

**FICTION #6: MEN WHO BATTER ARE OFTEN GOOD FATHERS AND SHOULD HAVE JOINT CUSTODY OF THEIR CHILDREN IF THE COUPLE SEPARATES.**

**FACT:** Studies have found that men who batter their wives also abuse their children in 70% of cases. Even when children are not directly abused, they suffer as a result of witnessing one parent assault another. Batters often display an increased interest in their children at the time of separation, as a means of maintaining contact with, and thus control over, their partners.

**FICTION #7: WHEN THERE IS VIOLENCE IN THE FAMILY, ALL MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE DYNAMIC, AND THEREFORE, ALL MUST CHANGE FOR THE VIOLENCE TO STOP.**

**FACT:** Only the batterer has the ability to stop the violence. Battering is a behavioral choice for which the batterer must be held accountable. Many battered women make numerous attempts to change their behavior in the hope that this will stop the abuse. This does not work. Changes in family members' behavior will not cause the batterer to be non-violent.

**FICTION #8: BATTERED WOMEN ARE MASOCHISTIC AND PROVOKE THE ABUSE. THEY MUST LIKE IT OR THEY WOULD LEAVE.**

**FACT:** Victim provocation is no more common in domestic violence than in any other crime. Battered women often make repeated attempts to leave violent relationships, but are prevented from doing so by increased violence and control tactics on the part of the abuser. Other factors which inhibit a victim's ability to leave include economic dependence,

few viable options for housing and support, unhelpful responses from the criminal justice system or other agencies, social isolation, cultural or religious constraints, a commitment to the abuser and the relationship and fear of further violence. It has been estimated that the danger to a victim increases by 70% when she attempts to leave, as the abuser escalates his use of violence when he begins to lose control.

**FICTION #9: MEN HAVE A RIGHT TO DISCIPLINE THEIR PARTNERS FOR MISBEHAVING. BATTERING IS NOT A CRIME.**

**FACT:** While our society derives from a patriarchal legal system that afforded men the right to physically chastise their wives and children, we do not live under such a system now. Women and children are no longer considered the property of men, and domestic violence is a crime in every state of the

country.

### **The National Institute of The Study of Violence**

We are the National Institute of The Study of Violence. We are dedicated to preventing violence against women and children. Our mission is to advocate for change. Violence against women is not a pleasant subject for conversation and many people just simply ignore the violence around them or pretend that it doesn't exist even when they see violence occurring in their own family. Nevertheless, violence against women and children is a real issue, your daughters and grandchildren are being injured or murdered everyday so this issue must be confronted by the entire community if the violence is to stop. Apathy is not the answer. Action is the answer. And in order to take action you must have information. This information can be found on our website. We ask that you visit our website at [www.nisv.org](http://www.nisv.org) and download our free e-books that

will give you the information that you need.

We included the aforementioned Fiction and Facts about Domestic Violence in our series "Domestic Violence Facts" because this information is a refutation of all the myths associated with domestic violence.

Domestic violence is everyone's problem and it can only be solved by society at large. We must all become involved. The above information can be found on the Clark County website:

<http://www.clarkprosecutor.org>.  
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Fiction and Facts 6 - 9  
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**Presented by The National  
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**Dedicated to Preventing  
Violence Against Women  
and Children**