

Family Shelter Service

605 EAST ROOSEVELT ROAD ♦ WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60187 ♦ HOTLINE: (630) 469-5650

PRESENTATION OF A BATTERER

Batterers frequently present themselves in the following ways:

- ❖ The “real” victim in the family.
- ❖ Trying to keep the family together.
- ❖ May acknowledge “family problems” but will deny any violence.
- ❖ When confronted by his assaultive acts he may respond by saying: “She bruises easily,” “She was hysterical” or “She was drunk/high,” “I had to restrain her.”
- ❖ May make a complaint to the police department against his partner to counter the complaint she has made regarding his assaultive acts, - uses the system.
- ❖ May make multiple reports to DCFS alleging that his partner is neglecting or abusing the children.
- ❖ May change lawyers, and ask for continuances to delay court hearings to increase his partner’s financial hardship.
- ❖ May prosecute her when she has acted in self-defense, or will use the threat of prosecution to get her to return to him.
- ❖ May assert that he knows key people in the criminal justice system, and that there is no way that she will get justice (reinforcing her helplessness).
- ❖ May give erroneous information about the criminal justice system to his partner to confuse her or to prevent her from acting on her own behalf.
- ❖ May call her, before she is going to testify against him in a criminal case, to tell her it has been postponed or his attorney said she doesn’t have to testify.