

The Misuse of Police Powers in Officer-Involved Domestic Violence

By Diane Wetendorf and Dottie L. Davis

Website Edition License Notes

All rights reserved. This ebook is licensed for your personal use only and may not be sold or used for commercial purposes. No part of this ebook may be reproduced without the prior written permission of the author and publisher.

Thank you for respecting the work of these authors.

The material is for informational purposes only. The publisher and authors specifically disclaim any responsibility for any liability, loss, or risk, personal or otherwise, which is incurred as a consequence, directly or indirectly, of the use and application of any of the contents of this ebook.

Abstract

Victims of police officers typically report that advocates don't appreciate how different their situation is because the abuser is in law enforcement. It is disappointing and frustrating for a victim to have to educate the very people whom she had hoped would be able to inform her. To begin to alleviate this problem, advocates can familiarize themselves with aspects of police-perpetrated abuse that place police victims in a category of their own.

Police Culture

It is necessary to know some of the basics of the police culture and police training in order to gain insight into the victim's experience. Being "culturally sensitive" helps to place in context some of the types of abuse only batterers within law enforcement inflict, how these abusers minimize and justify their behavior, and their sense of entitlement to exercise power and control over their victims.

Good guys/bad guys

Many view law enforcement as an ongoing battle between order and chaos, or the forces of good and evil. The police, who uphold and enforce the law, are the "good guys." Those who break the law and challenge police authority are the "bad guys." To keep the bad guys under control, the police have to continually demonstrate that they are smarter and tougher than everyone else, because everyone is a potential bad guy. We arm the police with equipment, weapons, and access to information and the authority to enforce the law. If anyone resists the authority of the police, they have the authority to use the amount of force necessary to bring the person into compliance. The police are given the power to deprive citizens of their right to freedom.

Loyalty and the code of silence

In the context of good guys fighting the bad guys, it is easy to understand the formation of unbreakable bonds of loyalty and solidarity among officers. In the battle, one side is going to win and the other is going to lose. All are potentially life and death situations. Sometimes staying alive requires not doing things "by the book," but rather being creative with their resources, utilizing their discretionary powers,

and doing things their own way. In this game of cops and robbers, the “game” is not over until the cop says it is over. Since officers’ lives and the public’s respect for police authority is on the line, the police believe that the end justifies the means. They stick together and present a united front when called upon to defend their actions.

The solidarity of the group depends upon no one officer pointing the finger of blame at another officer. When the public or the commander asks questions, the “blue wall” goes up and no one talks. This is known as the “code of silence.” There is frequent acknowledgement within the criminal justice system that this code of silence comes into play when an officer is accused of wrongdoing, either on or off duty. Unless an officer is willing to face being ostracized and labeled a “whistle blower,” it is difficult for the system to hold the officer accountable.

Because of their discretion, authority, power, and solidarity, and union protection, some police officers come to see themselves not as simply enforcers of the law, but the law itself.

Authority

Discretion

Society grants members of law enforcement enormous power over citizens to enable the police to keep the peace and to preserve social order. Since police encounter every possible combination of circumstances and personalities, it is impossible for the law or the police protocols to direct their actions in every situation. So, the police are granted a great deal of freedom to use their judgment regarding which laws to enforce, when, and against whom. For example, if a citizen violates a law but poses no threat or harm to anyone, the police have a wide range of options available: they can ignore the offense, issue a verbal warning, give the person a citation, or place the person under arrest.

Abuse of discretion

This wide range of options and authority can lead to the abuse of their power. Individual police abuse their power of discretion when they consistently base their law enforcement decisions on a suspect’s race, profession, gender, or other characteristics. When several police officers in a particular department exercise their discretion in a way that consistently works either for or against certain people, it becomes institutionalized racism, elitism, sexism, etc. This pattern becomes ingrained in the culture of the department, and officers use it to justify targeting certain individuals. “Racial profiling,” for instance, is established when it has become an accepted, common practice for officers to approach, harass, and/or arrest Blacks or Latinos because they are Blacks or Latinos. A pervasive sexist attitude within a police department that the man of the household is entitled to control his household will be evidenced by the police routinely blaming the victim of abuse for the abuser’s violence against her.

