



SAMARITAN COUNSELING CENTER
Here for hope and healing

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Potential sources of physical and psychological injury to children from contact with batterers (post separation)¹

1. Risk of exposure to threats or acts of violence towards their mother
2. Risk of undermining mother-child relationships
3. Risk of physical or sexual abuse of the child by the batterer
4. Risk of batterer as a role model
5. Risk of rigid, authoritarian parenting
6. Risk of neglectful or irresponsible parenting
7. Risk of psychological abuse and manipulation
8. Risk of abduction
9. Risk of exposure to violence in their father's new relationships

Necessary context for children's recovery from exposure to battering behavior

1. A sense of physical and emotional safety in their current surroundings
2. Structure, limits and predictability
3. A strong bond to the non-battering parent
4. Not to feel responsible to take care of adults
5. A strong bond to their siblings
6. Contact with the battering parent with strong protection for children's physical and emotional safety

Risk Assessment

1. Level of physical danger to the mother
2. History of physical abuse towards the children
3. History of sexual abuse or boundary violations towards the children
4. Level of psychological cruelty to the mother or the children
5. Level of coercive or manipulative control towards their partner exercised during the relationship

¹ Assessing Risk to Children from Batterers Bancroft/Silverman 2002

6. Level of entitlement and self-centeredness
7. History of using the children as weapons or undermining mother's parenting
8. History of placing children at physical or emotional risk while abusing the mother
9. History of neglectful or severely under-involved parenting
10. Refusal to accept the end of the relationship, or to accept the mother's decision to begin a new relationship
11. Level of risk to abduct the children
12. Substance abuse history
13. Mental Health History

Assessing change in batterers

1. Has he made a **full** disclosure of his history of physical and psychological abuse?
2. Has he recognized that abusive behavior is unacceptable?
3. Has he recognized and accepted his abusive behavior was a choice?
4. Does he show empathy for the effects of his action on his partner and children?
5. Can he identify what his pattern of controlling behaviors and entitlements?
6. Has he replaced abuse with respectful behaviors and attitudes?
7. Is he willing to make amends in a meaningful way?
8. Does he accept the consequences of his actions