GLOSSARY for MPSS

Abuse – Emotional
Emotional abuse is any abusive behavior that is not physical and which may include verbal aggression, intimidation, manipulation, and humiliation. It most often unfolds as a pattern of behavior over time aiming to diminish another person’s sense of identity, dignity and self-worth; and often results in anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts or behaviors, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). An example of emotional abuse is “gaslighting” which is when an abuser makes a survivor feel like they are losing their mind or memory.¹

Abuse – Environmental
The term “environmental abuse” originated with HB 309 and was part of the 1996 package that came out of the Legislative Task Force on Domestic Violence. That term was being used in the domestic violence field at the time in an effort to define intimate partner violence in the broadest terms. At the time, the general language did not yet include with any frequency psychological abuse/aggression or stalking. The behaviors that were once included under “environmental abuse” – abusing a survivor by controlling/destroying their environment, inflicting fear, etc. - can now be better defined as psychological abuse or stalking, depending on the details of the case.

The term environmental abuse is found in KRS 403.7505. The goal for including environmental abuse in the offender treatment statute was to provide a teaching mechanism – in this case ensuring that therapists who worked with domestic violence offenders fully understood the range of abusive behaviors directed at survivors. It was not intended to serve as a legal definition.²

Abuse – Financial
Financial abuse involves controlling a survivor’s ability to acquire, use, and maintain financial resources.

Abuse – Physical
Physical abuse is the intentional use of physical force that results in acute or chronic illness, bodily injury, physical pain, functional impairment, distress, or death. Physical abuse may include, but is not limited to, violent acts such as striking (with or without an object or weapon), hitting, beating, scratching, biting, choking, suffocation, pushing, shoving, shaking, slapping, kicking, stomping, pinching, and burning.³


² Carol Jordan, Executive Director, Office for Policy Studies on Violence Against Women, University of Kentucky. September 21, 2019 and Alice Lyon, J.D., Legislative Research Commission.

Abuse – Sexual
    Sexual abuse is any unwanted sexual activity where perpetrators use force, make threats or take advantage of a survivor’s inability to give consent.

Abuse – Technological (Digital Abuse)
    Digital abuse is the use of technology to bully, harass, stalk or intimidate a partner. In most cases, this type of abuse is emotional and/or verbal and though it is perpetuated online, it has a strong impact on a survivor’s real life. The types of technology used includes sending abusive text messages or emails, making continuous threatening phone calls, spying on and monitoring survivors through the use of tracking systems (e.g., an app on their phone), abusing survivors on social media sites, and sharing intimate photos of the survivor without their consent (“revenge porn”).

Abuse – Verbal
    Verbal abuse is closely linked to emotional abuse and includes insults and attempts to scare, isolate, or control a survivor. It is also often a sign that physical abuse may follow. It is any language or behavior that seeks to coerce a survivor to doubt their perceptions or their abilities and subjugate themselves to the abuser.

ADA Standards
    The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ensures access to the built environment for people with disabilities. The ADA Standards establish design requirements for the construction and alteration of facilities subject to the law. These enforceable standards apply to places of public accommodation, commercial facilities, and state and local government facilities. The ADA standards are issued by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Transportation (DOT). DOJ’s standards apply to all facilities covered by the ADA, except public transportation facilities, which are subject to DOT’s standards. Both standards are very similar and are closely based on the Board’s ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG).

Advocate
    An advocate is a person who provides support, resources, and referrals for survivors and works for systems change. Advocates should have training and expertise in domestic violence, trauma informed care, and cultural competency.

Area Development District (ADD)
    KRS 147A establishes fifteen designated areas within the state of Kentucky that are governed by a board of directors and that are charged with developing a district plan including, but not limited to, the following districtwide plan elements: goals and objectives; water and sewer; land-use; and open space and recreation.

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The ADDs are used to provide a more equitable distribution of resources and social services throughout the state.

**Background Check - Child Abuse/Neglect (CAN) Central Registry Check**

Records of child abuse and neglect reports are maintained by State child protection or social services agencies, often in statewide databases that are known as central registries. These records are used to aid in the investigation, treatment, and prevention of child abuse cases and to provide statistical information for staffing and funding purposes.

**Background Check - Criminal**

A background check is an investigation of a person's personal, professional, legal, and/or criminal histories. Although “background checks” and “criminal background checks” are often confused as the same kind of check, there are differences; specifically, criminal background checks tend to be more thorough than general background checks. For example, while a regular background check might include certain parts of a person's criminal history, criminal background checks dive deeper because they are designed specifically for criminal histories and not just basic information like a person’s previous addresses, marital status, or financial history.

