

When Interacting With Police About A Domestic Violence Situation, What Was NOT Helpful?

Siding w/ Abuser	Disrespect	Disbelief	Burden on Victim	Lack of Children's Best Interest	Orders of Protection
Diverting attention away from DV to victim's mental state when abuser claims she has mental problems.	Do not care what victim says once abuser claims she is under the influence.	Do not believe victim.	Victim made six reports with police and had to go through the same process every time. Why?	Not looking out for what is best for the children.	Responded quicker when called to serve Order of Protection.
Telling victim abuser's retaliation was her fault; "she started it."	Ignoring the victims.	Looking for other scenarios to believe other than what victim tells them.	"Burden of everything was on me."	Did not consider child endangerment when pregnant woman assaulted.	Conducted more research on their end regarding Orders of Protection; not requiring victim to have a copy of the paperwork for them to act.
Saw husband's metals and immediately buddied up with him. Became Good Ol' Boys Club.	Talking to victim like she is "a free-loader" and discarding her complaints.	Telling victim "she is a liar, an instigator, and he is not going to believe her stories."	"Listening to all of his rights."	Removing children from victim.	Refusing to serve abuser with an Order of Protection.
Only asked victim about her husband's video games; not about her side of the story. She had a ripped shirt, physical marks on her and there were signs of a struggle at the scene.	Condescending tone.	"It took a long time to call. That was really the last straw."	Victims had to make sure the police documented everything.	Did not intervene when child taken by abuser during visit in public place. Child with abuser for three weeks before court order joint custody.	Avoiding arrest of the abuser for violations of an Order of Protection stating it is the victim's responsibility to have a copy of the paperwork and without it police cannot do anything.
Listening to abuser first.	Felt police wanted to "shut me up so he could go on his way."	Making me feel alone, desperate, and crazy.	Victim wanted to make sure the report included "everything her son had seen" during the abuse.	Dual arrest and placing child(ren) in CPS custody.	Given misinformation – children not on Order of Protection because of misinformation.
Siding with the abuser.	Treated as an "emotional woman."	"We feel like we are the only ones who see it."	Placing the responsibility on victims to avoid public places where the abuser may go when the order of protection states the abuser has the duty to withdraw.	Children not returned.	At Order of Protection hearing, judge told abuser he had already violated the Order three times. If he did it one more time, he would go to jail. He violated it. She called the police, but they weren't interested.
Just listening to abuser's side.	Belittled over issues unrelated to DV.	Ignoring victims when they are trying to tell police what is going on. "They just won't listen to you."	Police told victim "an Order of Protection is real thin. He (Abuser) can get to you before we (police) can."	Telling victim if she presses charges her child(ren) will go to CPS.	Abuser has violated Order of Protection three times since October. Police have not enforced any of these. "How does this feel safe?"

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Only asking victim if she is hurt and not asking about her side of the story.	Did not tell victim why being arrested; "because I said so."	Police don't listen, esp if beaten by more than one person.	Wish there was more time for filing reports for victims of DV. "Takes longer to get healthy and strong, and ready to press charges."	Failing to follow up on child's report of abuse and telling the mother she is "using the child for her purposes."	She did not get Order of Protection. Abuser has threatened to kill her three different ways, knows where she lives, and that her mom lives with her. Worries about him hurting her mom.
Automatically believing the abuser because he is calmer when police arrive.	Yelled at victim.	Helps "knowing you're not alone."	Let victim stay in her house and keep her belongings.	Taken children's reports of abuse seriously.	Telling victim to sit down and be quiet while letting the abuser into the home to get anything he wants when there is an order of protection preventing him from doing this.
Victims aren't given same treatment as abusers by police, esp if the abuser is in military, law enforcement, etc.	Did not respect her.	"At least pretend to believe me."	Given victims better options.	Filed charges when victim's abuse during pregnancy caused her to miscarry.	Not enforcing orders of protection.
Police reaction depends on what the abuser tells them.	Given information on a small scrap of paper.	Explaining away the situation, injuries, etc.	Telling victim she has to choose between staying with her abuser and keeping her child(ren), or leaving her abuser and losing her children is a no win situation.		Enforced Order of Protection.
Police were "charmed" by the abuser, "just like everyone else."	Making victims "feel unimportant." It would be nice if they made victims feel they are important enough to take the time to find out what happening, etc. without dismissing them.		Victim shouldn't have to call again.		Telling victim to get an order of protection, but judge wants proof she needs it.
Believing the abuser, not the victim, when no signs of physical abuse.	Demeanor of the responding police officers.		Victims have to be responsible for the information getting to the right person. "I have to do the work."		Issues with enforcement of Landlord Tenant Act (i.e., letting abuser back into home even when there is a no contact order/order of protection in place).
Upholding the word of the abuser even if he is making up stories.	Police wrote notes on a very small slip of paper.		Victim had a good experience with the police after having pushing for help.		Served Order of Protection on victim illegally.
Siding with the abuser and asking his family if they want to press charges against the victim.	Talking to victim in a condescending way.		Victim made sure to read over the police officer's shoulder to make sure he wrote everything down in the report, especially the details.		Train private investigators to check for Protective Orders before conducting searches.

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Heard both sides of the story without choosing sides.	"The victim is ignored and pushed aside."		Victim was the one told to leave.		Police told victim Orders of Protection are "worthless" because they "may make him more angry."
Remained neutral instead of siding with the abuser because he is a soldier.	Underlying thoughts/beliefs women are conniving and will do anything to get what they want.				
Waited to hear the whole story without automatically putting labels on who was the abuser and who was the victim.	"Not laughed at me."				
Not taken sides with those who speak English. Just because they don't speak English, police should not assume they are not legal US citizens.	"You want to know if you call, they will help you." You shouldn't have to stand up to the police too.				
Police stay neutral; sending unbiased help.	"No, I quit calling because it got ridiculous...they just make you feel bad."				
Police wanted victim to let abuser in the house even though his stuff was already out. Police were called and paid by abuser to stand by.					