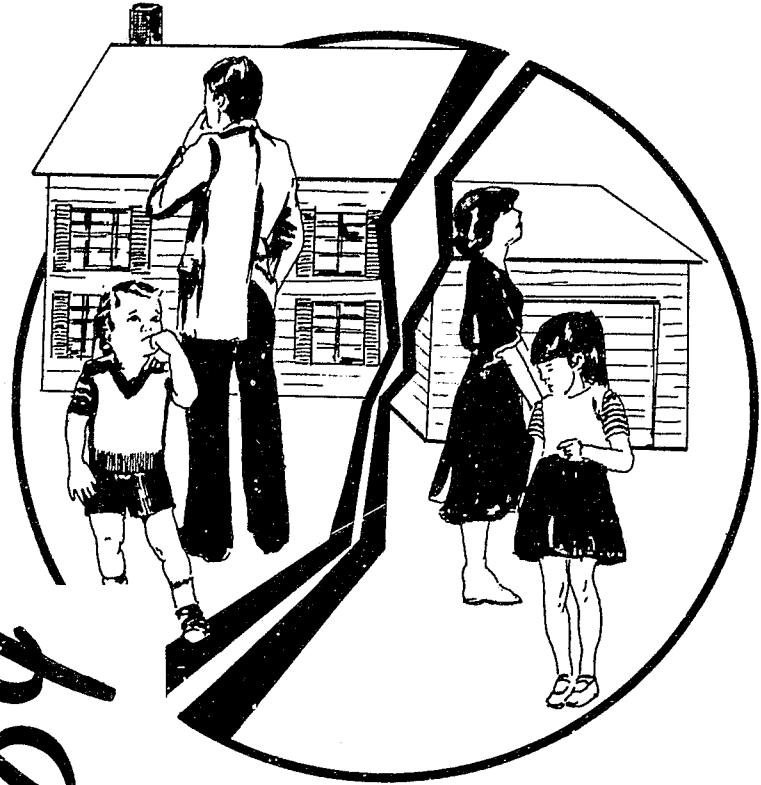


RESOURCE BOOKLET
for
FAMILIES IN CRISIS



54904



NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN
RESOURCE BOOKLET
for
FAMILIES IN CRISIS

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Funded by the

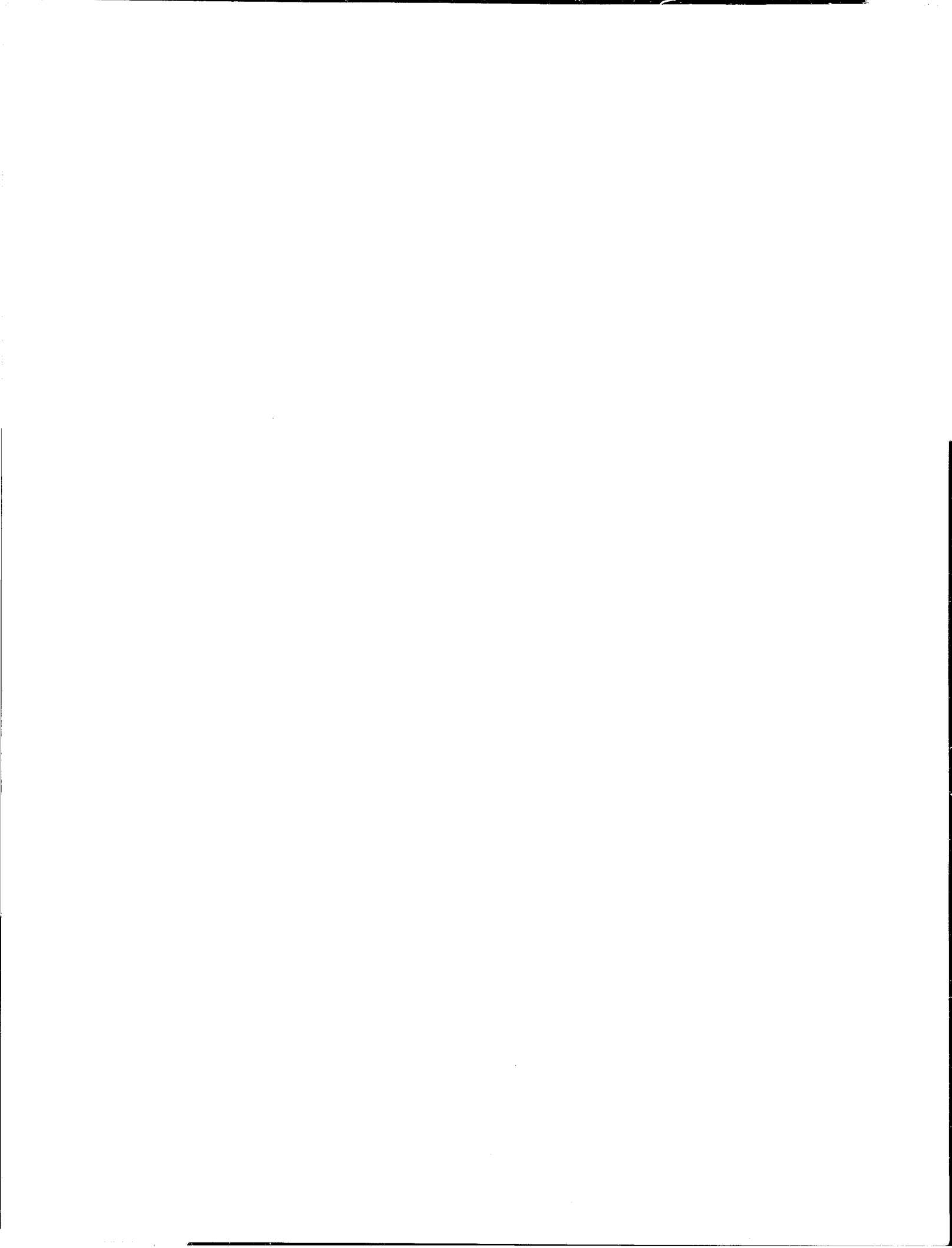
Delaware Humanities Forum

and

Governor's Commission on the Status of Women

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STATUS OF WOMEN**
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Wilmington, Delaware 19801
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PREFACE

Although there has been much media coverage of the phenomena labeled wife beating, it is important to recognize that systematic research on this topic has been limited to the early and mid-1970's and few articles in popular magazines appeared before the early 1970's. However, the last few years has seen a growth of conferences, seminars, and task force presentations of wife abuse. This reprinted booklet is the product of a statewide forum in Delaware, "The Battered Partner: The Law and Family Violence", which was sponsored by National Organization for Women and funded by a grant from the Delaware Humanities Forum. The program for these three seminars is in the back of the booklet.

This booklet was an integral part of the discussion sessions which followed the panelist's presentations. It was also hoped that the booklet would be helpful for those who know or work with battered partners. The objective of the presentations and the discussion which followed was to not only foster an awareness of the problem, the existing laws, and available resources, but to make citizens aware of limitations and potential needs for services to help families where there is a battered partner.

This program and booklet could not have been possible however without the generous support of the Delaware Humanities Forum. Thanks must go to the many members of the four Delaware Chapters of NOW (National Organization for Women) who were involved in the planning and research for this booklet. I wish to especially acknowledge Therese Lucy for the information on Maryland laws and resources; Sybil McNulty, Martha Basye, and Nancy Lillich for New Castle County and statewide resources; Barbara Weatherly, Jan Sybil and Barbara Sandin for Delaware Laws; Joan Easterly for police procedures; Dennis Spivak, for general legal procedures; Adair Douglas (KYW-TV information service manager) for Pennsylvania resources; and Doris Dabrowski for Pennsylvania laws. Jean Bowen provided much assistance in the coordination of the three counties. A special thanks goes to Nancy Lillich for locating information on Pennsylvania as well as weeks of tracking down elusive information for the three states covered. The booklet could not have been completed without the typing and editing provided by Dorothy Windish. Thanks, also to Carol Meiselbach, who verified all resources for this third edition.

Finally, the reprinting and distributing of this third edition, an expanded version of the original Resource Booklet for Battered Spouses by the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women, is greatly appreciated.

Suzanne K. Steinmetz
Editor
June, 1978

FAMILY VIOLENCE DIMENSIONS OF THE PROBLEM

Suzanne K. Steinmetz

DIMENSIONS OF PARENT-CHILD VIOLENCE

Although extensive media coverage of family violence is a recent phenomena, an examination of court records, newspaper articles and laws suggest that as long as there have been families there has probably been family violence. It certainly pre-dates violence on TV, the movies or magazines.

In 1646 law attempted to help parents control their rebellious children, noting that unless the parents "have been very unchristianly negligent in the education of such children or so provoked them by extreme and cruel correction," any child over 16 years of age and of sufficient understanding who cursed, smited and would not obey his natural mother or father "would be put to death" (Steinmetz, 1978:1).