So, along with basic information like the person's name and address, a criminal background check can go so far as to include:

- Criminal arrests and convictions, although generally, convictions under expunged records aren't included.
- Penalties, including prison terms, probation or parole, or any other court-ordered services such as drug and alcohol counseling.
- Outstanding warrants.
- Any known aliases.
- Personally identifying appearance traits, such as:
  - Race.
  - Tattoos.
  - Birthmarks.
  - Height and weight.
  - Hair and eye color.

Because criminal histories are, for the most part, public knowledge, those who compile criminal background checks can access this information from court records and other similar sources.⁵

**Batterer Intervention Program (BIP)**

A program designed to hold people who use violence against their intimate partner accountable for their behavior. BIP is grounded in an understanding of the dynamics of power and control. Domestic violence batterer intervention provider certification standards can be found at [920 KAR 2:020](http://www.kar.org). ⁵

⁵ [DMV.org](https://www.dmv.org).
Case Management
Any individual or group interaction facilitated by program staff for the purpose of assisting clients with assessing needs, setting priorities and goals, implementing objectives, locating resources, or performing any activities pertaining to the accomplishment of goals. Case management is based upon client-identified goals and not a standardized or "cookie cutter" formula.

Community Education
Community education is the process of conducting presentations about domestic violence, dating violence, healthy relationships, or available services for survivors and their children to the community at large or a community group (e.g., a presentation for the PTA or a church group).

Community Engagement
Community engagement is a dynamic relational process that facilitates communication, interaction, involvement, and exchange between an organization and a community for a range of social and organizational outcomes. As a concept, engagement features attributes of connection, interaction, participation, and involvement, designed to achieve or elicit an outcome at individual, organization, or social levels.

Cultural Competence
Cultural competence is affording the presumptions of innocence, worthiness and competence to all survivors that includes:

▪ **Innocence**: The presumption that neither I nor any aspect of my identity is to blame for violence that has happened to me. When something goes wrong around me, people do not look to me first, or even second, as a probable cause of the problem.

▪ **Worthiness**: The presumption that I am worthy, deserving and good enough to receive, time energy, resources, investment, attention, services, respect, and the benefit of the doubt. All survivors are to be treated with dignity.

▪ **Competence**: The presumption that I am able to make informed decisions about my life. Survivors are experts regarding their own experiences, circumstances, and options, and, as such, should be afforded the opportunity to make decisions for themselves.

Dating Violence
Dating violence is violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the survivor and where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors: the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. **Dating violence** also includes but is not limited to the physical, sexual, psychological, or emotional violence within a dating relationship, including
stalking. It can happen in person or electronically, and may involve financial abuse or other forms of manipulation which may occur between a current or former dating partner regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.\(^6\)

**Dependent**
A person who relies on another for support, particularly financial support.

**Direct Contact**
For purposes of MPSS, direct contact is defined as professional interaction with survivors as part of one’s assigned responsibilities.

**Direct Service**
A service an advocate provides to a survivor. Those services described in \(34\) \(U.S.C\). \(20103(d)(2)\) – Crime Victim Assistance, and efforts that-

1) Respond to the emotional, psychological, or physical needs of crime survivors;
2) Assist survivors to stabilize their lives after victimization;
3) Assist survivors to understand and participate in the criminal justice system; and/or
4) Restore a measure of safety and security for the survivor.

**Domestic Violence and Abuse**
Physical injury, serious physical injury, stalking, sexual abuse, strangulation, assault, or the infliction of fear of imminent physical injury, serious physical injury, sexual abuse, strangulation, or assault between family members or members of an unmarried couple (\(KRS 403.720(1)\)).

A pattern of coercive control that includes the use of physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, verbal and economic abuse, including manipulation and maltreatment of children by one partner to gain, regain, and maintain power and control over an intimate partner.\(^7\)

Felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the survivor, by a person with whom the survivor shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the survivor as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the survivor under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies, or by any other person against an adult or youth survivor who is protected from that person’s acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction. This definition reflects the statutory definition of “domestic violence” found in \(34\) \(U.S.\ Code \S\ 12291(a)\) of VAWA (as amended). This definition includes but is not limited to criminal or non-criminal acts constituting intimidation, control, coercion and coercive control,