On the other hand, police officers can abuse their discretion by consistently making law enforcement decisions in favor of certain groups or individuals. Police officers in some departments extend what they call “professional courtesy” by routinely not enforcing the law against prominent citizens, political figures, or other police officers. Women battered by police officers generally are correct in their assumption that the police will extend “professional courtesy” to the police abuser. Responding officers may not write a report, write an inaccurate report, not arrest the abuser, or neglect to collect evidence or take photographs of her injuries.

Parallels to Domestic Violence

Sexism and power

We know that most batterers hold traditional values and the belief that the man is entitled to be the “head of the household”. Many male police officers are conservative people who share these traditional family values. Officers are committed to maintaining social order, and they believe that social order depends largely on men maintaining power and control over women. They believe that men are entitled to dominate because they are emotionally and physically stronger, and more intelligent than women.

Sexist men, including those who are police officers, are deeply invested in maintaining the status quo of gender inequality. This group of men accepts a man’s violence against a woman as a necessary reminder of her place. Male dominance that is reinforced by police culture breeds strong resistance to considering domestic violence a criminal offense. This is evidenced in police reports that blame the victim for her injuries because she was intoxicated, had talked back to her abuser, or had not completed her chores. When the crime has occurred within another officer’s home, the resistance of the officers to investigate thoroughly and place the blame on the victim is often magnified. In addition to the consequences a civilian male might face for committing domestic violence, a police officer faces potential consequences to his career.

Many police officers view the penalties imposed by the courts as discriminatory against men, especially if the court is willing to remove firearms from a man’s possession. Officers rely upon their weapon as an essential piece of equipment. Losing their right to bear arms equates to losing their career. Officers who perpetrate domestic violence expend time and energy informing their victims that they will lose their job, their home, and life as they know it if she reports the violence.

Batterers within law enforcement consistently acknowledge during in-service trainings and roll-call that women have been given power over men. Despite all the evidence to the contrary, they profess to believe that “all a wife, ex-wife or girlfriend has to do is accuse a police officer of assault or domestic battery, and she can ruin his career.” This perceived threat to their careers has made many officers determined to ensure that no officer loses his job because of a woman’s allegations of assault or battery.

Misuse of Police Power

Every abuser frequently reminds his victim that it is within his power to deprive her of her physical safety, security, privacy, freedom, and life if and when he chooses. Most abusers, however, are not able to enlist the help of the criminal justice system to carry out their threats. Batterers within law enforcement are. Officers tell their victim, “Call the police. Who are they going to believe?”

Police presence

PROFESSIONAL: Officers are taught to develop a “command presence.” They are schooled, “If you look good, you feel good. If you look confident, people will perceive you to be confident.” Many police trainers acknowledge that men and women change once they don the uniform and equipment of an officer. A morph occurs through training and attire. The command presence has been developed. The uniform, bulletproof vest, badge, gun belt with all of its accessories, and the squad car are all powerful symbols of authority.

PERSONAL: An officer intimidates his victim by:

- His mere presence in uniform while standing with his hand on his gun.
- Giving her “the look” that he knows everything she is up to and with whom.
- Letting her know that he is capable of watching her at all times by showing up at unpredictable times and/or locations.

- Driving by the house numerous times during his tour of duty.
- Making her check with him before she leaves the house.
- Sitting in the house dry firing his weapon or cleaning his wide array of weapons in her view.

Surveillance

PROFESSIONAL: When the police identify a suspect, they begin surveillance of the person in order to gain information and to attempt to catch the suspect in criminal behavior. Once the suspect realizes he is being watched, he will alter his behavior.