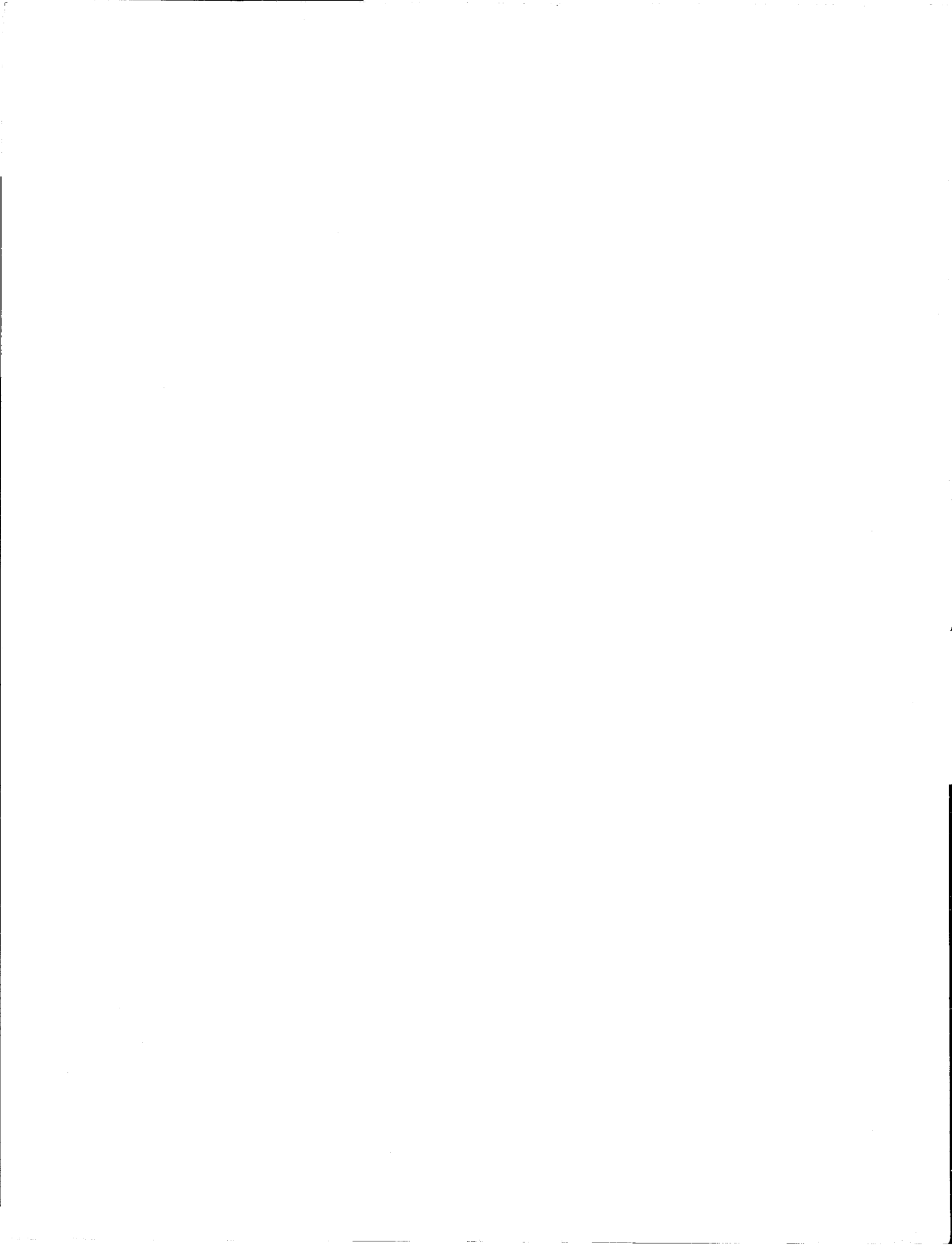
In 1874, public reaction to the story of Mary Ellen, the nine-year-old rescued from her physically abusive parents by appealing to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was instrumental in the founding of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Corporal punishment, one of the most practiced forms of family violence is also the most accepted form of family violence. Parents are expected to control and mold their children and they are given considerable freedom in selecting the mechanism they use to obtain this control. Unlike Sweden where a parent can be imprisoned for a month for striking a child, spanking is considered to be an acceptable way of disciplining children and the privilege to spank has been recently extended to school teachers in Delaware and school bus drivers in New Jersey.

Several researchers have noted that physical punishment is at one end of the continuum, the other end being child abuse and that often child abuse is simply discipline that got out of hand (Steinmetz and Straus, 1974).

Estimates indicate that there are 500,000 incidents of abuse and neglect each year. Furthermore, each year 40,000 of these cases require protective service intervention, and over 2,000 children are fatally injured by their parents.

A large national survey (Straus, et.al. 1977) discovered that 20 percent of the parents interviewed reported that they hit their child with an object at least once during the past year. In addition over four percent reported that they "beat up" their child and nearly three percent used a gun or knife on a child. These figures mean that each year nearly two million children are beaten up by their parents and over one and a third million face a gun or knife.



REDUCING VIOLENCE

While all parents probably have experienced the feelings of hostility towards children especially when it has been a very trying day, most parents are able to recognize the difference between the "urge to slug" their child who is acting obnoxious and out of control and actually carrying out the act. Fortunately, some parents recognize that they are out of control, or are quickly losing their control.

Recognizing that you have a problem is the first step towards eliminating the problem. Parents Anonymous, a volunteer self-help group of parents with similar feelings can help parents deal with their violence.

Break the cycle of parent-child aggression. Aggressive, highly active children often are described as difficult to control by their parents. Usually parents resort to spanking to control the child's aggressiveness. Unfortunately, this only seems to make the child more aggressive which results in the parents resorting to still more severe physical punishment in an attempt to control the child. This increasingly more violent cycle often results in child abuse. Parents should stop rewarding the negative, aggressive behavior and give attention to the child only for positive behavior. Instead of yelling and spanking, tell the child firmly, that you won't tolerate the behavior and until he/she is in control you do not want to deal with him/her. Put the child in a room and leave. While you are now refusing to give the child attention when disobedient, you must go out of your way to lavish attention on each and every positive behavior of the child's — no matter how insignificant. Be consistent. It won't be long before the child realizes that much more attention is given when he/she is doing good than when deliberately disruptive.

SIBLING VIOLENCE

If we were to see a grade school child with bruises and perhaps a black eye and were told that his parent had inflicted the injury we would immediately be filled with rage and disgust. If, however, are told that the injuries resulted from a fight with a brother or sister — the typical reaction is to nod and remark "Kids will be kids."

Our complacency regarding sibling violence needs to be jarred. Children are capable of violent and often fatal attacks on sibs. Although only 0.3 percent reported actually using a knife or gun in the national study (Steinmetz, 1978) extrapolating this percent to 36-1/2 million children between 3-17 who have siblings suggests that an estimated 109,000 children actually used a knife or gun on a sibling during the survey year. When the analysis was based on "ever

happened" rather than limited to the survey year, 18 percent of the families reported siblings "beating up" each other, and 5 percent reportedly faced a gun or knife wielded by a brother or sister. Thus, 6.5 million children have been "beaten up" by a sibling and nearly 2 million children sometime during their childhood have faced a gun or knife.

□ Contrary to child abuse and wife beating, which have been referred to as the hidden or unreported crimes, sibling violence is readily acknowledged as a normal aspect of family relationship. An aspect which families do not see as much of a problem, is suggested by the following quote:

"Before breakfast Nancy and Fanny had a fight about a shoe brush which they both wanted. Fanny pulled off her shoe and threw it at Nancy, which missed her and broke a pane of glass of our school room. They then enter'd upon close scratching &c. which methods seem instinctive in women."

□ This quote from the 18th Century diary of Philip Fithian, a tutor for the children of a colonial Virginia family, is not much different from that of families of today. One mother, in a recent study (Steinmetz, 1977b), when asked how her children got along, reported:

Terrible! They fight all the time. Anything can be a problem. Oh, it's just constant, but I understand that this is normal. I talk to other people, their kids are the same way.

□ Since sibling violence represents the child's first opportunity to engage in violence which had been witnessed between parents in the movies and on TV, and experienced through spankings it is, therefore, a very critical link for understanding and attempting to break the cycle of violence in the family. The practice of viewing sibling violence as a normal part of growing up simply reinforces in the minds of children the acceptability of using this method to resolve conflicts and provides an early opportunity for children to practice that which they have observed and experienced. Rather than ignoring violence between brothers and sisters, parents need to impress upon their children that this is not acceptable behavior.

Dimensions of Husband-Wife Physical Violence

□ A major concern today is the violence between husbands and wives, one of the most insidious forms of violence. While mandatory reporting laws now provide information regarding the extent of child abuse (and public services agencies are provided with mechanisms for dealing with the problem), only recently has there been any systematic information collected regarding physical violence between husbands and wives. There are several explanations for this.

lack of information. First, the private nature of family life, especially in the nuclear structure predominant in American society, tends to keep this type of violence away from the public view. A second factor is that neighbors, law enforcement agencies, and social service systems are reluctant to become involved in marital battles (Parnas, 1967; Bard, 1971; Steinmetz, 1977b). A final consideration is the general acceptability of the use of physical force between husbands and wives. Between one fourth and one fifth of the respondents in a large national study felt that it was quite acceptable for husbands and wives to use physical force on each other under certain circumstances (Stark and McEvoy, 1970). The Bible reinforces the notion that women are chattel — their husband's property. Although women were given much equality and protection from abusive husbands during the early puritan days — women were a scarce and valuable resource, by revolutionary time, women, now a more available commodity had lost much of that equality and many new territories had to live under laws which not only gave their husbands the right to physically chastise them but specified the thickness of the switch which was to be used. With the force of the Bible and laws existing today in numerous states which allow this type of treatment of women, it is easy to overlook the brief period in early American history when women were highly valued and the laws prohibited both men and women from verbally and physically abusing their spouse under severe penalties and public disgrace.

While there has been an apparent growth of awareness of marital violence, there is a tendency to view this form of aberrant behavior as one resulting from the Macho ideology, an ideology which supports the male's use of physical force to maintain his dominance over his mate. Upheld by both tradition and the law, Macho ideology fosters the brutal beating of wives by their spouses and denies these wives access to social structural mechanisms which might protect them from further abuse.

While no one would deny that this treatment of women — in fact this treatment of any human being — is reprehensible, there needs to be closer examination of the battered spouse phenomena, with an emphasis on investigating male and female differences in the use of physical violence to resolve marital conflicts. While understanding the mechanisms which might facilitate these acts of violence does not justify such behavior, it at least recognizes the existence of circumstances in which a class of perpetrators (husbands) might, in some families, be victims.

Statistics gathered from police and court records, lawyer's cases and hotlines provide some insights. In 1973, for example, 14,000 beating complaints were filed with the New York Family Court (Barden, 1974). By 1975 the number had grown to 17,000 complaints (Edmiston, 1976). Eight hundred or nearly one-third of the cases handled by a Brooklyn Legal Aid Attorney dealt with wife abuse and a similar percentage was reported by a California Bay area Lawyer (Barden, 1974).

