Batterer’s Education Program (BEP)

BEP, a batterer’s intervention project, is designed to provide a pre- and post-sentencing alternative to men who are violent with the women and children in their lives. This program also accommodates men who have voluntarily decided to change their violent behavior.

It has been developed with the support of the Department of Corrections and the Rural Iowa Crisis Center. The goal of BEP is to stop male violence and promote individual accountability and respect.

The BEP program cost per class is $20. There is an $80 initial screening and intake fee. All fees must be paid by Money Order before class or intake. Group members are expected to refrain from any abusive activities during the program.

A thoughtful and active role including attendance, sharing, writing assignments, and personal interaction along with payment for services, is expected from all participants.

For more information contact: Department of Correctional Services, Creston, Iowa 641-782-8556
The Objectives of BEP

- To understand that violence is an act of power and control. The use of physical or verbal abuse is an individual choice and one can choose not to be abusive, no matter how one feels. The choice not to be abusive leads to new communication with partners and children and also resolved conflict with love and respect.

- To take responsibility for one’s actions while being challenged to examine one’s abusive behavior, thinking, rationalizations, and personal belief system in the context of one’s life experience.

- To develop a willingness to change one’s behavior and adopt practical methods to facilitate this willingness with an understanding of the negative effects of abusive behavior on partners, children, and on the quality of one’s life.

Major Program Themes

- Non-violence
- Non-Threatening Behavior
- Respect
- Support and Trust
- Honesty and Accountability
- Sexual Respect
- Partnership
- Negotiation and Fairness

Ask Yourself (a self-test!)

- Have you ever hit, pushed, grabbed, or threatened your partner, or frightened or intimidated her in other ways?
- Has she told you that she’s afraid of you, or shown fear in other ways? Are your children afraid of you?
- Do you frequently insult her, call her names, or say other things that make her uncomfortable?
- Do you often pressure her to do things your way, even if she doesn’t want to?
- Does she complain that you are trying to control her life?
- When you treat her badly, do you consider it her fault? Do you blame it on alcohol, stress, or family problems?
- Have you cheated on her?
- Have you ever been accused of mistreating your children?
- Has your partner complained about jealous or possessive behavior on your part?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, you could benefit from the BEP program. Our experience shows us that once a man begins to abuse in any of these ways, he has a problem that won’t go away, and will most likely get worse. Men often feel guilty and apologetic after an abusive incident, and may promise themselves and their partners that they will change. Unfortunately, we have found that even with the best intentions, men do not stop being abusive without outside assistance.