PERSONAL: Allowing the victim to know that she is being followed is an effective manner of surveillance. She will alter her behavior to avoid disapproval, isolation, or physical punishment. The abuser's stalking of the victim physically, telephonically, or electronically robs the victim of her sense of privacy and control over her life. She alters her behavior based upon the possibility that he is watching. By spying on her, the abuser gets information about where she goes, whom she spends time with, and what she does. This gives him the ability to intrude upon her life whenever and wherever he pleases.

Stalking is a perverted form of surveillance. A police officer who is stalking his victim...

- Sits outside her residence, workplace, gymnasium, or friends' homes in his personal vehicle, squad car, or unmarked police car.
- Gains access to her apartment or house and leaves evidence such as turning a light on or moving a picture to let her know he has been inside her personal living space. (This begins the cycle of the victim believing that she is imagining things or going crazy.)
- Provides her with "gifts" of a pager and cell phone so that he can reach her at all times.
- Installs software that enables him to read her e-mail.
- Leaves cards and notes on her vehicle no matter where she parks or where she frequents.
- Places recording devices on her telephone.
- Leaves flowers on her front porch to let her know he has been around.
- Places a tracking device on her vehicle which will allow him to know her destinations.
- Checks her name in the data system to verify if she has summoned the police, who was sent, and the type of complaint filed.
- Uses enhanced 911 through dispatch, and other contacts within the telephone company to check whom she calls and the name of the caller of her incoming calls.
- Places hidden cameras in the house. (Electronic stores and "spy" stores report their biggest customers are men who suspect their wives are having an affair and are trying to catch them.)
- Video tapes her on his in-car camera in his squad car as she walks to and from her residence.
- Records her voice on his lapel microphone, as she unknowingly is taped while conversing with him. (He later plays these tapes repeatedly just to hear her voice and feel close to her).

Information

PROFESSIONAL: While on duty and while conducting official investigations, police officers have access to numerous files allowing them confidential information. Through local, state, the National Crime Information Center, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Correction files, as well as numerous others, officers can acquire a vast amount of information. These include, but are not limited to:

- Person's full name
- Aliases or previous names
- Date of birth
- Social security number
- Current and former addresses
- Vehicles registered to a person
- Bureau of motor vehicles driving record

- Criminal history
- Known associates in criminal or gang activity
- Credit reports

PERSONAL: Although officers are only justified in accessing these files for official investigations, some officers use these databases for personal reasons. “Running a plate for a date” is no uncommon occurrence in police departments. Not only can the officer learn her name, but possibly her marital status through the vehicle registration information, and her address. Previous police reports filed and orders of protection can also be accessed. He may get information on a victim’s previous relationships through these records. Through access to these numerous files, the police abuser can use this information in countless ways to harass or harm the victim.

Interview/interrogation

PROFESSIONAL: While in basic recruit training, rookies are taught how to interview people. Eye contact, how to stand, where to stand, non-verbal body language, and signs of deception are areas that officers learn to practice and to observe. Witnesses are often treated differently than suspects. A witness will be asked to accompany the police to the station for an interview. A suspect will be taken into custody for interrogation where they may be held in a small interview room until the investigator declares the interview has been completed. The suspect gets something to drink, permission to use the restroom facilities, access to make a telephone call, or contact with family and friends only if the investigator allows these privileges. The officer is in charge. Although the suspect may object to the treatment, the officer has total control.

PERSONAL: She is a “suspect” in her own home.

- He interrogates her and the children about any suspicions he may have concerning finances, infidelity, or friendships.
- He stands over her in uniform using his command presence and asks where she has been.
- He demands to know whom she was talking to on the telephone when he called home.
- He demands that she look at him while he is talking.
- When she refuses to answer his questions, he blocks the doorway so she cannot exit the room without physically touching him. He continues to barrage her with questions.
- He raises his voice in disbelief at her responses.
- He slams his fist on the wall to intimidate her.
- He rips the telephone from the wall, so she cannot summon anyone for help.
- Despite her pleading, he refuses to allow her to leave until he is done with his questioning.
- If she attempts to push past him, the physical altercation begins. In his mind, he can justify his behavior because she touched him first. He was merely trying to talk to her.
- He has total control of the situation. If she answers his questions, she could be in more danger. If she does not answer his questions, the same could be true.

