

Coercive Control: identifying and responding

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Interpreting behaviours

Victim

They're so devoted to each other

He doesn't hit her

He just gets angry when he's jealous because he loves her

There's been no police calls, no trouble

Its just the way they are, it's a bad mix

He loves his kids, he'd never hurt them

He hits her when he's been drinking, if he would just stop drinking...

He's a man's man

He's Jack the Lad

Controlling personality

They are so in love

He can't be abusive if he doesn't hit her

He loves her so much, his feelings are strong

They argue a bit but nothing serious

The two of them should stay away from each other

Its her he has a problem with, not the kids

He gets nasty when he's drinking, he's lovely when he's sober

He has traditional male views and believes men and women should behave differently

He behaves in a traditional male way, a likeable rogue

Interpreting Behaviours

Victim behaviour

Why doesn't she leave?

Why won't she support a prosecution?

She just won't engage

She refused our help

She is sending him mixed signals

She is messing us all around going back to him

If she was really serious she'd leave

Why doesn't she consider the safety of the children?

She's not following the safety plan

Interpretation

It can't be that bad

She's messing the police around

There's nothing we can do

She doesn't want our help

She's messing him around

She's doing things which are plain stupid and frustrating

She's not serious, she's exaggerating

How selfish, she should put her children first

She can't be that worried about him

Re-interpreting behaviours

The background features a series of light rays emanating from the right side, creating a sense of depth and movement. The rays are in shades of gray and white, set against a dark background. At the bottom of the image, there is a solid horizontal bar with a gradient from dark gray on the left to light gray on the right.

Fear



What is fear ?

Immediate fear



Chronic fear



What does fear look like?

Not all fear looks like immediate fear

Chronic fear may be identified through behaviours: not acting in their own best interests; over-focus on keeping someone else happy; pleasing someone despite negative effects on self and others including children

Allowing access to the home/ having sex with known abuser to stay safe

Wanting to keep people away

Acting out devotion

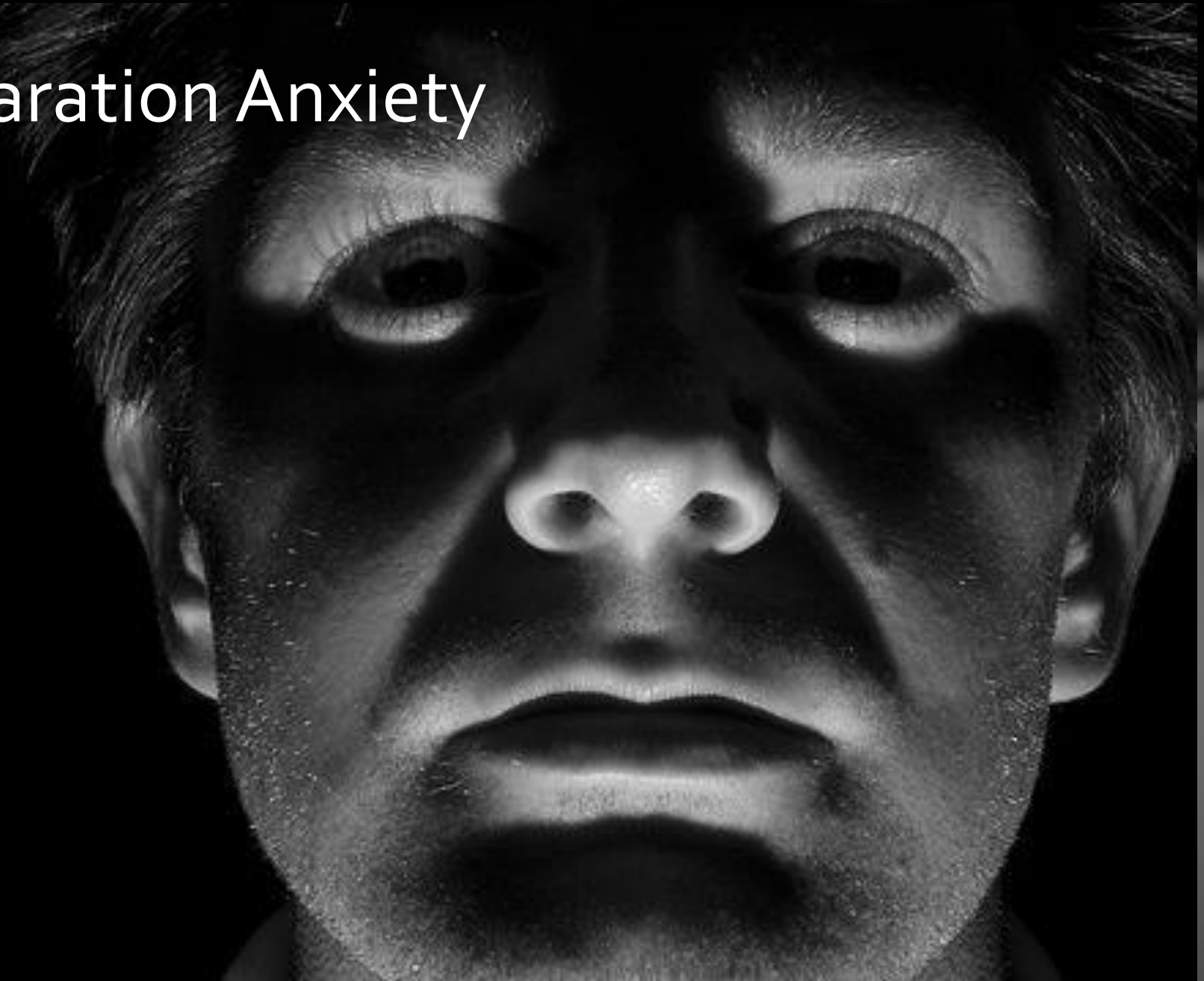
Avoiding any kind of betrayal

This is safety management

Anxiety



Separation Anxiety



What does anxiety look like?

