

## SCREENING FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Identifying domestic violence is the first stage to intervention. Asking about abuse helps to break the cycle a battered person may experience and lets the individual know resources are available if and when he/she feels ready.

Often times it feels awkward to suddenly introduce the subject of abuse particularly if there are no obvious indications a person is being abused. However, the goal of this screening is to determine whether or not a referral to the Domestic Violence Program is appropriate, and to determine the safety of client and family.

### FRAMING QUESTIONS (Explain only one)

- Because violence is so common in families, I now ask every client whom I see about domestic violence.
- Because so many people I see in my practice are involved with someone who hits them, threatens them, continually puts them down, or tries to control them, I now ask all clients about abuse.

### DIRECT QUESTIONS (Inquire of all questions)

- Do you ever feel afraid of your partner? Do you feel you are in danger? Is it safe for you to go home?
- Has your partner ever tried to restrict your freedom or keep you from doing things that were important to you? (Such as going to school, working, socializing with friends or your family?)
- Does your partner ever try to control you by threatening to hurt you or your family?
- Has your partner ever forced you to have sex against your will?
- If you were being abused in your home, would you know where to go for help?

COMPLETE SCREENING:     YES             NO

(DV? Means that domestic violence is suspected.)

IN- House Referral Made: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Referral Made: \_\_\_\_\_