Manipulation/deception

PROFESSIONAL: Within many scenarios in policing, lying to a suspect is legal. Police officers pretend to be prostitutes, pimps, drug dealers, drug couriers, and delivery personnel to facilitate the arrest of a person involved in illegal activity. They learn to speak the slang, wear the appropriate attire, and associate with others who believe they are a part of the illegal activity.

PERSONAL: He has become proficient at lying, and gets satisfaction from being able to deceive others. He can lie to the victim and appear sincere and truthful. He uses unfamiliar language/slang to confuse the victim. Through on-the-job training, he has learned to be quick on his feet. He can lie his way out of anything.

Getting others to collude

Abusive officers also manipulate and abuse the trust of civilians and even fellow officers. Such actions betray not only their oath but also violate the spirit of the brotherhood.

- He informs other officers of the make, model, color of her vehicle, and license plate number so that they can watch for her on the street and report back to him.
- He has other officers radio him or send him a message on his mobile data terminal in his squad car informing him of her whereabouts.
- If the victim lives outside of his patrol district or his jurisdiction, he will ask other officers to drive by her residence and report any activities including license plate numbers and vehicle descriptions of anyone present.
- He befriends her neighbors. They believe he is a “knight in shining armor,” and a protector of their city. They are more than happy to answer any questions about strangers coming and going from the residence next door.
- He sends the victims cards and flowers at work to manipulate her co-workers into believing the victim and the officer share a healthy, loving relationship. When he asks them questions, they unwittingly provide him information about where she is and whom she is with.

Challenging his authority

PROFESSIONAL: When an officer gives directions or orders to a person they expect the person to listen. Failure to comply with an officer’s commands can be cause for the issuance of a citation or a physical arrest. As an example, if a uniformed officer yells at a person to stop and the individual continues walking away, the person can be arrested for resisting law enforcement by fleeing. The officer would be forced to run after the individual and place their hands on the person in order to bring them into compliance with their order.

PERSONAL: Some officers cannot separate their career life from their personal life. They “eat, live, die” police work. Their identity is defined by their uniform. Any conflicts in their personal life may be seen as a challenge to their dominance, authority, power, or control of the other person and the situation. He views everything in a black and white perspective. It is either wrong or right. There are no gray areas, leaving no room for the victim to voice her opinion or position.

- He will not tolerate his authority being questioned in the household.
- She has no right to question him about his whereabouts or his behavior.
- If she attempts to walk away from him during his questioning, he will interpret this as disrespectful. He will most likely place his hands on her to force compliance to his demands.
- She will face some form of punishment should she verbally disagree with his opinion. He will not tolerate disobedience.
- Because she is viewed as property, he is not done with her until he discards her.

Continuum of force

PROFESSIONAL: Law enforcement officers are trained to use only the amount of force necessary to control the situation and the suspect. In the use of force continuum, officers are taught to use techniques to incapacitate the individual without causing death or serious bodily injury. Although the goal is to bring the resistive person into compliance without injury, most of the techniques are likely to cause redness, swelling, and bruising. The continuum begins with officer presence, verbal direction and soft empty-hand techniques. If resistance continues, the officer may escalate to hard empty-hand techniques, chemical agents, and upwards toward lethal force with a firearm.