Lawyers in Maryland and D.C. estimate that 50 percent of all marriages involve some degree of physical abuse of the wife (Langley and Levy, 1977).

Police reports from Norwalk, Connecticut, a wealthy suburb, and a precinct of the same size in Harlem, New York City, each received about 4-5 wife abuse complaints a week (Barden, 1974). Husband and wife assaults make up 11 percent of the aggravated assaults in St. Louis and 52 percent in Detroit (Langley and Levy, 1977).

A recent national survey estimated that about 13 million couples will have experienced severe physical violence and about 1-3/4 million will have faced a spouse wielding a knife or gun (Straus, Gelles, and Steinmetz, 1977).

One can ask, however, is this violence between mates a natural state, and is this violent interaction typically one in which males utilize physical force to maintain their dominant position over women?

We have learned from Margaret Mead's classic study, *Sex and Temperment* (1935) that aggressive interaction is essentially learned behavior and that it may be defined as a male or female characteristic depending on the society. While aggression may have instinctual roots in human development (Lorenz, 1966; Ardrey, 1967; Bach and Goldberg, 1975), the arousal of this aggression as well as the method by which this aggressiveness is displayed appears to be learned behavior (Bandura, 1973; Eron, et al., 1971). Thus we must look to the socialization processes, structural characteristics of the society, as well as individual differences between spouses for the explanation of this phenomena.

Although wife beating was an overlooked, in fact carefully hidden aspect of society until recently, a growing number of empirical investigations into this problem and a plethora of articles both in academic publications as well as in magazines for the general public are rapidly appearing. Unfortunately, while the horrors of wife beating are paraded across the media and crisis lines and centers are being established, the other side of this coin — husband beating — is still hidden under a cloak of secrecy.

This is certainly easy to understand. In a society which tends to view men as strong, physically dominant, and aggressive, while women are viewed as weak, physically submissive, and vulnerable, what male wants to admit that his wife is physically abusing him. Furthermore, the "mating gradient" (Leslie, 1967; 433ff) in which the male is expected to be taller, stronger, physically dominant, older, and more experienced than his mate, is considered desirable and tends to reinforce male/female difference.

Estimates on the Frequency of Marital Abuse.

Because of the personal guilt felt by women who experience beatings, the inability to safely report the incident; and the lack of protection offered the women who do seek police and legal methods to end the abuse, this type of family violence is grossly underreported. In a random sample of New Castle County (Delaware) families, four cases of severe and repetitive beatings occurred out of the fifty-seven intact families interviewed. The number of intact families in this county was estimated to be 94,000 in 1975. During 1975, however, only 26 cases of serious family assault were reported to the police. This represents about .0003 percent of the families experiencing spouse beating. Or, to use the usual Census designation, 28 per 100,000 families. Of the total number of serious family assault, wives were the victims in 24 instances (or 26/100,000). However, in the random sample of New Castle County families, 7 percent of the wives suffered severe abuse or 7,016 per 100,000. This magnitude of underreporting (the difference between 26/100,000 reported abuse and 7,016/100,000 estimated) suggests that only about 1 out of 270 incidents of wife beating are ever reported to the authorities.

Although there were no husbands as victims of serious assault among the study population, in two of the cases reported to the police the victim was the husband. If the same degree of underreporting was present for husbands, then one could suspect that 540 incidents (574/100,000) occurred in New Castle County during 1973.

Unfortunately, little empirical data exists on husbands who have experienced physical batterings from their wives. Evidence of applicants or an occasional newspaper article.¹

We do know that over three percent of 600 husbands in mandatory conciliation interviews listed physical abuse by their wife as a reason for the divorce action (Levinger, 1966). While this is far lower than the nearly 37 percent of wives who mentioned physical abuse there are several factors besides lower actual rates which should be noted. First, Levinger's study showed that women had nearly twice the number of total complaints than did men. Therefore unless one is willing to assume that is always the husband's fault when a marriage fails, it appears that women might be more comfortable voicing their complaints. A second, and related factor is that the traditional role of husbands in a divorce action is to take the blame for the failure. Thus even if the husband desires the divorce, etiquette demands that he allow his wife to initiate the action. Extending this to a conciliatory interview it is reasonable to expect that husbands might be less ready to expose his wife's faults. Some support is provided for this position by examining the types of complaints commonly made by husbands, i.e., sexual incompatibil-

¹One minister who does extensive marital counseling estimates that about 20% of his cases involved husbands who are being beaten by their wives (Marvin Hummel, personal communication).

ity, and in-law, both traditionally accepted, male-oriented complaints. A final consideration is that the male in our society suffers a considerable degree of psychological pressure to maintain their dominant position over females. (Balswick and Peek, 1971; Steinmetz, 1974a). Thus given the psychological stress of recognizing the wife's physical dominance; it is unlikely that many men would be willing to admit their physical weakness to a third party. Since it is far less likely that a man would report his wife's abusive behavior, this is probably an extremely conservative estimation. In fact, in both incidents of husband beating, a neighbor, not the husband, reported the abuse. Regardless of the factors which might operate to differentially effect reporting rates, it is obvious that the phenomena of husband "beating" does exist. The question which needs to be addressed is to what degree husbands and wives differ in their use of physical violence to resolve marital conflicts.

Methods

□ The data being reported is from a larger study (Steinmetz, 1977b) investigating family configurations of conflict resolution. Fifty-seven families were randomly selected who fit the criteria of being intact and containing two or more children between the ages of 3-18 residing at home. Although there were no black families in the study, there was a wide range of ethnic, religious and social class representation. The research design consisted of a semi-structured, in-depth interview with a parent; a questionnaire administered to a parent and a child; and diaries in which all family conflicts, the participants involved, and the method of resolution were recorded for a period of a week. This provided data from two parents and a child in 35 percent of the families and one parent and a child in the remaining families in the sample, thus counteracting the effect of the "wife's view" of families (Safilios-Rothschild, 1969; Steinmetz, 1974a). The data being reported in this paper is primarily from the interview and questionnaire part of the research.

Results

□ Over 60 percent of all families participating in this study experienced some form of marital violence during their marriage. As noted on Table I, below, the types of physically violent acts covered a wide range.

Table 1. Types of Physically Aggressive Acts Used to Resolve Marital Conflicts.

Percent of Families*		Type of Physical Aggression
51	(N = 25)	Throwing things
31	(N = 15)	Pushing, shoving, grabbing
22	(N = 11)	Hitting the spouse with their hand
12	(N = 6)	Hitting spouse with something hard

*Forty-nine families participated in the questionnaire part of the study.

Some families had engaged in all of the above forms of physical aggression, while others had used only one form. In some families the wife committed the physically aggressive act; in other families the husband was the aggressor; while in many families reciprocal physical violence was displayed.

Methods Used by Males and Females

Table I suggests that as a group, a majority of the families experienced physical violence to resolve marital conflicts, at least once, during their marriage. The focus of this paper, however, is to compare husbands and wives and their use of violence. To analyze this relationship spouses were separated into, male and female sub-groups, and the percentage of each group using different types of physically violent acts were compared (See Table II).

Table II. Percentage of Husbands and Wives using Different Acts of Physical Violence to Resoove Marital Conflict.

Type of Physical Violence Used	Percent of all Husbands and all Wives Using each Method*	
	Husband	Wife
Throwing Things	39(N=19)	37(N=18)
Pusing, Shoving, Grabbing	31(N=15)	22(N=11)
Hit With Hand	20(N=10)	20(N=10)
Hit With Something Hard	10(N=5)	10(N=5)

*Forty-nine families participated in the questionaire part of the study.

Table II above suggests that there is considerable similarity between males and females in their selection of physically violent modes for resolving marital conflicts. Since data are computed separately for husbands and wives in the sample, it is possible that only one spouse could use a different form. For example, the ten

percent of the husbands that "hit with something hard", were not, in all instances, the spouses of the ten percent of the wives who used the same behavior. There was, however, a tendency for spouses to use similar methods, and to a similar degree.

Although the number of families in this study is fairly small, the data seems to indicate few differences between husbands and wives in their use of physically violent acts to resolve marital violence.

Frequency of Specific Acts of Marital Violence

Although wives and husbands may use similar acts of physical violence to resolve marital conflicts, one can posit that perhaps spouses differ in the frequency to which they resort to a specific method. For example is the violent act a single occurrence as one wife noted:

I had kept it on for so long. He had gone to bed this one night and I forgot just why it was, but I went up and hit him on the back. It wasn't the best thing in the world and I couldn't get away with it a second time.

Or, as another respondent noted when asked if she had ever been slapped:

Yes, once . . . I lost my temper. I think I asked for it, really. I threw something.

However, for some spouses the use of physical violence to resolve conflict is the rule rather than the exception, as noted by the following description of the "typical" fight between one couple:

Mrs.: . . . We would get into a big argument and I would just keep needling and pushing until he would slap me to shut me up.

Interviewer: Did you shut up?

Mrs.: No, I would hit him back. It just ended up in a bigger argument.

Using the data from the questionnaire part of the study the frequency of each type of physically violent act was computed separately for husbands and wives. The data on Table III suggest considerable similarity between the frequency of methods used by males and females to resolve marital conflict.

**Table III. Percent of Husbands and Wives
Who Select Physically Violent
Methods For Resolving Marital Conflicts**

Type of Physical Violence Used	Frequency of Act					
	A FEW TIMES		SOMETIMES		ALMOST ALWAYS	
	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %	Husband %	Wife %
Throwing Things	20 (N=10)	27 (N=13)	18 (N=9)	10 (N=5)	0	0
Pushing, Shoving, Grabbing	20 (N=10)	12 (N=6)	6 (N=3)	6 (N=3)	4 (N=2)	4 (N=2)
Hit with Hand	14 (N=7)	14 (N=7)	6 (N=3)	4 (N=2)	0	2 (N=1)
Hit with Something Hard	6 (N=3)	6 (N=3)	4 (N=2)	4 (N=2)	0	0

Who Did More Damage?

