

**WHY YOU SHOULD GIVE A SHIT ABOUT  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**



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**THERE IS AN I IN TEAM**

**TEAM**

There it is...

**BUT IT'S HIDDEN IN  
THE "A" HOLE**



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LEGAL DISCLAIMER



TCAP Slide Deck

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One of us is a Jeopardy champ  
One of us leaves the toilet seat up



TCAP Slide Deck

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But it was just a slap . . .  
OR . . .  
WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



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My personal feelings about DV offenders



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TCAP Slide Deck

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THE HOOK (WHY)



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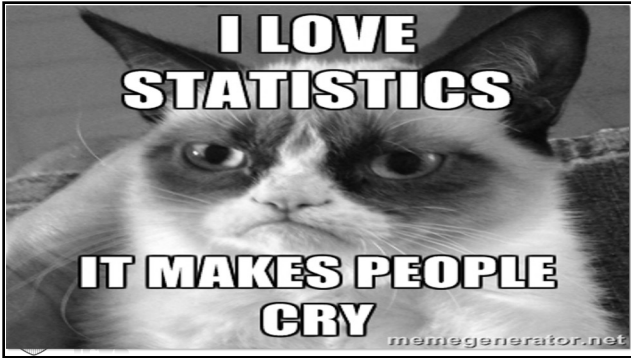
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- DV is the single largest cause of injury to women between 15 and 44.
- 1 out of 4 women physically assaulted or raped by an intimate partner.
- 1 out of 3 female homicide victims are killed by an intimate partner.
- Pregnant women are more likely to die of homicide than any other cause
- 50% of domestic violence offenders also assault their children.
- Significant risk factor for the next generation.



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Children that have been exposed to family violence show the same patterns of brain activity as soldiers that have been in combat



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And it doesn't stop there . . .



The Best Goes On Linda Ness  
Domestic violence was a constant threat. We witnessed my mother get battered many times. This painful image has helped me understand the need for change to abusive patterns of expressing anger and not accepting the role of victim.



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IS IT ALWAYS JUST THE VICTIM?

- Neighbors
- Bystanders
- Animals
- Police
- Just about anyone...ask Congress



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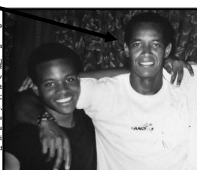
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Magistrate Judge Stevens  
 OCT 23 2002  
 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff, v. JOHN ALLEN MURHAMMAD, Defendant.  
 COMPLAINT IN VIOLATION OF 18 U.S.C. 1583  
 Section 1583(a) and 1583(d)

MEMORANDUM FOR HONORABLE MARGARET F. STEVENS, Magistrate Judge, District of Columbia.  
 The undersigned complainant being duly sworn, deposes and says:  
 On or about May 23, 2002, in District of Columbia, Washington, JOHN ALLEN MURHAMMAD, who is a resident of the District of Columbia, was arrested by the undersigned complainant for the offense of harboring his wife and children, and engaging in with his inactionable fear of bodily injury to himself.

COMPLAINANT JOHN ALLEN MURHAMMAD - 1




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E-6 working at the Pentagon

<p><b>SSG Ronald Hamilton</b></p> 	<p><b>Officer Ashley Guindon</b></p> 
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1 Mile from my house

**Once Again, a Mass Shooter Has a History of Domestic Violence**

By Christina Chalmers





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FORT DRUM, NY

<p><b>Killed his wife and a State Trooper</b></p> 	<p><b>Trooper Joel Davis</b></p> 
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CHARLOTTESVILLE



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LAS VEGAS MASSACRE



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**Deadliest Mass Shootings Are Often Preceded by Violence at Home**

An analysis of 749 mass shootings over the past six years found that about 60% were either domestic violence attacks or committed by men with histories of domestic violence.

By Jackie Gu  
June 30, 2020

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What's so hard about prosecuting domestic violence anyway?



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### DIFFICULT CASES

- Nationwide, only 20% of domestic violence victims who make a complaint to police follow through with a court appearance.
- Victims regularly recant or request that charges be dropped. Some even testify on behalf of their batterers.
- "The community" and even HER family regularly sides with the abuser.



