

To Robert Copley, Chief of Police, Quincy Police Department (Illinois)-

I have noticed that on your site, under your domestic violence section (<http://www.quincylil.gov/public-safety/QPD/news/domestic-violence>), you have three sentences that support a double standard and stereotype. This stigma is defining only males as perpetrators of Domestic Violence and only females as victims of Domestic Violence. In recent, more up to date studies, it has been found that women are just as likely, and in some cases MORE likely than men to be the perpetrators of Domestic Violence. (The statistic 85% of domestic violence victims are female is false, this statistic is over 30years old and is kept in cycle only because it helps domestic violence shelters get funding). There is new evidence that shows the biggest predictor of violence against a woman is how violent the female is to begin with.

To not have these lines gender neutral gives citizens and police a false impression that the female is always the abused. This is false information and hurts male victim's chances of getting help. This causes police officers to be suspicious of a male in a domestic Violence situation before they even know the story. This a pre-concieved notion that the possible victim is the perpetrator and this directly conflicts with real justice. This also makes any number of people more likely to believe a woman's story based on the fact she is female (because everyone knows females are the victims) and not actual evidence. This makes it harder for male victims to come forward, get help, to be believed, and also hurts their children in the long run.

I request that you change each of the following lines:

- "Use your instincts and judgment - If the situation is very dangerous, consider giving the abuser what he wants to calm down. You have the right to protect yourself until you are out of danger." to: "Use your instincts and judgment- If the situation is very dangerous, consider giving the abuser what they want to calm down. You have the right to protect yourself until you are out of danger."
- "Inform neighbors/landlord that your partner no longer lives with you and they should call the police if they see him near your home." To: "Inform neighbors/landlord that your partner no longer lives with you and they should call the police if they see them near your home."
- "When you change your purse, that should be the first thing that goes in it." To: "When you change your purse or wallet, that should be the first thing that goes in it"
- "Plan to attend a victim's support group for at least two weeks to gain support from others and learn more about yourself and the relationship." This line doesn't need to be changed...men just need resources to these events specifically for men. Classes specifically for male victims, some victims get sent to classes to teach them how to NOT be an abuser. Which you can only imagine how offensive that is and only makes the victim MORE depressed. Since the biggest sign of depression in men is aggravation, he is more likely to become violent and take large risks based

on hopelessness. And if they don't exist, I suggest making them available.

Another thing I'd like to point out is, section 1, line 5: " You have the right to protect yourself until you are out of danger". When you place your lines to condone the female-victim stereotype, you only make men carrying out the right to defend themselves from violent female partners seem as though they are the perpetrators. Most women, speaking from experience as a woman, will verbally abuse her partner over a course of months, then cry when they're retaliated against. If a woman were to be abused over a course of months emotionally, everyone would understand her "snapping". However, if a man were to be abused over a course of months and he reported it would you arrest her or call him a "cry baby" and tell him to 'man up/get over it'?

Many men that do abuse to it's fullest extent know that they're going to get charged anyways despite any evidence that she was abusive as well, so all that rage that's been building up due to being abused comes out... what have they got to lose? A man will get in just as much trouble for giving her a scratch as giving her a punch, and depressed men are shown to not care about taking risks.

Please do me and the rest of this town a favor by making your Domestic Violence page gender neutral and enforcing the law neutrally between the genders. Take accusations seriously and don't arrest based on accusation alone. Just because she's crying doesn't mean she's telling the truth. Charge false accusers with obstruction of justice, or at least make it known that false accusers will be charged. In order of protections, require hard evidence in order to approve one. A written or sworn statement is not evidence at all, it is an accusation/unsupported claim. To approve one based on the accusation is an obstruction of justice itself.

I await your reply, up to thirty days of sending this letter. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to possibly working out any arrangements in helping male victims of Domestic Violence in the community. Help me in changing the phrase of "Stop Violence against women" to "Stop Violence against EVERYONE".

Sincerely,

Cora J. Newbold

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