The data from the interview part of the survey, and supported by reports of wife beating, suggests that men do more damage. There are several possible reasons for this:

1. Because of socialization, women are taught better impulse control and they stop aggressive behavior before any damage occurs.
2. Because women are more verbal than men, men resort to physical means to support their dominant position.
3. Because men are physically stronger they are capable of causing more physical damage to their spouses than wives are capable of doing to husbands.

The myth of women receiving socialization for greater impulse control appears to have little support in reality — at least as far as marital fights are concerned. The data provided on Table II and III plus insights gained from the in-depth interviews suggest that women are as likely to select physical violence as are the men to resolve marital conflicts. Furthermore, child abusers are more likely to be women, and women throughout history have been the prime perpetrators of infanticide (Straus, Gelles, and Steinmetz, 1973). While it is recognized that women spend more time with children and are usually the parent in a single parent home (which is prone to stress and strains resulting in child abuse); and that fathers in similar situations might abuse their children more, these findings do indicate that women have the potential to commit acts of violence and under certain circumstances carry out these acts.

The second point is also questionable. Although the myth of the verbally abusing, nagging women is perpetuated in the media — mainly in comic form — the data to support this myth is lacking. There appeared to be small random differences in the use of verbal violence in the families studied. Furthermore, Levinger (1966) in his

study of divorce applicants found that wives were three times more likely to complain of verbal abuse than their husbands.

□ It appears that the last reason is more plausible. The data reported suggests that at least the intention of both men and women towards using physical violence in marital conflicts is equal. Identical percentage of men and women reported hitting or hitting with an object. Furthermore, data on homicide between spouses suggests that an almost equal number of wives kill their husbands as husbands kill wives (Wolfgang, 1958). Thus it appears that men and women might have equal potential towards violent marital interaction; initiate similar acts of violence; and, when differences of physical strength are equalized by weapons, commit similar amounts of spousal homicide. The major difference appears to be the male's ability to do more physical damage during non-homicidal marital physical fights. When the wife slaps her husband, her lack of physical strength, plus his ability to restrain her, reduces the physical damage to a minimum. When the husband slaps his wife, however, his strength, plus her inability to restrain him, results in considerably more damage.

□ Support for this position is provided by the following newspaper article describing the beating a physically weaker husband had received from his wife. This article noted that a wealthy, elderly New York banker had won a separation from his second wife who was 31 years his junior. During the 14 year marriage the husband had been bullied according to the judge by:

Hysteria, screaming, tantrums, and . . . vicious physical violence practiced on a man . . . ill-equipped for fist-fights with a shrieking woman.

The judge noted that the husband wore constant scars and bruises. Once his wife shredded his ear with her teeth, another time she blackened both his eyes, and on still another occasion, injured one of his eyes so badly that doctors feared it might be lost (Wilmington Evening Journal, April 21, 1976:2).

DISCUSSION

□ The data presented suggests several possibilities for reducing spouse abuse — especially wife beating since the physical damage far exceeds that which occurs in husband beating. One could attempt to remove those conditions which appear to result in wife battering. Based on O'Brien's findings (1971) this would require that men be able to adequately fulfill the male role of major economic provider via full employment, increased wages, adequate education and job skill training. Implementation of this, as O'Brien notes, runs counter to the goals of the Women's Movement as well as civil rights legislation. Another solution might be to train women in the martial arts so they are more equally matched in the marital arena. One can not help but wonder about the existence of repeated attempts of wife beating, if the husband were decked by the "Little woman." While information on the husbands reaction to this form of interpersonal interaction is lacking there is evidence that battered and abused women reach a point at which they can no longer tolerate this behavior and often

they turn to weapons to equalize their spouses' greater physical strength. Therefore, while defending oneself may avoid a battering, the long term result might be homicidal.

□ This suggests that the solution lies in a two-pronged attack on the problem. First there needs to be a mechanism which will provide protection from further physical abuse by the battering spouse. This can be accomplished by laws such as one recently enacted in Pennsylvania by which the battering partner can be removed from the home allowing for a cooling off period and hopefully, therapeutic intervention. Police training in family crisis intervention is crucial for de-escalating family conflicts before they become large scale battles. Shelters which a battering spouse can utilize on emergency bases as well as temporary, transitional shelters, which allow the separated spouse a safe environment while new residential, employment and child care facilities are sought, are needed. It should be noted that while men are the victims in only a small percentage of the time and men are more likely to have longer, more secure employment, they often become the target when they try to intervene in their wife's overly severe discipline of a child. Therefore, a husband/father in this situation faces the same needs for emergency safe shelter — primarily for the children.

□ Second, the long term solution requires the re-education of family members, starting with young children. There is ample evidence to suggest that family interaction patterns are transmitted to succeeding generations. We know that abusing parents were often abused as children (Wasserman, 1967; Zalba, 1971). Furthermore, clinical studies have shown that individuals who commit acts of violence often have family backgrounds steeped in violence. Not only have these individuals experienced child abuse, but often they were witness to acts of physical violence between the parents (Easson, et al., 1961; Silver, Dublin and Lourie, 1969, Satten, et al., 1960; and Duncan, et al., 1958; Duncan and Duncan, 1971). Patterns of intra-family interaction were found to exist in which parents used similar methods to discipline children as they used to resolve marital conflict and their children imitated these methods when dealing with sibs (Steinmetz, 1977a). Furthermore, these patterns were found to exist over three generations (Steinmetz, 1977b).

□ Thus it would appear that long-term solutions to the problem of spouse battering would require a restructuring of the total family interaction patterns with an emphasis on non-violent mechanisms for resolving problems.

"WARNING LIST"

□ Furthermore, the following 5-point checklist developed by Maria Roy (1977) for potential battered wives (but also applicable to husbands and couples contemplating marriage), should be provided to all those in a dating or marital relationship.

- Abuse during the honeymoon period is a major signpost of more serious trouble ahead. Women hope that things will improve with time; usually, they do not.
- Heavy drinking and abuse are highly correlated, If he refuses to acknowledge his drinking problem and get help for it, don't be deluded into thinking that you can change him.
- Before getting involved with a man, find out as much as you can about his childhood, his parents' marriage and his views about

women. "If his father beat his mother or he himself was beaten as a child, chances are you can expect trouble in your own marriage."

- Does your husband have a criminal record for aggravated assault? Many women mistakenly feel that a husband's violence stops when he enters the front door.
- Very often pregnancy triggers violence. Pregnancies should be planned, after a husband and wife have gotten to know each other very well.

To that list can be added the following:

- Is your date (or intended mate) extremely jealous? While this may be flattering now, it usually indicates that this person considers you to be property — his (or hers). Any tampering, real or imagined, with ones property is likely to result in violence.

- Has your date (or intended mate) slapped you or threatened to do so because you did something improper? This should be a warning that this person does not consider you to be an EQUAL, but rather as someone who is inferior and in need of discipline.

- The important point to remember is that each time this person slaps you or threatens to do so, and gets away with it, it strengthens this person's belief that he (or she) has the RIGHT to treat you this way.

- A smart guy or gal would end this relationship immediately. Contrary to what most people would like to believe, the violence will not stop when the relationship gets more serious. The violence is likely to get worse.

- Numerous agencies are listed in this booklet which offer counseling and therapy for families aimed at not only improving the immediate family environment but breaking the cycle of violence.

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LAWS

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SYNOPSIS OF DELAWARE LAW CONCERNING THE BATTERED SPOUSE

In accordance with the Law of Delaware, jurisdiction over domestic violence, including but not limited to the abuse of a spouse, is divided between Superior Court and Family Court. Superior Court handles felonies and Family Court handles misdemeanors; in reality, the difference is one of degree.

The term family is defined in Title 10 of the Delaware Code, Section 901(9) (hereinafter "Title number, Del. C. Section number") as meaning "...husband and wife; a man and a woman cohabiting in a home in which there are children of either or both custodian and child; or any group of persons related by blood or marriage, who are residing in one home under one head (Emphasis added)."

Exclusive criminal jurisdiction is vested in Family Court over "offenses, *except felonies*, committed by one member of a family against another member of the family, and criminal cases, *except felonies* in which one member of the family is complainant against another member of the family (Emphasis added)." See 10 Del. C. Sec. 922(2). As if to emphasize the point that Family Court is the forum in which misdemeanors between family members (including husband and wife) are to be handled, 10 Del. C. Sec. 922(19) is slightly repetitious when it states that Family Court has exclusive criminal jurisdiction over "Intra-family offenses against the person under 11 Del. C. Subsection 601 (Offensive Touching), 602 (Menacing) and 611 (Assault In the Third Degree)(Parenthetical Information added)." The preceding, specific offenses would probably be considered the most common misdemeanor offenses which involve the element of physical abuse.

The preceding is a synopsis of Delaware Law as written. What happens in practice is a different matter. It should be noted that no records or statistics are maintained concerning the problem of spousal abuse. It seems that not only the Courts, but also social agencies, public and private, are unaware of the nature, shape and/or dimension of the problem. The reluctance of the complaining spouse to follow through or to cooperate after filling a complaint, coupled with the almost total lack of support for a complainant, who is a woman, severely distorts the judicial process and makes difficult the formulation of any general conclusion in this area, other than the observation concerning the lack of support itself.

Generally, a woman who has been physically abused by her husband will go to Family Court and either swear out a warrant against him or file a petition at that time. A petition is merely a complaint. A Family Court staff worker will then attempt to conduct an intake interview with both parties. The matter may end there with the interviewer recommending and/or initiating some form of coun-

selling program. On the other hand, the Family Court worker may be unable to interview either or both of the parties or may feel, due to the circumstances of the particular case, that the matter should be referred to the Court. The intake interviewer will then pass on his or her comments and/or recommendation to the Family Court Judge who will hear the case and rule accordingly. Generally, the relief involves some form of counseling.