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### NATURE OF CJ SYSTEM

- Criminal justice system is not set up to be preventative
  - Unless there are bad injuries, traditionally, we do not view case as serious
  - "Victim behavior" counts against them every time
  - Abuser often holds all the cards and preps the battlefield
  - The community believes in forgiveness and couples counseling as the holy grail



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DV Myths About



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DV Myths About

**THE VIOLENCE WOULD END**



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DV Myths About



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PRIVACY

- Americans value privacy and personal freedoms
  - We hesitate to “invade” the home
  - View DV as a personal matter
  - DV is often referred to as a domestic disturbance



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STEREOTYPES PREVAIL

- Image of the wife beater
- Great guy
  - devoted family man
  - Wonderful father
  - loyal to a fault
  - Always giving back
- REALLY, REALLY good Soldier, Banker, Police Officer, Judge, Prosecutor (fill in the blank).



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ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY

- We expect people to accept responsibility for their own well-being and safety.
  - Why did she pick him in the 1<sup>st</sup> place?
  - She should just leave
  - She should cooperate with those who are trying to help her
    - She doesn't care so no one else should
    - No victim = no crime



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### Motives to Lie

- Getting a divorce
- Fighting over custody
- Retaliation



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# DYNAMICS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



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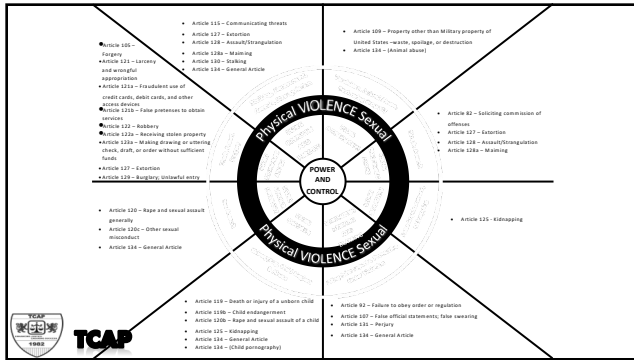
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### WHY DOESN'T SHE JUST LEAVE?

- May not be safer
- Fear
- Economic reasons
- Religious reasons
- Children
  - Custody
  - Danger issues
- Believes batterer will change
- Family and community pressure
- Lack of confidence in the system
- Immigration issues
- When she leaves where is she supposed to go?
- Something is better than nothing

**TCAP**

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### FOUR LETTER WORDS – what you think of

What The Fuck Is This Shit?  
By Dr. Seuss

I ALMOST GAVE A FUCK  
SCARED THE SHIT OUT MYSELF..

**TCAP**

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FOUR LETTER WORDS – reality of DV



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Content Warning: Domestic Violence, Abuse. From "Why domestic violence victims don't leave" by Leslie Morgan Steiner.

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THE MOST DANGEROUS TIME

- A 2004 Washington State Domestic Violence Fatality Review revealed that 44% of women killed had already left their abusers.

"Review Puts Faces on Domestic Violence Statistics", Seattle Post Intelligencer, January 4, 2005



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WHY DO WE  
PROSECUTE  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?



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HOMICIDE



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WHO



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### #ANDSOISTAYED

- Jennie Willoughby, Porter's second ex-wife wrote in a 2017 blog post:
- When I tried to get help, I was counseled to consider carefully how what I said might affect his career. And so I kept my mouth shut and stayed. I was told, yes, he was deeply flawed, but then again so was I. And so I worked on myself and stayed. If he was a monster all the time, perhaps it would have been easier to leave. But he could be kind and sensitive. And so I stayed. He belittled my intelligence and destroyed my confidence. And so I stayed. I felt ashamed and trapped. And so I stayed. Friends and clergy didn't believe me. And so I stayed. I was pregnant. And so I stayed. I lost the pregnancy and became depressed. And so I stayed.



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### WE INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE DV FOR:

- Victim Safety
- Offender Accountability
- Protection of society



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### AT THE END OF THE DAY

- Domestic Violence IS A CRIME, not a "family issue".
- What the victim wants to happen matters BUT if a crime is committed than the focus should be on the offender.
- DV Offenders do NOT have anger management issues.
- PTSD/TBI is not an actual legitimate defense.
- It is easier to accept that she is the triloggy (drunk whore who is a bad mother) than accept that he is a batterer.
- You are a lawyer/advocate/law enforcement/health care professional / Mental heath professional et. al. Use your powers of persuasion to make your co-workers and Judges see DV as the serious issue it is or at least scare the bejeezus out of them.
- Trials are uncomfortable. Even if you lose, you win because you have shown the Defendant there is some accountability notwithstanding their best efforts to thwart you.
- Standing up for a victim is a small victory for an otherwise non victim friendly system (even when they seem not to care).
- Recognize that vicarious trauma is real and can affect anyone. Take care of yourself and your people.




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### And remember Victims don't have crystal balls




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### MY MANTRA AFTER 30 YRS

ilawher@aol.com  
(312) 545-3634




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