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### Context is Critical

Failing to distinguish one kind of domestic violence from another can:

- Endanger victims of ongoing violence
- Result in inappropriate responses by law enforcement, prosecutors and the court, advocates, and counselors
- Embolden perpetrators

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### “Context” Means

- INTENT in offender’s use of violence
- MEANING of the violence to the victim
- EFFECT of acts on the victim
- How this incident fits with previous patterns of behavior

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## What type of violence?

1. Pattern of violence with coercive control
2. Responding to or resisting a pattern of ongoing violence
  - Self defense (legal)
  - Retaliation (illegal)
3. Violence without coercive control

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## What type of violence is this ?

- A man has been beating his partner for three or four years
- He comes home really drunk, she goes after him, yells at him, punches him, pushes him out the door, she's had enough!
- She doesn't want him home drunk, because he always beats her up when he's drunk
- He pushes her aside, and goes to bed, tells her to leave him alone.

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## What type of violence is this ?

- A man has been beating his partner for three or four years
- He comes home really drunk, she goes after him, yells at him, punches him, pushes him out the door, she's had enough!
- She doesn't want him home drunk, because he always beats her up when he's drunk
- He punches her several times, knocks her to the floor, and goes to bed.

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### What type of violence is this ?

- A man has never beaten his partner before
- He comes home really drunk, she goes after him, yells at him, punches him, pushes him out the door, she's had enough!
- She doesn't want him home drunk
- He pushes her aside, and goes to bed, tells her to leave him alone

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