

Cruel Deception

Joy McQuiston, Author on Domestic Violence/Child Abuse



Love Is Not Always What It Seems

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

According to the Wikipedia Encyclopedia, domestic violence (also known as domestic abuse or spousal abuse, occurs when a family member, partner or ex-partner attempts to physically or psychologically dominate another. Domestic violence often refers to violence between spouses, or spousal abuse but can also include cohabitants and non-married intimate partners. Domestic violence occurs in all cultures; people of all races, ethnicities, religions, sexes and classes can be perpetrators of domestic violence. Domestic violence is perpetrated by both men and women.

Domestic violence has many forms, including physical violence, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, intimidation, economic deprivation and threats of violence. Violence can be criminal and includes physical assault (hitting, pushing, shoving, etc.); sexual abuse (unwanted or forced sexual activity) and stalking. Although emotional, psychological and financial abuses are not criminal behaviors, they are forms of abuse and can lead to criminal violence.

Domestic violence can take the form of physical violence, including direct physical violence ranging from unwanted physical contact to rape and murder. Indirect physical violence may include destruction of objects, striking or throwing objects near the victim, or harm to pets. In addition to physical violence, spousal abuse often includes mental or emotional abuse, including verbal threats of physical violence to the victim, the self, or others including children, ranging from explicit, detailed and impending to implicit and vague as to both content and time frame, and verbal violence, including threats, insults, and attacks.

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Physical violence is the intentional use of physical force with the potential for causing injury, harm, disability, or death, for example, hitting, shoving biting, restraint, kicking, or use of a weapon.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Use of physical force to compel a person to engage in a sexual act against his or her will. An abusive sexual contact made by the perpetrator.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Emotional abuse, also called psychological abuse or mental abuse, can include humiliating the victim privately or publicly, controlling what the victim can and cannot do, withholding information from the victim, deliberately doing something to make the victim feel diminished or embarrassed, isolating the victim from friends and family, implicitly blackmailing the victim by harming others when the victim expresses independence or happiness, or denying the victim access to money or other basic resources and necessities.

In my particular situation, coming from a background of childhood abuse, it was easy for me to fall into a domestic violence situation as a teenager. As a young adult I married, had a baby, and was severely abused by my ex-husband, once I decided to leave him. At one point, he broke into my little home and held a loaded double-barreled shotgun to my chest and told me I was going to die. Fortunately, the police arrived in time and saved my life. Even though I pressed charges and he was arrested, he was on the street within hours after his mother had bailed him out of jail.

Within a few months time of the above incidence, he broke into my little home once more and savagely beat and raped me. I felt I had no defense...not from the police...not from his mother, and certainly not from my family who never supported me.

This certainly was one contribution to the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder which I have had to be treated for over many years. However, I will no longer allow someone else's hand guide my way of thinking nor will I ever allow to be overpowered by any bully for the remainder of my life. Once again, I will live my life surrounded by love...not hate, and I will wake each morning being grateful for life itself, with God, my husband and loved ones, such as friends, by my side. This is my ultimate choice and God gave me the right to make it. I will never be victimized again, and if I ever am by being caught off guard, God help the perpetrator. This time I will win. I have won. I am the winner and will continue to prosper in this wonderful world we share.

By Joy McQuiston