

Appendix J

Questions for Batterers, Children, and Survivors

These questions have been taken from the following sources:

- *Safe and Together*[™] model, David Mandel & Associates;
- Child Welfare Practices for Cases with Domestic Violence, Oregon DHS;
- Minnesota's Domestic Violence Protocol, Olmsted County Rochester;
- Kansas Coalition against Sexual and Domestic Violence; and
- Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation /Children and Family Services.

Questions for Batterers

Related to Children and/or Parenting

- Tell me about the reported incident. How did the children respond to incident?
- Where are the children when an incident happens? Have they ever been hurt?
- How much time do you spend with your children?
- What kind of activities do you do with the children?
- Are you concerned about any of your children's behaviors?
- Does your child have trouble sleeping? Is your child getting sick more often? Describe any problems your child has with school or friends.
- Who makes the final decision on issues relating to the children?
- What role do you play in disciplining the children?
- How do you respond when the children disobey rules in your home?
- When you (acknowledged abusive behavior), do you know what that is like for your children and partner?
- What else do you know about how your (acknowledged abusive behavior) has affected your children?
- What do you think is the most important aspect of being a father? What does it take to be a good father?
- How do you earn the children's respect?
- How would you like your children to think of you?
- How would you like your children's relationships to be in the future.

Related to Partner

- How long have you been in this relationship?
- Describe your relationship with your partner.
- How do you and your partner divide responsibilities? How do you make decisions about money? Whose name is on the accounts?

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Questions for Batterers, Children, and Survivors

- What does your partner do during the day? Do you monitor your partner's cell phone calls and/or texts?
- What goes well in the relationship? What do you disagree about?
- Do you and your partner have conflicts? About what?
- What happens when you have conflicts or strong disagreements?
- Do you call your partner names, insult, or scream at your partner?
- All couples experience conflict about children. What types of things do you argue or disagree about? How do you react when you and your partner disagree?
- How do you demonstrate through your actions that you support your partner's parenting?
- What are your hopes in regard to your relationship with your partner?
- What do you do when you feel angry, jealous, or possessive of your partner?
- Does your partner seem afraid of you? In what ways?
- Has your partner ever been hurt during an argument?
- Tell me about the worst incident that has happened.
- What are some things you like about your partner and family, or some things that they are doing well?
- What are some things you don't like or wish were different?
- What kinds of things do you expect from your partner? Your children?
- Have there been any incidents recently where you and your partner had a major disagreement or fight? Can you tell me what happened that time?

Related to Self

- On a scale of 1 (least safe) to 10 (safest), how safe do you feel in your family? How safe do you think your partner feels? Your children?
- What do you do when you don't get your way?
- Have you ever been so angry that you wanted to hurt someone?
- Have you ever forcefully touched anyone in your family? In what way?
- Have you ever been told anger or violence is a problem for you? By whom?
- Would you describe yourself as being jealous or having a temper?
- What do you believe is the most negative consequence of your abusive behavior?
- How does your violent and abusive behavior impact you?
- Can you identify when you might become violent? Do you know your warning cues?
- What has helped you avoid violence in the past? Are those things available to you today?
- Have you ever been involved with the police or court?

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- Are you currently on probation, on parole, or have an open case in court?
- Have you ever been referred to anger management or domestic violence counseling?
- Will you take steps to get rid of weapons/get into substance abuse treatment/ engage in domestic violence counseling?
- Are you willing to move out? Do you have someone you can stay with?
- If you move out or your partner leaves, will you be able to stay away for a period of time? Can you support your children financially?
- What else are you willing to do to create a safe and healthy environment for your children?
- What have you done to stop your violence? Have you asked anyone for help? What happened?
- If the adult partner is aware of or clearly acknowledges the abuse or violence, or has been in counseling or treatment for it before, you may ask about more recent events.

Questions for Children

Be careful to avoid leading questions when possible. Discuss the pros and cons of asking specific questions (e.g., “Has anyone ever pulled out or used a gun or a knife?”) versus more open-ended ones (e.g., “Tell me how your dad hits your mom.”).

Related to Home

- Who lives or stays in your home (including pets)? Who visits?
- What things do you do with mom/dad? What’s your favorite thing about mom/dad? Is there anything about your mom/dad that makes you sad, scared, or worried?
- What are the rules in your house? Are there any specific rules just for your mom/dad?

Related to Disclosed or Suspected DV

- What happens when your parents (mom and dad; mom and _____; the adults) fight? Does anyone yell? Does anyone hit, shove, or push? Does anyone throw things or break things? Has anyone ever pulled out or used a gun or knife?
- How often does this happen? Once a week? Once a month?
- Tell me about the last time something like this happened. When was it? Where were you? What happened?
- Has anyone gotten hurt or injured? Is your (non-offending) parent afraid? How do your parents act after this happens?
- Have you ever seen the police or anyone come over because of their fights?
- Have you seen injuries like cuts, scrapes, or bruises on them?