Therefore, the remedy for a first offense involving spousal abuse will be informal. The two parties are, in essence, told by either a staffer or by a Judge of Family Court to try to work things out with the assistance of counselling provided either by the Court staff or by some other social agency recommended by the Court staff. This method of handling the problem is known as "Voluntary Adjustment," but it seems to be a fancy term for family counselling.

Only after a husband appears before Family Court on an abuse type of offense for the second, third or even fourth time, does there exist a real possibility that he will be jailed for some period. Such treatment further complicates the problem since a street-wise husband knows before he physically abuses his wife, that the Court will not immediately impose any drastic sanction against him.

An Imperiling Petition may be filed by a battered spouse who wants her violent partner removed from the family residence. It is an interim remedy available to a spouse who has not yet met the statutory requirements for divorce. The spouse must allege that s/he is in imminent danger of serious physical or emotional harm under 13 Del. C. Sec. 1509 (4) and 10 Del. C. Sec. 950 (5). There is a \$10.00 filing fee but it is unnecessary to obtain an attorney to file such a petition. If the emergency judge to whom the matter is initially brought determines that the matter is a true emergency, the petition may be heard within one week's time. Otherwise the hearing will be scheduled as soon as the court's calendar permits, usually 4-6 weeks. It is also advisable to include in the Imperiling Petition a request that the court consider custody, child support and interim alimony as matters for additional relief. The Court cannot entertain such requests unless they were included in the petition when filed. The petitioner can also request that the Court order the violent partner to seek treatment for alcoholism, drug addiction, emotional instability etc. if the abuse is determined to be caused by such a condition. A derivative benefit to the battered spouse who obtains an Imperiling Order is that the police can immediately arrest the offending spouse who violates the order that is issued at the Imperiling hearing itself (i.e., that the defendant stay away from the marital residence, receive counseling, etc.) without the victim having to sign a criminal complaint.

Finally, it is interesting to note that the Delaware Law on Divorce, states that one who initiates a divorce action, the petitioner, may be entitled to alimony. See 10 Del. C. Subsection 1502(5), (6), (7) and 1512. Revised by H. B. 485, Jan. 1978.

Roger Akin, Mimi Boudart, Dennis R. Spivak
Assistant Attorney General

POLICE ROLE IN SPOUSE ABUSE

What steps should a woman take to bring criminal charges on her husband after a beating? First, she should get out of the house, go to a friend or neighbor, call the police and cause as much disturbance as possible. The more witnesses the better. As soon as possible she should go to a doctor or hospital and if possible, have photographs taken. She should get to the nearest police station and swear out a warrant.

When the police get a call from a woman whose husband has been beating her, they send a police officer to the house to investigate the "domestic disturbance." These calls are quite frequent, particularly on weekends from 4 p.m. to 3 or 4 a.m. Usually the husband has been drinking. The police try to calm the people down. If the woman should wish to press charges, she would request a warrant be issued against her husband. She could request transportation to court if necessary. After a warrant is issued, the husband would be arrested, fingerprinted, processed (paperwork would be completed), he would be taken to magistrate's court. If he were judged too drunk, he would remain in jail for 24 hours. If he were not judged too drunk, he would be released right away, as soon as he could post bond. The judge could send him to family court, perhaps for counselling or he might be released on his own recognizance — obviously angrier than ever. In Delaware, the police can help her get to a shelter for battered women.

SPECIFIC DELAWARE LAWS

ASSAULT A person is guilty of assault if he recklessly or intentionally engages in conduct which causes the risk of physical injury or actually causes physical injury or death to another. (11 Del. C. Sec. 611, Sec. 613). Specific types of assaultive behavior are described below. (11 Del. C. Subchapter II, Subpart A).

Sec. 601. Offensive Touching:

A person is guilty of offensive touching when he intentionally touches another person, either with a member of his body or with any instrument, knowing that he is thereby likely to cause offense or alarm to such person.

Sec. 602. Menacing:

A person is guilty of menacing when by some movement of his body or any instrument he intentionally places another person in fear of imminent physical injury.

Sec. 603. Reckless endangering in the second degree.

A person is guilty of reckless endangering in the second degree when he recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to another person.

Sec. 604. Reckless endangering in the first degree:

A person is guilty of reckless endangering in the first degree when he recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of death to another person.

Sec. 611. Assault in the third degree:

A person is guilty of assault in the third degree when:

- (1) He intentionally or recklessly causes physical injury to another person; or
- (2) With criminal negligence he causes physical injury to another person by means of a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument.

Sec. 612. Assault in the second degree:

A person is guilty of assault in the second degree when:

- (1) He intentionally causes serious physical injury to another person; or
- (2) He intentionally causes physical injury to another person by means of a deadly weapon or a dangerous instrument; or
- (3) He recklessly causes serious physical injury to another person by means of a deadly weapon or a dangerous instrument; or
- (4) He intentionally causes physical injury to a law-enforcement officer who is acting in the lawful performance of his duty.

Sec. 613. Assault in the first degree:

A person is guilty of assault in the first degree when:

- (1) He intentionally causes serious physical injury to another person by means of a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument; or
- (2) He intentionally disfigures another person seriously and permanently, or intentionally destroys, amputates, or disables permanently a member or organ of another person's body; or
- (3) He recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of death to another person, and thereby causes serious physical injury to another person; or
- (4) In the course of or in furtherance of the commission or attempted commission of a felony or immediate flight therefrom, he intentionally or recklessly causes serious physical injury to another person; or
- (5) He intentionally causes serious physical injury to a law-enforcement officer who is acting in the lawful performance of his duty.

Sec. 621. Terroristic threatening:

A person is guilty of terroristic threatening when:

- (1) He threatens to commit any crime likely to result in death or in serious injury to person or property;
- (2) He makes false statements:
 - a. Intending to cause evacuation of a building, place of assembly, or facility of public transportation;

b. Intending to cause inconvenience; or

c. In reckless disregard of the risk of causing terror or serious inconvenience.

The penalties for these offenses range from three months to 20 years. The burden of proof is on the complainant. FAMILY COURT HAS JURISDICTION IN FAMILY MEMBER LITIGATION FOR CRIMES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION 601, 602, AND 611. (10 DEL. C. SEC. 922).

If the husband's treatment of his wife was such as to render continued living with him physically unsafe, she is justified in leaving him, and if she is in destitute or necessitous circumstances at the time she filed her complaint, he must support her. (State v Sharp, 31 Del. 148, 111 A. Sec. 909). Family Court has jurisdiction over support matters.

Ability to bring suit against husband — The Married Women's Act does not give a woman the right to sue her husband in civil matters. The statute does not expressly give the wife the right to sue her husband and since Delaware is a Common Law State the interpretation is that the immunity to the spouse is still there. (Fields v. Synthetic Ropes, Inc. 59 Del. 135, 215 A, 2nd 427). A wife may bring suit against her husband in matters of equity-e.g. performance of a separation agreement. In actions wherein a husband or wife allege conduct imperiling the family relationship the Family Court will have jurisdiction. The Court may order the defendant to desist from the acts complained of, or order individual of family counselling with the court staff or with any appropriate counselling agency, or enter such other order as may be required. (10 Del. C. Secs. 921, 925, 960). The Court may also order the defendant to move from the family home, even though it is titled in defendant's name alone or jointly with someone else. It may also enjoin the defendant from molesting or disturbing the peace of his or her spouse. The power to restrain the defendant from transferring or disposing of any property except for the necessities of life and to order the defendant to permit his or her spouse to have the use of designated personal property, even if titled in defendant's name alone is granted to the Family Court. (13 Del. C. Sec. 513).

CHILD ABUSE

A synopsis of Delaware Law concerning abuse of children follows.

The term "child abuse and neglect" is defined in Chapter 9 of the Delaware Code, Section 902 as meaning "... physical injury by other than accidental means, injury resulting in a mental or emotional condition which is the result of abuse or neglect, negligent treatment, sexual abuse, maltreatment, mistreatment, nontreatment, exploitation or abandonment, or a child under the age of 18 or of an individual who appears to be mentally retarded."

According to Chapter 9, Delaware Code, Section 903 any physician, dentist, nurse, school employee, social worker, psychologist, medical examiner "or any other person who knows or reasonably suspects child abuse or neglect shall make a report" . . . "to the Division of Social Services of the Department of Health and Social Services." (Chapter 9, Delaware Code, Section 904.) Any individual making such a report is immune from liability. (Chapter 9, Delaware Code, Section 906.)

CHILD CUSTODY

The Court shall determine custody in accordance with the best interests of the child. In determining the best interests of the child the Court shall consider all relevant factors including:

1. The wishes of the Child's parent as to his custody;
2. The wishes of the child as to his custodian;
3. The interaction and interrelationship of the child with his parent or parents, his siblings, and any other person who may significantly affect the child's best interests;
4. The child's adjustment to his home, school and community;
5. The mental and physical health of all individuals involved.

The Court shall not presume that a parent because of his or her sex, is better qualified than the other parent to act as custodian for a child, nor shall it consider conduct of a proposed custodian that does not affect his relationship to the child. (13 Del. C. Sec. 722).

Family Court has jurisdiction in child custody matters.

The Court may:

1. Award the custody or possession of a child to any party to the action, establish visitation rights, and, in a proper case, order payment of support for the child;
2. Order a child's custodian to exercise such care and perform such acts as may be reasonably necessary to insure that the child shall obey the law and receive adequate care;
3. Consent to a child's employment, or to his enlistment into the armed forces, or to his receiving medical care as may be required by law;
4. Order a person under a duty to do so to pay through the Court or directly to his wife or to the custodian of his child reasonable support for the wife or child. (10 Del. C. Sec. 950).

RAPE

A man is guilty of Rape in the second degree, when he intentionally engages in sexual intercourse with a female without her consent. (11 Del. C. Sec. 763). It is Rape in the first degree (11

Del. C. Sec. 764) if either serious physical, mental or emotional injury is inflicted, or if the victim was not the defendant's voluntary social companion on the occasion of the crime and had not permitted him sexual contact previously. Delaware law no longer excludes a wife from charging her husband with rape.