PERSONAL: The same techniques used while policing the streets can be used in an abusive officer’s home. A continuum of abuse often involves verbal, emotional, psychological, sexual, and physical violence. Physical abuse, however, is not always necessary to control the victim. Many abusers maintain control through intimidation and threats, or a gentle reminder of the “last time.” She knows what he is

physically capable of, his expertise with a variety of weapons, and the availability of numerous types of weapons within the home, his vehicle, or his workplace. If the abuser does use physical violence, these techniques include:

- Palm strikes to the rear and side of the head that disorient a person.
- Leg sweeps which take the person's legs out from underneath them.
- Knee strikes to the thigh area immobilizing the leg.
- Bladed hand strikes to the neck, shoulder, or forearm stunning the individual.
- Strikes to the kidneys, lower back, and abdomen.
- Pressure point maneuvers to the jaw, nose, and armpit areas.
- Come-along techniques involving the wrists and forearms.
- Neck restraints using the forearm/s, wrist/s, and hand/s.
- Use of flex cuffs or handcuffs to restrain her.
- Threatening to shoot her, himself, and the children by displaying his service weapon.

Most injuries caused by these techniques are not easily observable. Victims will have a complaint of pain, but may not immediately have an obvious injury.

Power within the criminal justice system

PROFESSIONAL: Police officers work within the system that answers 911 calls, dispatches police, fire, and emergency medical services, advocates for victims of crime, houses prisoners, prosecutes defendants, sentences those found guilty by the court, and monitors individuals on home detention.

Officers are trained on how to present themselves not only at the scene of an investigation, but also in the courtroom where they will appear in uniform to testify and swear to tell the truth. In court, they will recollect the crime scene and evidence to support their written report. With the assistance of the prosecuting attorney, they will testify to the judge and jury what was said by witnesses and the suspect at the crime scene, and the emotional and physical states of these people. Photographs that were taken, damaged property, injuries, blood stains, food splatters, and cowering children and animals will be explained through the officer's testimony.

PERSONAL: He has established a working relationship with dispatchers, victim advocates, and officers from his agency and other jurisdictions, prosecuting and defense attorneys, judges, and Corrections personnel. In many cases, they have come to know each other on a first name basis, and rapport has been established.

- The testimony of a police officer at trial often bears more weight than that of the average citizen.
- When the police arrive at another officer's home on a domestic disturbance, the officer is the "model of calm." The victim will most likely be an "emotional pendulum."
- Officers are trained to maintain control of an investigation. Even if they are the accused, the officer has the knowledge to remain calm with the responding officers.
- Officers are trained to write detailed reports consisting of a chronological explanation of the events. When the officer stands accused, he has an explanation planned for every piece of broken furniture and torn clothing.
- Officers also know that an appropriate response to a question is, "I don't know," or "I don't recall." They also know they don't have to answer questions at the scene, and may refuse to provide their side of the story.
- Some officers will minimize the incident in their police report to protect the accused officer's job and reputation.
- Victims may be contacted by his friends who are police officers and asked to recant their story. They may be convinced not to cooperate with the Internal Affairs Division and the prosecuting attorney.

Victim Advocacy

If the victim decides to file a criminal complaint, she will have to overcome the tremendous systemic resistance that exists against prosecuting an officer. She will have to present an extremely compelling story to the police and to the state's attorney to counter their reluctance to pursue the complaint. She will need to be able to convey that, in addition to common types of abuse, the officer/abuser exploits his professional status and power to control and to terrorize her.

Identify behaviors related to the job

The advocate can talk with the victim about the tactics the abuser uses against her in order to identify if and how his tactics are related to the job. Using department time, equipment, and information obtained through police channels demonstrates official misconduct. The abuser is using the privileges of the job to carry out the criminal activities of stalking, assault, and domestic battery. The abuser uses his influence in the system when he pressures other officers to assist him in harassing or stalking her. The victim may no longer think of his behavior as official misconduct because she has grown accustomed to it and because he has convinced her that whatever he does is within his range of authority.

Much of a police victim's terror comes from knowing that the abuser and his buddies know the limitations of the legal system. The laws against domestic violence offer little protection to victims of police officers. Officers know that a person accused of a crime is "innocent until proven guilty" and that the criminal justice system safeguards the rights of the accused. They know that in a court of law, what matters is not what actually happened, but what the prosecutor is able to prove "beyond a reasonable doubt." They know that it is the police who write the report of what happened and collect and preserve the evidence that is required to meet that burden of proof.