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\(^6\) Family Violence Prevention and Services Act regulations - \(45\) \(CFR\ 1370.2\).
\(^7\) National Resource Center on Domestic Violence: [Runaway & Homeless Youth and Relationship Violence Toolkit](https://www.nrcdv.org/runaway-homeless-youth-and-relationship-violence-toolkit/).
emotional and psychological abuse and behavior, expressive and psychological aggression, financial abuse, harassment, tormenting behavior, disturbing or alarming behavior, and additional acts recognized in other Federal, Tribal State, and local laws as well as acts in other Federal regulatory or sub-regulatory guidance. This definition is not intended to be interpreted more restrictively than FVPSA and VAWA but rather to be inclusive of other, more expansive definitions. The definition applies to individuals and relationships regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

Equality - Cultural
Cultural equality provides for the equal participation, access and contribution to cultural life. Ensuring that the spiritual, intellectual and creative expressions and interests of all members of the community are reflected has proven to be an important enabler of inclusive development and socio-economic empowerment.

Equality - Economic
Economic equality affords a level playing field where everyone has the same access to the same wealth.

Equality - Environmental
Environmental equality is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Equality - Political
Political equality applies to each citizen's individual rights and liberty. In a politically equal society, citizens who are unequal socially or financially still possess identical voting rights and have the right to expect equitable treatment under the law.

Equality - Religious
Religious equality treats all religion the same, e.g., Christians, Sikhs, Hindus, Buddhists Muslims and Jews, as well as all denominations within each of them.

Equality - Social
Social equality is a state of affairs in which all people within a specific society or isolated group have the same status in certain respects, including civil rights, freedom of speech, property rights and equal access to certain social goods and services.

Family Member
A family member is a spouse, including a former spouse, a grandparent, a grandchild, a parent, a child, a stepchild, or any other person living in the same household as a child if the child is the alleged survivor (KRS 403.720(2)).
Gender Expression
Gender expression is the way in which a person expresses their gender. The way that someone expresses their gender is not necessarily a clue as to how they identify their gender.

Gender Identity
The gender with which a person identifies. It’s the word (or words) that one could use to decide for themselves that simply make sense to them. Gender Identity is the all-encompassing feelings a person has about which gender(s) they are or are not. Gender identity is internal, deeply rooted, and a central part of many people’s senses of self.

Healthy Conflict Resolution Strategies
Healthy conflict resolution strategies are conceptualized as the methods and processes involved in facilitating the peaceful ending of conflict and retribution.

Intersectionality
Intersectionality is the methodology for framing and connecting the multiple and mutually constituting forms of oppression a person experiences based on their identity. Intersectionality was pioneered by women of color as a means of articulating multiple, dynamic, and potentially simultaneous forms of oppression based on their lived experiences.

Intervention
Intervention is the action taken to intentionally become involved in a difficult situation in order to improve it or reduce harmful outcomes.

Peer Counseling
Peer counseling involves peer survivors who use their lived experience of domestic violence in a group setting to address and explore empowerment, alternatives, decision-making, and support for living a violence-free life.

Personally identifying information (PII) or personal information
PII means any individually identifying information for or about an individual including information likely to disclose the location of a survivor of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, regardless of whether the information is encoded, encrypted, hashed, or otherwise protected, including, a first and last name; a home or other physical address; contact information (including a postal, email or Internet protocol address, or telephone or facsimile number); a social security number, driver license number, passport number, or student identification number; and any other information, including date of birth, racial or ethnic background, or religious affiliation, that would serve to identify any individual (45 CFR §1370.2).
Prevention – Primary
Primary prevention activities take place before violence has occurred to prevent initial perpetration or victimization.

Prevention – Secondary
Secondary prevention is the immediate response after violence has occurred to deal with short-term consequences and prevent future perpetration or victimization.

Prevention – Tertiary
Tertiary prevention is the long-term response after violence has occurred to deal with the lasting consequences of violence and offender treatment interventions.

Products
Products are items created in support of community engagement activities or that provide information to the public and survivors. Examples include brochures, manuals, newsletters, training curricula, training materials, reports, fact sheets, website content/pages, videos, and social media posts.

Program Evaluation
Program evaluation is the process of collecting and analyzing data to understand the impact of a program and gauge its effect.

Reportable Incident
A reportable incident is an occurrence that would require the director of the domestic violence shelter to make a report of the incident to the program's governing board for liability reasons.

