



Domestic Violence: Understanding the Basics

Domestic Violence is a pattern of coercive and assaultive behaviors that adults or adolescents use to control an intimate partner. This abuse can be physical, psychological, emotional, sexual, or financial – or any combination of these tactics - designed to force the victim to change behavior in response to the abuse. It is the pervasive and methodical use of threats, intimidation, manipulation, and physical violence by someone who seeks power and control over their intimate partner. Domestic violence occurs in current or former dating, married or cohabiting relationships of heterosexuals, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered individuals.

This program is designed to help participants recognize the dynamics of domestic violence well enough to enhance victim safety and offender accountability. Specifically, participants will learn how to:

- Identify what does and does not cause domestic violence.
- Identify power and control tactics.
- Identify the impact of domestic violence on children.
- Identify the barriers to safety for victims.
- Identify how diversity may be a barrier to safety.
- Identify resources to assist victims of domestic violence.

Learn what you can do to help victims and families experiencing domestic violence!

Presenters:

Robert K. Bitting, Ph.D.

Licensed Mental Health Counselor

Nationally Certified Domestic Violence Instructor Trainer

Department of Homeland Security, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center

And

Sara E. Mahoney

Probation Officer

Allegany County Department of Probation

Nationally Certified Domestic Violence Instructor Trainer

Department of Homeland Security, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center