Sexual intercourse is broadly defined as any act of coitus between male and female, and includes intercourse with the mouth or anus. It occurs upon any penetration of the penis, however, slightly, and emission is not required. (11 Del. C. Sec. 773).

SEXUAL ASSAULT

A person is guilty of sexual assault (11 Del. C. Sec. 761) if he has sexual contact with another person not his spouse or causes the other person to have sexual contact with him or a third person, and

- (1) he knows the contact is offensive; or
- (2) the contact occurs without the consent of the victim.

SEXUAL CONTACT means any touching of the sexual or other intimate parts of the person for the purpose of arousal of either party. (11 Del. C. 1953, Sec. 773; 58 Del. Laws, c. 497,1.)

WITHOUT CONSENT. Sexual intercourse or sexual contact is considered to be "without consent" when:

- (1) The defendant compels the victim to submit by force or by threat of imminent death, serious physical injury, extreme pain, or kidnapping, to be inflicted upon anyone, or by any other threat which would compel a reasonable person under the circumstances to submit; or
- (2) The defendant knows that the victim is unconscious, asleep, or otherwise unaware that a sexual act is being performed; or
- (3) The defendant knows that the victim suffers from a mental illness or mental defect; or
- (4) The defendant has substantially impaired the victim's power to appraise or control his conduct by administering or employing without the other person's knowledge or against his will drugs, intoxicants, or other means for the purpose of preventing resistance. (11 Del. C. 1953, 767; 58 Del. Laws, c. 497, Sec. 1.)

DESERTION

Any person who, without just cause, deserts or willingly neglects or refuses to provide for the support of a spouse in destitute or necessitous circumstances shall be fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both. In construing the term "destitute or necessitous circumstances" as used in this chapter, the court shall consider the health, the relative economic condition, the financial circumstance, the in-

come including the wages and the earning capacity of the husband and of the wife and of any child or children involved. (13 Del. C. Sec. 502).

PENNSYLVANIA LAWS

SPOUSE ABUSE

Pennsylvania, Protection from Abuse Act

In Pennsylvania, the abused spouse can file a criminal complaint in Common Pleas Court against the abuser. She is wise to file immediately — while bruises are still evident. The court can order the person not to abuse in the future, (i.e. even if he protests that he never has done so.) The partners may still live in the same house. The court can also evict the abuser from the house but in practice seems reluctant to do so. The order can include custody and visitation arrangements if needed.

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DIVORCE

Currently divorce in Pennsylvania is on the adversary system which supposes that one spouse is innocent and injured and the other is guilty. The injured party may claim “indignities to the person” which is repeated or day to day life involving problems such as drinking, continual arguing, contempt, name calling in front of others) drug use etc. On the other hand, “cruel and barbarous treatment” requires showing only one incident in which the abused was in serious danger of her/his life.

KIDNAPPING

In Pennsylvania both parents are assumed to have custody of the children unless a court has ordered otherwise. Therefore if a woman wants to leave the home with her children, she has the right, and is not kidnapping them. If custody has been awarded to one parent and the other snatches them or refuses to return them from a visit, kidnapping charges could be brought. Some states subscribe to the Uniform Child Custody Act which states that the court has jurisdiction which has had the maximum contact with the child. Thus if a parent not having custody moves the child to another state and files in that state for custody, the court there could refuse to hear the case IF that state has adopted the Uniform Child Custody Act.

MARYLAND LAWS

POLICE INTERVENTION IN SPOUSE ABUSE

In Maryland, a battered spouse should call the local police. They will take her directly to the magistrate to swear out a warrant, if she wants to press charges. If the police do not witness the actual battering, evidence of abuse is needed such as marks on one's body, bruises, cuts, etc., as well as the spouse's general emotional state. The police are considered to be witnesses to the evidence that abuse has taken place. If the police see the actual battering then they can prosecute, if not, the battered spouse must swear out the warrant. The police will then transport the spouse to "safe" housing in a motel or select private homes which have agreed to participate in the program.

ASSAULT AND BATTERY

A person convicted of a crime of assault with intent to have sexual relations with a female child under 14 or with intent to rob is guilty of a felony punishable by not less than two nor more than ten years in jail.

Assault with intent to murder is punishable by not less than two nor more than thirty years imprisonment.

Assault with intent to commit rape is punishable by not less than two or more than twenty years imprisonment. (3Md.C. Ann. Sec. 12-12B).

A person who unlawfully shoots, stabs, cuts, wounds, assaults or beats another person with intent to maim, disfigure or disable is guilty of a felony punishable by 18 months to ten years imprisonment. (3Md.C. Ann. #386).

CHILD ABUSE

The purpose and intent of these laws is for the protection of children who have been the subject of abuse.

a. "Abuse." This term is defined as any physical injury sustained by a child as a result of cruel, inhumane treatment or malicious acts; or any sexual abuse of a child, whether or not any physical injuries are sustained.

b. **Penalty.** Any parent or person having care or custody for supervision of a child under 18 who causes abuse to such child shall be guilty of a felony punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

c. Immunity is extended to those who report child abuse in good faith.

- d. A child may be temporarily removed from a home without court approval by a representative of the Department of Social Services if it is believed to be in serious physical danger. (3Md.C. Ann. Sec. 35A)
- e. If a person abuses or has sexual relations with a female child under 14, that person is guilty of a felony punishable by 18 months to life imprisonment. (3Md.C. Ann. Sec. 462)

DIVORCE

The court may decree a bill for divorce for the following causes:

1. Impotence of either party at the time of marriage,
2. Adultery,
3. Continued and uninterrupted abandonment for twelve months without any expectation of reconciliation,
4. Voluntary separation without cohabitation for twelve months prior to filing of bill and without expectation of reconciliation,
5. When party filed against has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor under the laws of the State and has been sentenced to serve at least three years or an indeterminate sentence in jail, twelve months of which has already been served,
6. Application of either party separated and apart and uninterrupted for three years, and
7. For any ground under which annulments are granted in the State.

The Court will also grant divorce for the following:

1. Cruelty of treatment,
2. Excessively vicious conduct,
3. Abandonment and desertion,
4. Voluntary separation when there is no expectation of reconciliation. (Under the ground of voluntary separation, separation does not occur until the parties cease living in the same house).

In general the court of Equity has jurisdiction in an action of divorce, alimony or annulment of marriage. A Court granting a limited or absolute divorce may determine ownership of property. (2Md.C. Ann. Sec. 24-29).

Residency Requirement. Residency one year prior to application of a bill for divorce is mandatory or no person is entitled to a divorce where cause occurred outside of the State. (2Md.C. Ann. Sec. 29).

Alimony. Alimony may be awarded to either spouse regardless of who initiated the action.

The Court may not award permanent alimony or attorney's fee unless it appears from the evidence that a spouse's income is insufficient to care for his or her needs. (2A Md.C. Ann. Sec. 1-5B).

Among the various factors which the courts have considered in awarding alimony are:

1. Spouse's wealth and earning capacity and applicant spouse's income,

2. Their standard of living,
3. Ages of each party,
4. Their physical condition,
5. Ability to work,
6. Length of time couple resided together,
7. Circumstances leading to divorce and fault destroying home.

Under principles of law governing divorce on grounds of constructive desertion, any misconduct of a spouse will justify the other spouse's leaving when their living situation becomes impossible because of possible loss of health or self respect or because of reasonable fear of bodily injury.

With regard to loss of self respect, the legal measure of intolerance necessary to support constructive desertion requires that injured party's self respect be shattered beyond repair. Mere marital indifference, lack of demonstration of love or rudeness or expressed desire to end marriage do not constitute intolerable conduct.

CHILD CUSTODY

Both father and mother are joint natural guardians of their children (under 18) and are jointly charged with their care, welfare, support and education. Both parents have equal powers and duties neither have any rights superior to the rights of the other concerning custody.

In the case of abandonment of the family by a parent, guardianship desolves upon the other parent.

In the case where parents are living apart, parental preference is not based upon sex.

When a parent or the parents are unsuitable or, a child would be adversely affected, the court may appoint a third person as guardian. (3Md.C. Ann. Sec. 1).

In the determination of custody, paramount consideration is given to the well-being of the child.

A court of the State has jurisdiction over the determination of child custody when it is necessary in an emergency to protect the child because the child has been subjected to or threatened with mistreatment, abuse or otherwise neglected. (2A Md.C. Ann. Sec. 186).

CHILD ABDUCTION AND KIDNAPPING

A person who forcibly or fraudulently takes or causes a person (except in the case of a child under 18 by a parent) to be taken out of or within the State shall be guilty of a felony punishable by up to 30 years imprisonment. (3Md.C. Ann. Sec. 337-8).

CHILD DESERTION AND ABANDONMENT

Any parent deserting or willfully neglecting to provide for support and maintenance of his or her child (under 18) is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not exceeding \$100 and/or up to three years imprisonment. And/Or the Court may, with regard to the parent's financial ability, direct the parent to pay weekly support for three years with or without surety. A lien may be placed on the parent's earnings. If the order for support is violated within the three year period, the parent may be brought to trial for the original indictment and charged under the original conviction.

Any person having care, custody or possession of a child (under 18) who deserts or abandons the child with intent that it become a public charge or without making a three year provision for proper support and maintenance with a responsible person or institution is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$100 or imprisonment of up to one year. (3Md.C. Ann. Sec. 88-96).

If either parent abandons a child (under 18), the other parent may sue for loss of wages or services of the minor when the loss is occasioned by seduction or injury wrongfully or negligently inflicted upon such child. (3Md.C. Ann. Sec. 1).

A Court granting a divorce has the authority to award property settlements. In the award of property owned by a spouse before marriage (or its value) to such spouse, the Court will consider the circumstances of the other spouse at the time of divorce.

The courts have upheld any agreement or deed between a husband and wife regarding alimony, support, maintenance and property rights prior to divorce. The Court has authority to modify such agreements, unless otherwise expressly stated.

However, with agreements regarding children, the Court has the authority to modify such agreements as it deems proper.

