



## What is Battering? (Provided by SCCADVASA)

Domestic Violence is often referred to as “Battering” and, although it is usually thought to be physical assault, it is actually a pattern of behaviors which occurs in various forms: Physical, Sexual, Psychological, and/or Destruction of Property or Pets.

**Physical Battering** – assault on the victim’s person. Includes: pushing, hitting, pinching, choking (strangulation), stabbing, shooting, spitting, burning, clubbing, kicking, pulling hair, or pounding

**Sexual Battering** – unwanted sexual acts against the victim’s body. Includes: pinching the breasts, buttocks, or genitals; forcing sexual activity; sexual activity accompanied by physical abuse; forcing sexual activity with a third person.

**Psychological Battering** – no contact with victim’s body. Psychological weapons used: threats of suicide, violence, deportation, custody; forcing victim to do degrading things; controlling the victim’s activities such as: sleep, eating, social contacts, access to money; constant verbal abuse and attacks on victim’s self-esteem; threats to hurt children and/or pets.

**Destruction of Property or Pets** – no contact with the victim’s body. Behaviors include: breaking the victim’s favorite items or children’s toys and possessions; attacks on pets; destroying objects during an argument.