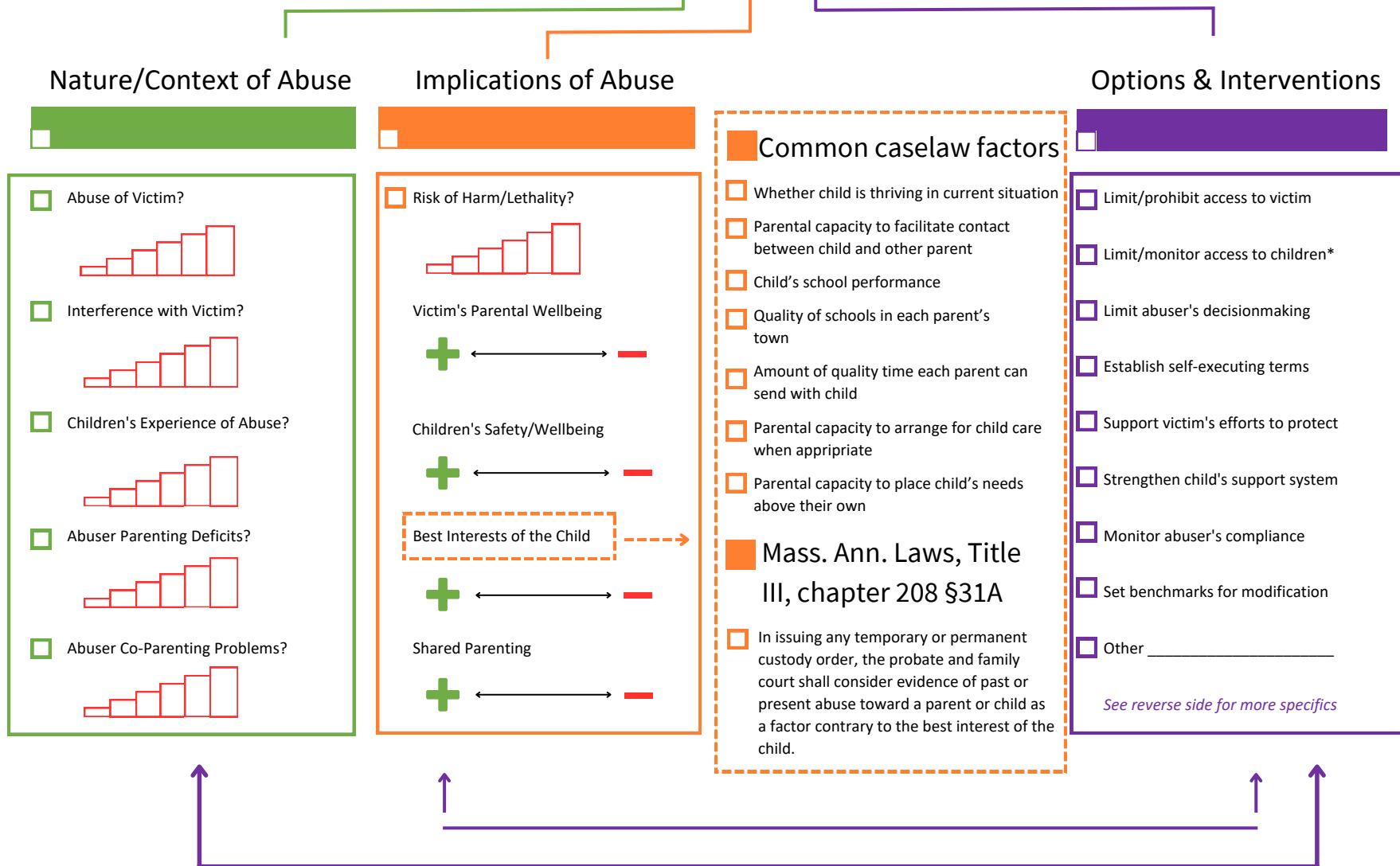


RESPONDING TO IPV IN CUSTODY AND VISITATION CASES MASSACHUSETTS

Is abuse an issue? What is the abuser doing? What's the effect on...? What can be done about it?





RESPONDING TO IPV IN CUSTODY AND VISITATION CASES MASSACHUSETTS

EXAMPLES OF MORE SPECIFIC OPTIONS & INTERVENTIONS

<p>LIMIT OR MONITOR ABUSIVE PARENT’S ACCESS TO CHILD OR VICTIM PARENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit methods of communication (no in-person, telephonic or social media contact) • Prescribe frequency and methods of communication (email only, text only, etc.) • Restrict length and/or content of communication (1-page, 10-minutes, scope, etc.) • Limit access to sensitive information (addresses, account numbers, SSNs, records) • Issue and enforce no contact orders and orders for protection • Require neutral exchange locations (school, place of business, etc.) • Require third party exchanges (professional, friend, family member, etc.) • Restrict visitation to designated location (grandparent’s home, public park, church) • Restrict visitation to a geographical area (25-mile radius, in town, state, or country) • Condition visitation on having third party present (professional, friend, family) • Restrict what can happen during visitation (no alcohol or drugs, no weapons, etc.) • Establish benchmarks for unsupervised access (no abuse, no threats, no violations) • Condition access on compliance with established terms (sobriety, BIP, car seat, etc.) • Appoint a post-visitiation safety monitor to ensure visits are safe and go as planned • Periodically monitor and conduct risk and danger assessments • Define consequences for non-compliance with access restrictions • Other: 	<p>LIMIT ABUSIVE PARENT’S RULEMAKING OR DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant sole legal custody to victim parent, with or without specified exceptions • Grant parallel legal custody, with or without specified exceptions • Appoint a parenting consultant to confer with abuser on all major decisions • Appoint a parenting monitor to oversee and periodically assess abuser’s parenting • Limit abuser’s ability to dispose of real or personal property or to dissipate assets • Appoint a special master to monitor and effectuate property allocations • Other:
<p>MONITOR AND ENFORCE ABUSIVE PARENT’S COMPLIANCE WITH PARENTING PLAN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct review hearings • Establish schedule for abusive parent to demonstrate compliance with plan • Set automatic consequences for non-compliance with parenting plan • Appoint a compliance monitor at abusive parent’s cost • Hold abusive parent accountable for unjustified, unexcused, intentional violations • Other: 	<p>SUPPORT VICTIM PARENT’S EFFORTS TO PROTECT CHILD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link parental decision-making authority to parental responsibility for child’s care • Designate victim parent as the custodian of records • Provide victim parent with information about available community-based resources • Facilitate victim parent’s access to available community-based resources • Establish self-executing parenting plan enforcement mechanisms • Allow direct and expedited access to parenting plan enforcement mechanisms • Establish automatic bill-paying processes for abuser’s financial obligations • Delineate reasonable house rules • Limit grounds upon which abuser may object to the victim’s parenting decisions • Permit the victim to relocate with the child in accordance with the law
<p>REQUIRE ABUSIVE PARENT TO PARTICIPATE IN REMEDIAL INTERVENTIONS AND/OR SERVICES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer abusive parent to batterer intervention for assessment and proper services • Refer abusive parent to parenting after violence for assessment/proper services • Other: 	<p>STRENGTHEN CHILD’S SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that parenting plan accommodates child’s interests, activities and supports • Provide sufficient parenting time flexibility to adapt to child’s age and social needs • Structure parenting time to maintain access to child’s support system • Connect child and victim parent to available community based resources

This project is supported by Award 15JOVW-22-GK-04032-MUMU and 15JOVW-23-GK-05127-MUMU from the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions and recommendations expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.