Shelter
Shelter means the provision of temporary refuge in conjunction with supportive services in compliance with applicable State or Tribal law or regulations governing the provision, on a regular basis, of shelter, safe homes, meals, and supportive services to survivors of family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence, and their dependents. State and Tribal law governing the provision of shelter and supportive services on a regular basis means, for example, the laws and regulations applicable to zoning, fire safety, and other regular safety, and operational requirements, including State, Tribal, or local regulatory standards for certifying domestic violence advocates who work in shelter. This definition also includes emergency shelter and immediate shelter, which may include housing provision, rental subsidies, temporary refuge, or lodging in properties that could be individual units for families and individuals (such as apartments) in multiple locations around a local jurisdiction, Tribe/reservation, or State; such properties are not required to be owned, operated, or leased by the program. Temporary refuge includes a residential service, including shelter and off-site services such as hotel or motel vouchers or individual dwellings, which is not transitional or permanent housing, but must also
provide comprehensive supportive services. The mere act of making a referral to shelter or housing shall not itself be considered provision of shelter. Should other jurisdictional laws conflict with this definition of temporary refuge, the definition which provides more expansive housing accessibility governs (45 CFR §1370.2).

**Stalking**
Stalking is the repeated and unwanted attention, harassment, contact, or any other course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear. To an outsider, this behavior can appear friendly and unthreatening; however, these acts are intrusive and frightening if they are unwelcomed by the survivor.

**Supportive Parent/Child/Staff Interactions**
Supportive parent/child/staff interactions are designed to help advocates and caregivers support young children’s social, physical, and emotional development.

**Supportive Services**
Supportive services are services for adult and youth survivors of family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence, and their dependents that are designed to meet the holistic needs of survivors and their dependents for short-term, transitional, or long-term safety and recovery. Supportive services include, but are not limited to: direct and/or referral-based advocacy on behalf of survivors and their dependents, counseling, case management, employment services, referrals, transportation services, legal advocacy or assistance, child care services, health, behavioral health and preventive health services, culturally and linguistically appropriate services, and other services that assist survivors or their dependents in recovering from the effects of the violence. To the extent not already described in this definition, supportive services also include but are not limited to other services identified in FVPSA at 42 U.S.C. 10408(b)(1)(A)-(H). Supportive services may be directly provided by grantees and/or by providing advocacy or referrals to assist survivors in accessing such services (45 CFR §1370.2).

**Systems Advocacy**
Systems advocacy is focused on influencing and changing systems—including the legislative, policy and practice aspects of systems. This is done to promote and improve opportunities and outcomes for survivors of domestic violence. This can include influencing:
- the creation of new laws or changes to current laws
- the priorities and plans of government and non-government agencies
- the policies and procedures that relate to services or systems
- the way in which government and non-government agencies provide services.

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Technical Assistance
Technical assistance includes activities designed to facilitate professional (individual) or agency change in some systematic manner by providing expertise to solve a problem.

Training
Training is the process of providing information to advocates, professionals, and interested stakeholders on domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking that enables these persons to increase their knowledge on these issues and to improve their response to survivors as it relates to their role in the system.

Trauma-Informed
Trauma-informed care is a strengths-based framework that is grounded in an understanding of and responsiveness to the impact of trauma; that emphasizes physical, psychological, and emotional safety for both providers and survivors; and that creates opportunities for survivors to rebuild a sense of control and empowerment.9

The following are five principles of trauma-informed care:

1. **Awareness** of the effects of trauma on survivors.
2. **Safety** for survivors on a physical and emotional level.
3. **Trustworthiness** in processes and relationships.
4. **Empowerment** in decision-making processes.
5. **Inclusiveness for all**, including individuals from historically marginalized groups and people with disabilities.

Through trauma-informed care, all experiences and needs are valued, including those of caregivers. This lens reveals a network of relationships between the survivor, service providers, organizations, friends and family, and the community. Individualized approaches must take into account the historical and social forces such as racism that further traumatize survivors.

Underserved Populations
Underserved Populations includes people who are underserved because of any aspect of their identity: geographic location, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, racial and ethnic identity groups, limited English speakers, disability, immigration status, stigmatized health conditions, substance

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use disorder, mental health diagnosis, and age. Here, racial and ethnic identity
groups primarily encompasses racial and ethnic minority groups (as defined in
section 1707(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300(u-6)(g)), which
means American Indians (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts); Asian
American; Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders; Blacks and Hispanics.
The term “Hispanic” or “Latino" means individuals whose origin is Mexican,
Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or any other Spanish-speaking
country. This underserved populations’ definition also includes other population
categories determined by the HHS Secretary or the HHS Secretary's designee to
be underserved (45 CFR §1370.2). People of underserved populations
experience oppression including interpersonal, structural, symbolic, and
institutional violence at higher rates than people belonging to privileged identity
groups.