

REVICTIMIZING THE VICTIM

Although both abusers and victims may be either male or female, in this list abusers are referred to as men and victims as women. 'We' represents us as individuals or the system.

Victims are often revictimized by the people, institutions and professionals that are supposed to help them. These may include family, friends, law enforcement, medical and mental health professionals, attorneys, teachers, judges, etc. It is imperative that we support the victim and provide services that are nonjudgemental and adequate to meet her needs.

- We don't believe her.
- There are inadequate resources to assist the victim to safe alternatives.
- Some state laws provide more power and protection for the abuser, than the victim.
- Not all health, law enforcement, legal and judicial professionals learn and understand the dynamics of domestic violence. When this happens, they fail to provide the support and assistance needed by the victim.
- We take control of her choices and life.
- We judge and fault her parenting.
- We criticize her choices and 'bad' judgment.
- We blame her for failing to protect her children.
- We falsely assume that when she leaves her partner, she will be free.
- We fail to understand why she makes positive comments about her abusive partner.
- We patronize her.
- We don't consider her motivated if she doesn't leave.
- We do not recognize that any manipulation tendencies that she has are her survival and coping skills.
- We don't recognize and acknowledge her strengths.
- We question her as to why she stays or why she returns.
- We judge her and react when she is inconsistent.