Talking their language

Victims are required to tell their story several times. Their account of what happened will be received and weighed differently by various players in the system. It is helpful when talking to the police to be somewhat familiar with the department's perspective and what they consider to be a valid complaint that is appropriate to bring to the department. The victim must focus on instances of police misconduct or behavior threatening to public safety, rather than focusing on behavior of a personal nature.

In the same vein, it is helpful for the victim to be somewhat familiar with basic legal terminology, her role, and the state's role in her case when talking to the state's attorney. The victim's demeanor and presentation of her account will influence the prosecutor's decision whether to pursue charges. The prosecutor needs the key witness (her) to be credible, articulate, and composed in telling the court what happened.

Describing what happened

We know that victims minimize the severity of the abuse even when talking to non-threatening parties, such as their advocates. It is typical for victims to minimize to an even greater extent when speaking to an intimidating authority figure, such as a police officer or a State's Attorney. The advocate can work with the victim to enable her to describe the incident accurately and in detail. Going over the story repeatedly may help her distance herself from the emotional impact of reliving the incident. It is to her benefit to be able to tell her story clearly and graphically without being overwhelmed with emotion.

Consider the following examples:

- "He yelled at me for a while" versus "He interrogated me in the bedroom for five hours. He wouldn't let me leave the room to go to the bathroom, or even to take care of the baby. Every time I tried to leave, he screamed, "You can leave when I tell you to leave."
- "He scared me by the way he was driving" versus "He was driving 70 miles an hour on city streets, weaving in and out of traffic, threatening to kill us both. He had the light on the car roof

so the cops wouldn't stop him. He always talks about how he won't get stopped, and that it's no problem if he does."

- "He comes home drunk every night" versus "He goes out with the other cops and drinks until he's drunk every night after his shift. He drives home drunk every night."
- "He makes me account for all my time, whom I'm with, or whom I'm talking to on the phone" versus "He keeps me under surveillance day and night. He checks the odometer on my car. He follows me, has other cops follow me, drives by the house. He tape records my phone conversations."
- "He spends too much money" versus "He's spending huge amounts of money, way beyond what he earns. I don't know where the money is coming from."
- "He and the other cops are always picking up women" versus "They talk about "running plates" of women to get their names and addresses. Then they approach them in the bar or pull them over when they leave the parking lot."
- "He threatens to have me arrested in front of my kids" versus "He says he can get the cops to arrest me anytime he wants. He's called the police to the house before. They told him they feel sorry for him—being married to me; that I'm crazy. They say they'd be happy to take me to jail for disorderly conduct or battery. Don't I have the right to protect myself against his physical attacks?"
- "He tells me I'm crazy" versus "He threatens to have me committed to the psych ward. He says he'll tell them I tried to kill myself or threatened to hurt the kids."
- "He threatens to plant drugs in my car or my brother's car" versus "He has a stash of drugs he's confiscated from dealers on the street. He brags about planting drugs in people's cars or in their pockets and then busting them for possession."
- "He tells me he can find out anything about anyone" versus "He runs my friends' plates and finds out all kinds of stuff about them. He called a man I was seeing and warned him to stay away from me."
- "He threatened to kill me" versus "He held his gun to my head and talked about how he would splatter my brains all over the room."

Conclusion

Working with victims of police-perpetrated domestic violence has made us acutely aware that the standard remedies are often inadequate and may even leave the victim more vulnerable. We need to rethink many of our strategies on many different levels. Because many aspects of this issue are complex and ambiguous, we need to educate ourselves—and other community providers—before we can hope to adequately serve this special population.

