

C. APPENDIX C - SCREENING FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Many domestic relations cases involve violence. That these cases involve domestic violence is often unknown to the court or to the attorneys representing the parties. This lack of knowledge can result in court decisions that are at worst, life-threatening, and at best continue to allow the abuser control over the victim.

For that reason it is important for attorneys and the court to screen domestic relations cases carefully and take the appropriate safety precautions if violence is suspected.

This appendix offers simple questions to screen for the presence of domestic violence, general issues to consider in any order where violence is suspected.

A. Determining if Domestic Violence is an Issue.

The following questions have been condensed from *Screening for Domestic Violence: Meeting the Challenge of Identifying Domestic Relations Cases Involving Domestic Violence And Developing Strategies for Those Cases* (Court Review, Special Section on Domestic Violence, Vol. 39, Issue 2, Summer 2002).

B Screening for Common Domestic Violence Patterns.

5. Does your partner criticize you or your children often?
6. Has your partner ever tried to keep you from getting medical help; kept you from sleeping at night?
7. Has your partner ever hurt or threatened to hurt your pets or destroyed your things? Does your partner throw or break things during arguments?
8. Is it hard for you to have relationships with friends or relatives because your partner disapproves of, argues with or criticizes them?
9. Does your partner make it hard for you to keep a job or to go to school?
10. Has your partner ever put his hands on you against your wishes, or forced you to do something you didn't want to do?
11. When was the first time this happened? The last time it happened? The worst time?