



# FCADV

Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence

## **Minimum competencies for child welfare professionals to work with survivors of domestic violence:**

- Interviewing skills to engage survivors:
  - Comfortably discusses child safety concerns in a non-blaming manner
  - Elicit information about the perpetrator's pattern of coercive control and battering
  - Discuss and document the survivor's actions to ensure child safety and well-being
- Accurately assesses and recognizes patterns of coercive control and battering and their impact on the survivor's parenting efforts and caregiver protective capacities
- Makes referrals to and actively consults with co-located advocates from the local certified domestic violence center
- Recognizes the protective efforts of the survivor by assessing for and respecting strengths as they relate to day to day actions taken to help ensure child safety and well being
- Works collaboratively with the survivor to develop a separate and confidential child safety plan
- Partners with the survivor to develop a case plan that supports child safety AND survivor-identified needs
- Collaborates with community victim service organizations and other professionals as needed to create a strong referral process and working relationship
- Makes appropriate referrals to substance abuse, mental health, and in-home service support services

## **Minimum competencies for child welfare professionals to work with children when coercive control and battering is present in the home:**

- Is familiar with and can recognize how battering behavior may impact children throughout developmental stages
- Is familiar with and can use age appropriate interviewing techniques, including asking open-ended questions
- Is able to assess and document domestic violence as a factor, including an accurate description of the perpetrator's abusive behavior and actions taken to harm the children
- Is familiar with and prepared to appropriately address a range of child reactions related to the perpetrator's violence
- Is knowledgeable about and can appropriately engage law enforcement and the criminal justice system to hold the perpetrator accountable for the harm to the children

## **Minimum competencies for child welfare professionals to work with domestic violence perpetrators:**

- Interviewing skills to engage perpetrators:
  - Accurately assesses and recognizes coercive control and battering tactics
  - Comfortably discusses child welfare concerns in a respectful manner without colluding
  - Ability to keep the focus of the interview on batterer's behavior and impact on the family
- Is able to develop a perpetrator-focused safety plan that includes actions that are directly related to controlling danger threats to the child created by the perpetrator's violence
- Is able to develop a case plan with perpetrator input that focuses on measurable behavior change related to coercive control and other diminished caregiver protective capacities.
- Understands and is knowledgeable as to appropriate services for domestic violence perpetrators such as batterer intervention programs that engage with the criminal justice system in accountability and monitoring
  - Can articulate dangers related to other interventions such as family/couples counseling and anger management classes
  - Understands that mental health and substance abuse issues are not causal and should be addressed separately from the domestic violence
- Is knowledgeable about and can appropriately engage law enforcement and the criminal justice system to hold the perpetrator accountable for their violence
- Can develop a petition that focuses on the domestic violence perpetrator as the source of the child safety concerns