safe is surpasses or trumps our desire of holding the offender accountable. All actions should be measured with both goals in mind.

⌚ Agents are strongly encouraged to partner with both victim services agencies and agencies skilled at working with people who batter intimate partners. Many of these agencies can provide free training and resource materials for other professionals.

For more information on the use of these tools, please contact James Henderson at JHenderson@bwjp.org or (517) 522-8521 Cell (517) 414-7302