CHILD SUPPORT

The awarding of child support is based on earning capacity and financial worth of spouses and circumstances of children at the time of the award. Support continues until a child is twenty-one, is emancipated or becomes self supporting. If the parent paying child support contributes more than 50 percent to such child, this parent may claim the child as an exemption.

Non-Support. Failure to pay child support may result in the Court issuing an order directing the parent to pay or give a bond to the State as a penalty. Failure to comply with such order is punishable by jail sentence of up to one year. (3Md.C. Ann. Sec. 101). As an alternative, the Court may release accused parent for a period of time sufficient for such parent to demonstrate his or her ability to make regular support payments. (2Md.C. Ann. Sec. 102).

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RESOURCES

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RESOURCES AND SERVICES AVAILABLE IN DELAWARE

ABORTION — see Planned Parenthood-Counseling and referral
Women's Health Organization —
1205 Orange Street, Wilmington
302/652-3410
800/327-7096

Reproductive Health and Counseling Center —
Crozer-Chester Medical Annex, Chester, PA
215/874-4361
Women's Suburban Clinic, Paoli, PA
215/647-1344

AFTER SCHOOL CARE — check with the local YWCA or community center; often they offer care, and after-school care programs.

ALCOHOL ABUSE —

Alcoholics Anonymous-
24 hour phones
New Castle County - 302/655-5113
Kent County - 302/736-1567
Sussex County - 302/539-7668

Al-Anon - help for spouses and friends of the alcoholic
New Castle County - 302/658-1121

Al-Ateen - help for children of alcoholics
New Castle County - 302/658-1121 or 655-5113

Dry Dock - information and referral
Sussex County - 302/227-6985

Twelve Twelve Corp. - Wilmington drop-in center — 13th and Market St.
New Castle County - 302/652-9843

Triad - private referral information and counseling, drop-in counseling

New Castle County - 302/655-1153

Halfway Houses -
Limen House for Women - 7th and Broom
New Castle County - 302/652-9510

Men - 903 Madison St. - 652-9252

Corinthian House
Sussex County - 302/856-5494

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION -
302-654-3966
COUNSELING — see Hot Lines, Social Services

Catholic Social Services Emergency Aid, family counseling
services available to all
New Castle County - 302/655-9624
Kent County - 302/674-1600
Sussex - Georgetown - 856-9578 or 856-5350
Bridgeville - 302/337-8261

Child Support Enforcement Bureau, State of Delaware
New Castle County - 302/571-2336

Child Abuse Prevention Service - contact Diane Spencer,
Route 3, OA 39, Felton, Delaware 19943
302/284-4444

Child Foundation - 302/655-3311

Child Protective Service
302/762-6860

A Resource Center for Youth (ARC) - Family counselling
available for families involved in incestuous relationships or
families with children who have been sexually abused.
New Castle County - 302/658-5177
Kent & Sussex Counties - 302-422-8013

Chris and Bob Trout - family, marriage and divorce counseling.
Set fee, but will consider your ability to pay. Experienced in
counseling battered partners.
Dover - 302/678-0307
Seaford - 302/856-7738

Concordia Family Life Center - counseling
New Castle County - 302/762-4989

Delmarva Ecumenical Agency - counseling
New Castle County - 302/655-6151
Kent County - 302/678-2000
or - 302/674-4437

Divorce - Support Groups
Women in Transition groups are operating through NOW (no
charge) and Family Services of Northern Delaware - offers open

ended counseling support groups on a small sliding scale fee basis.

Ecumenical Ministries of Kent County - information and referral, some cash and goods.
Kent County - 302/674-9006

Everett, Frank - private counseling for battered partner
Kent County - 302/674-2380

Family Services of Northern Delaware- family counseling, many related services, small fee
New Castle County - 302/654-5303

Family Education Center of Delaware - group counseling
New Castle County - 302/478-9946
or - 302/475-3925

New Castle County - 302/368-6956 - Stanton
- 302/571-2140 - Wilmington
Kent County - 302/678-5321 - Dover
Sussex County - 302/856-5400 - Georgetown

Human Services of Northern Delaware-referral in the Newark area.
New Castle County - 302/366-7035 ext. 39

Jewish Family Service- counseling, services available to all
New Castle County - 302/478-9411

People Place- free individual counseling services
Milford - 302/422-8011
Georgetown - 302/856-3290

Tressler Lutheran Services- contact Jack Little, they will accept Blue Cross/Blue Shield: COUNSELING AVAILABLE TO ALL
New Castle County — 302/994-6663

Turn About- counseling
302-856-3751
YWCA-Women's Center
Arden 302/475-8424

CREDIT

Discrimination-Human Relations Commission
Contact Ann Aleman—302/571-3485

Try to establish credit in your own name before divorcing. Start your own chacking, savings, and credit accounts. Mastercharge

and Arco will list the applicant on their cards. Also help in housing, employment, housing facilities and public accommodations.

CRISIS LINES/HOT LINES

Health and Social Services-24 hour Hot Line 302/678-4800

If you are separating from your husband, they will help you get Aid for Dependent Children. They also have an emergency fund if you have no money. They will help you find emergency shelter. Also a referral and information service.

Contact-24 hour Crisis Hot Line
New Castle County—302/575-1112

Dial-hotline emergency information and referral
New Castle County—302/738-5555
or—302/738-5556

NOW-information and referral support groups, sisters who care statewide—302/731-7316

PARENTS ANONYMOUS-Ongoing peer group counselling Referral Service. Open to any parents or caretakers of children who abuse or neglect, or are afraid they may abuse or neglect their children.

Tel. 654-1102, 9:30-2:30 Mondays to Thursdays
Other Times Call CONTACT 575-1112. Ask for Parents Anonymous
YWCA-24 hour hot line for battered Women. 302-475-4111

EMERGENCY HOUSING AND FOOD

Salvation Army-limited emergency housing and food

New Castle County — 302/656-1667
Kent County—302/678-9551—Dover
—302/653-7095—Smyrna
—302/398-8954—Harrington

Child Foundation — Counseling — 655-3311
Emergency Overnight Shelter — 762-5566

Shelter for Children

Eight-0-One House- shelter for children ages 11-18. You must be in a crisis situation to be accepted.
302-678-3133

YWCA of Wilmington- shelter, counseling, referral,
24 hour crisis line.
302/475-4111

Roslyn Rettew- informal counseling and emergency housing
NOW SPECIAL TASK FORCE MEMBERS

302/654-6897

EMPLOYMENT AND JOB TRAINING

CETA-Comprehensive Employment Training Act

If you are unemployed or underemployed and need skill training in order to be fully employed, ask at the Employment Service about CETA or Manpower training for yourself. Up to six months and occasionally, two years of training can be financed by CETA.

In New Castle County the Wilmington Skills Center prepares workers in welding, auto mechanics, ship-fitting, carpentry, clerical, day care and secretarial skills. The Women's Program also in New Castle County is especially helpful in training women in the first four listed above as they are non-traditional for women.

CETA trainees are eligible for a stipend and day care for pre-schoolers.

New Castle County - 302/571-2800 - Mark Wilson

Kent County - 302/678-3100 - Dee Hartley

Sussex County - 302/856-7701 - Laney Layton

Women's Program

New Castle County - 302/571-4257 - Joan Williams

Vocational Rehabilitation-

Person with physical or emotional handicaps will be screened by Vocational Rehabilitation for training in employable skills

New Castle County - 302/571-3263 - Wilmington

- 302/368-6870 - Newark

Kent County - 302/678-5478 - Dover

Sussex County - 302/422-6668 - Milford

Community Services Corp-Job Training

New Castle County - 302/368-4400

U.S. Dept. of Labor (unemployment office)

New Castle County — 302/571-2717

Kent County — 302/734-7438

Sussex County — 302/856-5230

State Employment Assistance

302/571-2750

Job Corp, Job Corp will train youth between the ages of 16 and 22 for employable skills.

New Castle County — 302/571-2745

Kent County — 302/678-5475

Sussex County — 302/856-5230

Job Bank

Job Bank is the registry of job openings available through the employment service. When you register for jobs the interviewer will determine if there are any suitable openings for you.

New Castle County — 302/571-2905

University of Delaware — Access Center

Free academic counseling for adults returning to school. Free programs offered in assertiveness training, career explorations and assessment of career goals. Day care services are available for a small fee for students enrolled in courses offered at WILCASTLE CENTER. Limited financial aid is available.

Clayton Hall — 302/738-2741 for appointment

Delaware Technical and Community College- Free counseling and testing available for adults returning to school. Comparative Placement and Guidance testing are also available. Financial Aid, loans and Grants are also available.

Call admissions office for appointment.

New Castle County 302-368-6956-Stanton

302-571-2140-Wilmington

Kent County 302-678-5321-Dover

Sussex County 302-856-5400-Georgetown

FAMILY COURT-

New Castle County - 302/571-2200

Kent County - 302/678-4501

or - 302/678-4503

Sussex County - 302/856-7702

FISH- see Transportation

Emergency services and transportation, some fees

New Castle County - 302/658-2954

Sussex County - 302/227-7061

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

You don't have to be on Welfare or eligible for Welfare to qualify for Food Stamps.

Some of the qualifications for Food Stamps are that you must have cooking facilities, assets of less than \$1,500 and the head of the Household must bring evidence such as check stubs with her to show actual shelter expenses for the previous month, evidence of child support payment, doctor bills, Social Security number and more. Call the office and find out exactly what you need to bring with you. It usually takes up to 30 days after application to start getting your stamps.

New Castle County - 302/571-3550

Kent County - 302/678-4881

Sussex County - 302/856-5311

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES-

I and R will gather information from persons and direct them to all the private and public agencies (i.e. Community Resource) which could help in the particular situation. They will make contact with the agencies and try to expedite services such as getting Food Stamps. They will try to get emergency housing and food and plan longer range assistance through appropriate agencies.

New Castle County - 302/575-0125

or - 302/368-6850 - Newark

Kent County - 302/678-5335

Sussex County - 302/856-5550

KIDNAPPING-

If a parent calls to say the other parent has kidnapped their child, they can get help by writing to:

Ms. Marty Bucher

Kemblesville, Pa.

