

Post-Separation Abuse & Harm

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What is Post-Separation Abuse

Post Separation Abuse is defined as the ongoing, willful pattern of intimidation of a former intimate partner including legal abuse, economic abuse, threats and endangerment to children, isolation and discrediting, harassment and stalking.

Spearman, K. J., Hardesty, J. L., & Campbell, J. (2023). Post-separation abuse: A concept analysis. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 79, 1225–1246

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What is Post-Separation Abuse

Essential attributes including fear and intimidation; domination, power and control; intrusion and entrapment; omnipresence; and manipulation of systems.

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What is Post-Separation Abuse

After separation from an abusive partner, up to 90% of women report continued harassment, stalking or abuse.

Davies et al., 2009; Hardesty et al., 2012; Mitchell et al., 2021

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What is Post-Separation Abuse

The most severe consequence of post-separation abuse is intimate partner homicide.

Maternal and child deaths are associated with custody disputes and contact arrangements.

A partner who was highly controlling increased significantly the risk of homicide for female partners who had left their abuser.

Holt, 2015; Kernic et al., 2005; Campbell et al., 2009

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Self-Reflection

When you hear post-separation abuse, what **acts** do you think of?

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Post-Separation Abuse

- ▶ What acts did you see in the video?
- ▶ How are these abuse?
- ▶ How would she explain these acts in court? Would it be difficult?
- ▶ What if I told you.....

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Peer-to-Peer Discussion

What can you do within your role to ensure safety & well-being in post-separation?



Think about survivors, children, and people who cause harm

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Judges/Court

- Recognize and identify in court settings (protection orders, family court, etc.)
- Think about labeling these cases post-separation abuse vs high-conflict
- Addressing post-separation abuse in co-parenting arrangements
- Ensuring custody arrangements consider safety during exchanges and communication

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Legal Services

- Recognize and identify in your cases
- Presenting the abuse to the court
- Think about labeling these cases post-separation abuse vs high-conflict
- Requesting custody arrangements consider safety during exchanges and communication

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Supervised Visitation Center

- Recognize and identify in SV&SE setting
- Provide visitation and safe exchange safety planning
- Make visible and interrupt post-separation tactics of coercion and control
- Systems advocacy on post-separation needs of families experiencing IPA.

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Advocates

- Provide training on post-separation tactics of coercion and control
- Provide legal and court advocacy for issues related to custody and visitation
- Uplift post-separation needs of adult survivors and children as part of a larger community response
- Provide post-separation safety planning

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Team Discussion



- ▶ What did you hear from your peer group that you want to share with your team?
- ▶ What are you doing well in your community to address this issue?
- ▶ What is missing or gaps?

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Team Planning



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