Does not always look like violent bullying:

Stalking

Coercive Control

Excessive jealousy

Entitlement and need to win

Will do anything to maintain control

Manipulative

Violence, Begging, Crying, Threats, Menace, Withdrawal, Homicide

Useful questions: coercive control

Does your partner check your phone?

Can you see your friends and family whenever you like?

Can you go out whenever you like? Does your partner get irritated or angry if you disagree with them?

Do you have your own private money?

Does your partner look at your internet history?

Is your partner jealous?

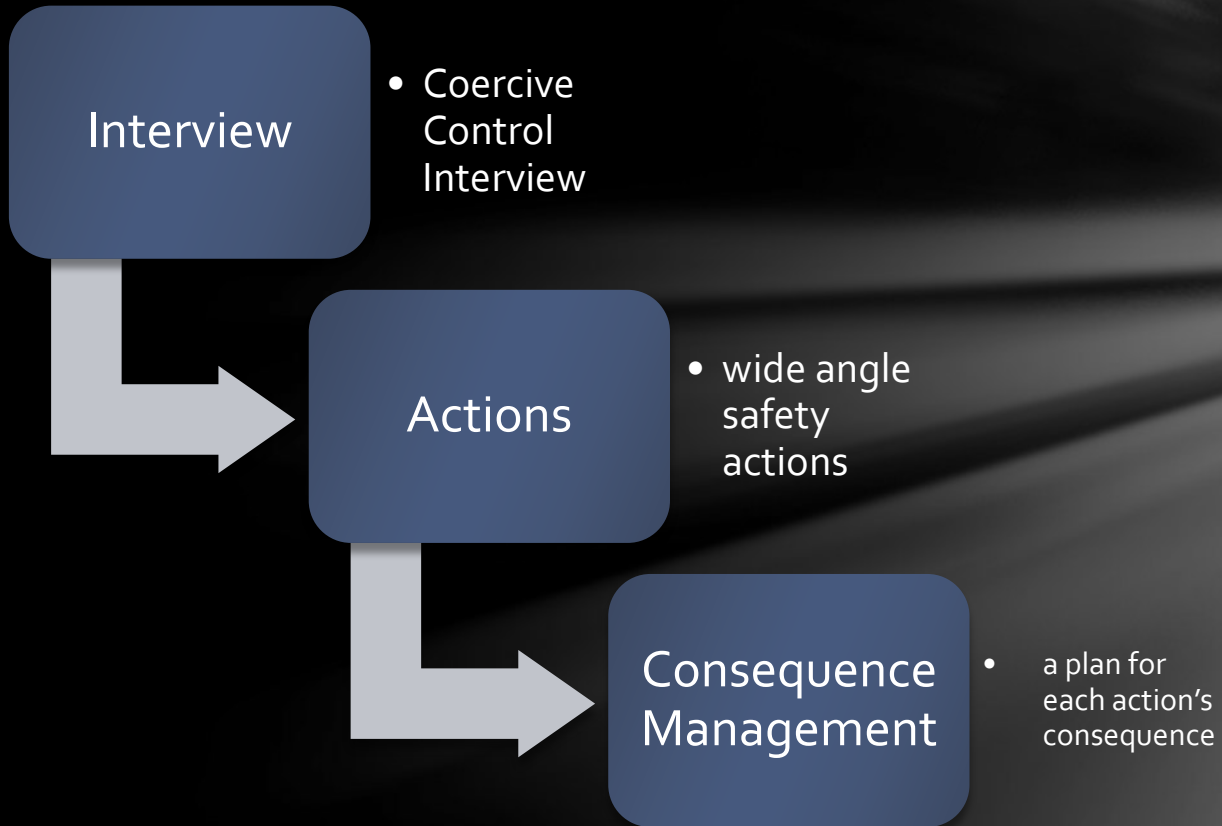
Do your partner's moods dominate your life?

How would your partner react if you said you were leaving?

Homicide Triad



Safety Trifecta



Escalating Risk/Threat

Psychology

Obsession

Fixation

Jealousy

Controlling

Has to be right/win

Routine

High Risk Markers

History

Victim fearful

Threats to kill/suicide

Weapons

Strangulation or restrict air

Violence/sexual violence

Stalking

Coercive control

Triggers

Separation: real or imagined

Financial ruin

Deteriorating mental/physical health

Revenge

Anything which diminishes control over life/partner

DART

DART is like a searchable guide book for coercive control and stalking

The content is drawn from research

We have a specific approach to Coercive Control and Stalking

We have developed the **Homicide Triad** and the safety **Trifecta**



Case Studies

Please look at the case studies which represent two extremes and think about Coercive Control:

Identify any concerning behaviours in both victim and CP

Interpret those behaviours

What are/were the opportunities for intervention?

How would you gain the trust of the victims?