

Family Shelter Service

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

WAYS THAT SYSTEMS COLLUDE WITH BATTERERS

- ◆ **Health Care Professionals** may see evidence of domestic violence and don't ask about it.
- ◆ **Mental Health Professionals** may not ask clients about domestic violence and create further danger for the abused partner and children by counseling the family without recognizing the problem. They may also encourage couples counseling which is extremely dangerous to the victim.
- ◆ **Child Protective Workers** may blame the victim for failure to protect the child thereby avoiding putting the responsibility on the batterer.
- ◆ **Educators** may see evidence of domestic violence or dating violence and do not intervene.
- ◆ **Law Enforcement Professionals** may minimize the abuse and avoid arresting the batterer, even when there is probable cause.
- ◆ **Judges** may be concerned about protecting the resources of the batterer and as a result penalize the victim who is seeking an Order of Protection. In custody cases, a judge may consider "estrangement of the father" by the mother to be so harmful to the child that they award joint custody to an abusive or indifferent batterer. Judges in criminal cases may impose minimal or no sentences on convicted batterers.
- ◆ **Custody Evaluators** refuse to believe that violence has occurred and accuse the victim of "parental alienation" and recommend the batterer as the custodial parent.
- ◆ **Clergy Members** may use passages from scripture to convince a victim to remain with a batterer because it is "God's will".