POLICE PERPETRATED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

POWER AND CONTROL

PHYSICAL

POLICE RESPONSE:
He is the police. ROs automatically respond to “officer in distress.” Often no department policy, so colleagues use their own discretion. Her word against his as a police officer.

KNOWLEDGE OF LAW & COURT SYSTEM:
He knows court procedures and personnel. Presents self well in court -- knows what to say and not say. No one expects him to perjure, as he’s sworn to uphold the law.

TRAINING ADVANTAGES:
What makes him a good officer can make him a dangerous abuser. Intimidates by presence alone -- uniform, stance, voice. Uses command/interrogation voice to intimidate, threaten. Trained to use body as weapon.

OFFICER AS VICTIM:
Greater potential for lethality. No one believes officer can be victim. ostracized by colleagues, no longer trusted, broke Code of Silence. May endanger other officers.

LACK OF SHELTER & RESOURCES:
Abuser knows shelter locations. Friends and family afraid to help or she refuses to endanger them. Usual support untrained, unwilling, or unable to help.

WEAPONS & FORCE:
Constant presence of weapons in home. Uses service weapon, baton, handcuffs, other “tools of the trade” in abuse. Uses arm locks, choke holds to subdue with no marks or bruises.

SEXUAL

PERSONAL IMPACT:
Friends, family, service providers doubt her credibility. Loss of status as police wife. High potential for lethality. Loss of privacy and protection -- phone taps, surveillance.

PSYCHOLOGICAL THREATS:
Threatens to hurt family, friends. Knows how to commit perfect crime and criminals who can do his dirty work. Threatens to kill her and himself if she costs him his job.

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