About the Authors

DIANE WETENDORF is a life-long advocate who pioneered the field of police officer-involved domestic violence. Her work has helped thousands of domestic violence advocates, family attorneys, and law enforcement professionals learn how to safely help survivors. Untold numbers of battered women now know "*they are not alone, they are not exaggerating, and they are certainly not crazy.*"

Diane is the author of *Police Domestic Violence: A Handbook for Victims*, the first book written specifically for survivors of police-perpetrated domestic violence; *When the Batterer Is a Law Enforcement Officer: A Guide for Advocates*; as well as *Crossing the Threshold: Female Officers and Police-Perpetrated Domestic Violence*, a ground-breaking book for women in law enforcement. Her latest

book, *Hijacked by the Right: Battered Women in America's Culture War*, addresses the future of battered women services in the 21st century.

In 1996, while director of counseling for a community domestic violence agency, Diane created a unique program which provided specialized counseling, legal and advocacy services for victims of officer-involved domestic violence. Now retired, Diane has worked with law enforcement agencies throughout the U.S. and Canada; conducted workshops and seminars for local, state, and national audiences; served as expert witness in both the U.S. and Canada; and provided thousands of hours of counseling and support to survivors of domestic violence. Her website is AbuseofPower.info.

DOTTIE L. DAVIS is president and owner of Davis Corporate Training, Inc. She presents on topics surrounding family violence; law enforcement legal issues, liability, supervision, leadership, and ethics; police response to persons in mental health crisis; and workplace violence prevention. She also consults as an expert witness in both civil and criminal trials. Her website is DottieDavis.com.

Books & Articles by Diane Wetendorf

Additional material is available on AbuseofPower.info.

Hijacked by the Right: Battered Women in America's Culture War. Family Justice Centers are the focal point of this thought-provoking investigation into the reframing of family violence. What could possibly go wrong when law enforcement enters into partnership with the other pillars of society: religion, family, government, and corporations?

Crossing the Threshold: Female Officers and Police-Perpetrated Domestic Violence. Police training and culture affects officers' personal relationships. It's always a volatile situation when a police officer is the perpetrator, but what happens when both the abuser and victim are officers?

Police Domestic Violence: A Handbook for Victims. Women whose abusers are in law enforcement face extraordinary challenges. The *Handbook*, written specifically for survivors of police-perpetrated domestic violence, explores the dynamics of officer-involved domestic violence.

When the Batterer Is a Law Enforcement Officer: A Guide for Advocates. Comprehensive resource for advocates working with women whose batterers are in law enforcement. Includes safety considerations and advocacy strategies.

The Misuse of Police Powers in Officer-Involved Domestic Violence. Explores how the power and authority granted to officers to protect the public can lead to the abuse of their power.

Abusive Police Officers: Working the System. Officers who batter use professional control tactics and the brotherhood to defend their actions, receiving support from the same institutions victims turn to for protection.

Police-Perpetrated Domestic Violence: An Advocate's Pessimistic Perspective. Policy and rhetoric make it appear that police agencies want victims to come forward, but agencies' actual response seems designed to ensure that victims remain silent. Addresses the progress—or lack thereof—in confronting police-perpetrated domestic violence.

Representing Victims of Police-Perpetrated Domestic Violence. Attorneys and legal advocates face extraordinary challenges when representing a woman in a divorce or custody case whose batterer is a police officer.

Female Officers as Victims of Police-Perpetrated Domestic Violence. Examines how the expectations and values of the female officer's profession and workplace culture influence her behavior and decisions regarding her abusive relationship.

Developing Policy on Officer-Involved Domestic Violence. Solutions good from the department's perspective can make things worse for the victim; and solutions better for the victim can leave the department open to liability.

The Impact of Police-Perpetrated Domestic Violence. The FBI National Academy held a invitational summit on officer-involved domestic violence and published the resulting compilation of research in *Domestic Violence by Police Officers*. Wetendorf's chapter examines the dynamics of OIDV and the impact on victims, departments and communities.

Police Family Violence. Rather than customizing services for victims of police abusers, we expect departments to hold officers accountable for criminal behavior.

###