215/255-4779

or call:

Male Parents For Equal Rights

302/571-8383

LEGAL ADVICE-

Lawyer Reference Service-Legal services, public service of the Delaware Bar Association.

If you don't have a lawyer and need legal advice, for a \$10 fee you can get a half hour appointment with an appropriate attorney. Have your questions formulated.

New Castle County - 302/658-5278

Legal Aid Society, Inc. (Community Legal Aid Society, Inc.) -
legal services. Restricted to those with a very low income or
those on Welfare.

New Castle County - 302/575-0668
Kent County - 302/674-8500
Sussex County - 302/856-0038
Lesbianism-for referral call the NOW phone.
302/731-7316.

MALE SUPPORT GROUP

Male Parents For Equal Rights
1 W. 6th Street — Wilmington
302/571-8383

Advice and support for males (and/or Second Wife) on child
support, visitation, divorce, and custody.

MENTAL HEALTH CLINICS

Wilmington 302/571-3400 and 571-3423
Fernhook 302/421-6242
Division of DHSS 302/834-9201
Mental Health Assn. of Delaware 302/656-8308

NAME CHANGE-

Delaware law does not require a woman to take her husband's
surname upon marriage. If you want to retake your natural
name, whether married, separated, or divorced, change every-
thing with your name on it. Write a statement of change — "I am
now and will be in the future known by
,
both socially and in all official matters, having taken back my
birth name." Have several copies notarized; keep one, and send
others to your accounts. Take a notarized statement to the Dept.
of Vehicles.

**PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF DELAWARE LEAGUE — family
planning, counseling, problem-pregnancy counseling.**

New Castle County — 302/655-7293
— 302/731-7801 — Newark
Kent County Health Unit — 302/678-4787
Sussex County Health Unit — 302/856-5244

POLICE —

New Castle County —
Wilmington City Police — 302/654-5151
Newark City Police — 302/366-7111
State and New Castle County Police
Emergency — 302/731-8111 (RECOM)

Kent County —

State Police, Troop 3 — 302/678-4863
Dover City Police — 302/734-5811
Harrington Police — 302/398-4494
Smyrna Police — 302/653-9217
Milford Police — 302/422-8081

Sussex County —

Georgetown — 302/856-7391 or 302/856-7011
Lewes Police — 302/945-1000
Ocean View Police — 302/539-9797
Rehoboth Police — 302/227-2577
Seaford Police — 302/629-6644

RAPE CRISIS CENTERS —

24 Hours Hot-Line — counseling

New Castle County — 302/658-5011
Kent County — 302/674-1972
Sussex County — 302/422-8011

SHELTERS —See Emergency Housing and Food

STATE SOCIAL SERVICES

Several public agencies have office hours, at least one day per week by appointment, i.e., Alcoholism Services, Community Legal Aid, Dept. of Labor, Family Court, Family Services. These are neighborhood centers and could save you some traveling.

—Belvedere Service Center, Wilmington
302/999-0981

—De La Warr Service Center, New Castle County
302/571-2970

—Hudson State Service Center, Newark
302/368-6700

—Center City Service Center, Wilmington
302/571-3400

—Northeast Service Center, Wilmington
302/764-7200
Middletown Health Unit
302/368-9596

Office of Maternal and Child Health — Division of Public Health
Wilmington 302/571-3400
New Castle County 302/994-2506
Kent County 302/678-4787 and 4785
Sussex County 302/856-5355

Welfare Social Services —
New Castle County 302/762-6860
Kent County 302/678-4800
Sussex County 302/856-5340
emergency after hours 302/856-7303

Well Baby Clinic — newborn to 5 years of age, immunizations.
New Castle County — Hudson Service Center by appointment
302-368-6700

TRANSPORTATION —see FISH

Delaware Authority For Specialized Transportation —DAST
New Castle 302/571-2997
Kent 302/678-4868
Sussex 302/856-5260

WOMEN — *Governor's Commission on the Status of Women*

Commission provides information and referral to women on a variety of problems. Also acts as liaison and/or advocate in indicated cases. Resource material is maintained in office files which is available for use in office.

New Castle County 302/571-2660
Kent County 302/678-4000
Sussex County 302/856-5011

Displaced Homemakers — Information, referral, counselling and assistance with job placement.
New Castle County — 302/571-2714
Kent County — 302/678-4568

RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia Area

WOMEN IN TRANSITION —

WIT is a resource program for women considering or having separated or divorced. A variety of services include support groups (8 weeks sessions), legal referrals and therapy referrals. They are the publishers of a large handbook *Women In Transition* and maintain a hotline at the following times:

10-12 a.m. Monday and Wednesday

2- 4 p.m. Thursday

215-382-7016

Community Legal Services —

215/227-2400

Women's Center of East Montgomery County —

215/885-5020

Germantown Women's Shelter — emergency shelter

215/838-7327

Wife Abuse Support Group — counseling, fees

215/667-4234

TELEHELP — 24 hour HOTLINE

215/884-2220

Women's Switch Board —

215/563-8599

Women's Resource Network —

215/387-0420

West Chester Area

DELAWARE COUNTY LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Doris Dabrowski, Attorney, Family Specialist
410 Welsh Street, Chester, PA 19013
215/874-8421

MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

Family Service
310 N. Mattack
West Chester, PA
215/444-5652

RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN MARYLAND

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES — Coordination information and referral.

301-398-1414

CECIL COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY — Paternity, support

301-398-1800

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES — Emergency aid, counseling Salisbury, MD

301-742-7002

WOMEN'S SELF HELP — Hotline

301-433-9400

WOMEN'S CENTERS —

Baltimore Women's Liberation
101 East 25 Street
Suite B-2
Baltimore, MD 21218
301-366-6475

Towson State College
Women's Center
Towson State College
Baltimore, MD 21204
301-321-2666

Women's Crisis Center
132 Denton Hall
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland 20742

Women's Law Center
St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21203
301-547-1653

THE BATTERED PARTNER:

THE LAW AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

A series of three programs sponsored by: the Delaware Chapters of the National Organization for Women

In Delaware it is estimated that over 7,000 cases of wife beating and 585 cases of husband beating occurred in New Castle County in 1975. Although figures for Kent and Sussex County are not available, serious problem both for northern and southern Delaware.

Numerous medical, psychological and sociological studies link spouses beating to child abuse, assault and battery and rape — crimes which affect citizens throughout the First State. Unfortunately a large segment of the population is unwilling to recognize that the problem extends far beyond inner city neighborhoods. Laws exist and resources are available in Delaware which could deal with this problem but their current application is ineffective.

THE BATTERED PARTNER: The Law and Family Violence is designed to stimulate dialogue and discussion:

- Spouse beating: private or public problem?
- The enforcement of existing laws
- The need for new laws
- Current and needed resources for dealing with the problem of battered partners

NEW CASTLE COUNTY PROGRAM

Saturday, January 29, 1977

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The Goodstay Center

2600 Pennsylvania Avenue

Wilmington

Moderator:

Ms. Muriel Durham — Testa, member, National Organization for Women

Panelists:

Dr. Karen J. Miller, Department of Philosophy, Delaware State College; "Societal attitudes and beliefs that sanction or prohibit battering between spouses."

Dr. Suzanne K. Steinmetz, College of Home Economics, University of Delaware; "A historical overview of economic and political influences on laws prohibiting or justifying the use of physical violence to 'discipline' a spouse."

Lt. Richard La Cates, New Castle County Police, Youth Aid Division; "Normative versus Legal modes for dealing with assault and battery between spouse."

Discussion Leaders:

Dr. Sally Van Camp — Department of Child Development, University of Delaware.

Dr. Barbara Settles — Department of Child Development, University of Delaware.

The Rev. Marvin Hummel — Department of English, University of Delaware, Parallel Program

Dr. Beverly Baxter — Department of English, University of Delaware, Parallel Program

Ms. Judy Mellen — Jewish Community Relations Committee

Mr. Dennis Spivak, Esq. — Attorney at Law.

KENT COUNTY PROGRAM

Saturday, February 5, 1977

9:30 am-12:30 pm

Wesley College

Dover

Moderator:

Ms. Cindy Boehmer, member, National Organization for Women

Panelists:

Dr. Karen J. Miller

Dr. Suzanne K. Steinmetz and

Ms. Barbara Weatherly, Law Professor, Wesley College will speak on the same topics examined at the January 29 program.

Discussion Leaders:

The Rev. Robert McKim — Clergy

Ms. Herma Jean Scott — Catholic Social Services

Prof. Frank Everett — Department of Psychology, Delaware Technical and Community College, Terry Campus

Ms. Lee Kaplan — Department of Health and Social Services

Sgt. James R. Neal — State Police Headquarters

This series is sponsored by the Delaware Chapter of the National Organization for Women. All programs are free and open to the public. The series is supported by a grant from the Delaware Humanities Forum.

SUSSEX COUNTY PROGRAM

Saturday, February 12, 1977
9:30-12:30 pm
Delaware Technical and Community College
Georgetown Campus

Moderator:

Ms. Jean Bowen, State Coordinator of the National Organization for Women

Panelists:

Dr. Karen J. Miller

Dr. Suzanne K. Steinmetz and

Mr. Harold Dukes, Attorney at Law will speak on the same topics examined at the January 29 program

Discussion Leaders;

Dr. James McGarvey — Psychologist — Turn About

Prof. Ann Kneavel — English, Delaware Technical and Community College, Terry Campus

Mr. William Croal — History, Indian River School District

Ms. Sara Melson — Counselor — Turn About

NOTES



EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Battered Spouses —YWCA

Support Groups, Counseling, Referral, Emergency
Shelter for women and their children.
302/475-4111

Child Abuse — Parents Anonymous

Peer Counseling, Support Groups
302/658-5177 (weekdays 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.)
Contact — (ask for Parents Anonymous)
302/575-1112 (evenings and weekends)



END