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- Have you seen things around the house broken or damaged?
- What do you, your brother, or your sisters do when this is going on?
- Are you ever afraid when this happens? What frightens you the most?
- Have you ever been hurt by (batterer's behavior)? Can you tell me about it?
- How do you feel when this happens? After it happens?
- Do you talk to anyone about what happens? Who?
- Where do you feel safe? At home? At school?
- Have you ever felt like hurting yourself or someone else?
- Have you ever hurt yourself? Hurt other people? Hurt pets or animals?
- Where do you go when (batterer, behavior)? What do you do?
- Have you tried to stop (batterer, behavior)? What did you try to do? What happened?
- In an emergency for your parent or yourself, like if you were really scared or someone was hurt, what would you do? Who would you call? Have you ever called for help? What happened?
- Have you ever left the house when (batterer, behavior)? What did you do? Where did you go?
- Has anyone needed to go to the doctor after (batterer, behavior)?
- Do the adults use guns or knives? Do you know where the gun is?
- Has anyone ever threatened to hurt someone? What did they say?

Related to General Safety

- What/who makes you feel safe?
- What would you like to see happen?
- If you could have three wishes, what would they be? (Look for normal developmental wishes. Responses related to the violence, such as "I want mom/dad to stop hitting mom/dad" would be concerning.)

Questions for Survivors/Non-Offending Parents

Related to Children

- Have your children ever seen or heard your partner act in a violent or abusive way towards you?
- Have your children ever seen the aftermath of partner's violence and abuse?
- Have the kids ever been hurt, either on purpose or accidentally, as a result of your partner's behavior? How do your children react?

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Questions for Batterers, Children, and Survivors

- Has your partner ever interfered with your efforts to care for the children? When your children are scared or upset, are you allowed to comfort them?
- Are the children displaying any problems or difficulties that you think are related to their exposure to your partner's violent or abusive behavior?
- How are your children doing in school? With friends?
- How do your children treat you?
- Have your children ever indicated they were scared or worried for you?
- What do you do day to day to reduce the negative impact of the abuse on the children?

Related to Partner's Parenting

- How much time does your partner spend around the children? How does your partner participate with the children?
- Do you have any concerns about your partner's behavior with the children when you are around?
- All couples experience conflict about children at times. Related to the children, what sorts of things do you argue or disagree about?
- What makes the final decision on issues relating to the children?
- Does your partner support the way you handle the children?

Related to Partner's Patterns

- On a scale of 1 (least safe) to 10 (safest), how safe do you feel?
- In what ways is your partner controlling? Has your partner ever prevented you from going to the following activities: parent-teacher conferences, doctor's appointments, family functions? Is your partner jealous?
- How often do you spend time with family and friends in supportive activities? Have you ever been prevented from spending time with them?
- Does your partner ever monitor your activities? Your phone calls?
- Does your partner ever call you names, insult you, or scream at you? If so, what specific names has your partner called you?
- How are family finances handled? How do you feel about that?
- How are the household responsibilities divided? How do you feel about that?
- Has your partner ever hurt you, accidentally or on purpose? In what ways?
- Do you feel safe? Have there been times when you didn't feel safe?
- Have you ever felt afraid of your partner? Give an example. Are you currently afraid of your partner?
- Has your partner destroyed property?

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Questions for Batterers, Children, and Survivors

- Has your partner been physical with you? Shoved, grabbed, or shaken you? Struck you with an object? Restrained you, blocked your way, or pinned you down? Hit you (open or closed hand)? Strangled or choked you? Forced you to have sex when you did not want to? Interfered with your birth control?
- Has your partner ever threatened you with deportation? Threatened to “out” you (if non-offending parent has disclosed identifying as LGBTQI)?
- Has your partner ever used or threatened to use any type of weapon against you or the children? Against your pets? Threatened suicide?
- Has your partner ever made you feel afraid for the safety of your children? If so, in what ways?
- Has your partner ever threatened to take your children from you? Ever used or threatened to use the children in any way to control or hurt you? Ever done reckless things with you and the children (e.g., reckless driving) to scare you?
- Has your partner humiliated you in front of other people before? If so, how?
- Have the courts or police ever been involved with your family due to violence? Does the idea of the police and the courts make you feel safer?
- Does your partner have any law enforcement or military training?
- Do you or your partner drink or use drugs? What happens then?
- Has your partner ever been threatening or violent to anyone other than you?
- If you could change anything about your relationship, what would it be? What are your hopes with this relationship?

Related to Safety Plans

- Has your partner done anything to stop being abusive?
- If your partner were to become violent today, what options would you have?
- Do you have plans that help keep you safe? What are those?
- Do you have friends, family, or others you can depend on to help you and your children stay safe? Have you sought out safety or support from any agency or person in the past? How was that experience?
- If you left, would your partner try to make you come back or try to take kids from you?
- What has or has not worked for you in the past to keep yourself and your children safe?
- How dangerous do you think your partner is? What do you think would be the worst-case scenario with your partner?
- How do you think your partner will react when finding out we talked with you and/or the children?
- What can we do to help you feel safer?