Massachusetts Advocacy Center

TASK FORCE ON CHILDREN AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Working Bibliography:

Childhood Trauma and Domestic Violence
(Child Witnesses of Domestic Violence and Child Victims of Abuse)

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Legal Services attorneys and pro bono counsel on the Massachusetts Advocacy Center panel may obtain copies of most of these articles by calling Tania Duarte at 617.357.8431 ext. 224. This bibliography is on the legal services website and will be updated periodically.
Preface and Contents

The following bibliography has been subdivided into topical sections to allow for investigation of specific dimensions of trauma and its effects on children’s lives and functioning. Where appropriate, these sections include subheadings to designate sources addressing a more specific topic; for example, in the section on the effects of trauma on children’s social functioning, there are subheadings for problem behavior/delinquency and peer relationships. The sources have been categorized on the basis of their primary content, such that an article on peer relationships may also address post-traumatic disruption of children’s attachments. As a result, when searching for a specific topic, it may be useful to scan related categories.

To make this bibliography as “user-friendly” as possible, sources providing a general overview of the effects of witnessing domestic violence appear separately from those of trauma having other origins (i.e., physical and sexual abuse, maltreatment, etc.). Similarly, the section on the “developmental effects of exposure to trauma” contains sources which address topics such as the neurobiological effects that may broadly affect children’s emotional, cognitive, and behavioral functioning (addressed in later sections). The sections move from the general to specific discussions of the effects of childhood trauma, concluding with sections on these effects in various settings, namely in schools and the legal system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Incidence of Children’s Exposure to Domestic Violence</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Co-Occurrence of Spousal and Child Abuse</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. The Effects of Childhood Trauma: General Overview</td>
<td>4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. The Effects of Violence on Child Witnesses: General Overview</td>
<td>5-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. The Developmental Effects of Childhood Trauma</td>
<td>7-9 (Subheadings: General, Neurobiological Consequences, Attachment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. The Effects of Trauma on Children’s Psychological/Emotional Functioning</td>
<td>9-11 (Subheadings: General, Emotional Dysregulation, Dissociation, Comorbidity)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII. The Effects of Trauma on Children’s Cognitive Functioning</td>
<td>11-12 (Subheadings: General, Perceptions of Caretakers, Memory, Communication/Expression)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII. The Effects of Trauma on Children’s Social/Behavioral Functioning</td>
<td>12-14 (Subheadings: General, Problem Behavior/Delinquency, Hyperactivity, Peer Relations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IX. Childhood Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder</td>
<td>14-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X. The Cycle of Violence</td>
<td>15-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XI. Childhood Trauma and the School Setting</td>
<td>16-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XII. Children Exposed to Domestic Violence and the Legal System</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XIII. Resilience and Recovery</td>
<td>17-19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I. Incidence of Children’s Exposure to Domestic Violence


II. The Abused and their Children: The Co-occurrence (Comorbidity) of Spousal Abuse with Child Abuse and/or Maltreatment


Department of Social Services.


### III. The Effects of Childhood Trauma: General Overviews


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### IV. The Effects of Violence on Child Witnesses: General Overviews


### V. The Developmental Effects of Childhood Trauma

#### General


**Neurobiological Consequences**


**Attachment**

VI. The Effects of Trauma on Children’s Psychological/Emotional Functioning

**General**


**Emotional Dysregulation**


**Dissociation**


**Comorbidity**


### VII. The Effects of Trauma on Children’s Cognitive Functioning

#### General


#### Perceptions of Caretakers


#### Memory

Pollak, S., Cicchetti, D., Klorman, R. (1998) Stress, Memory, and Emotion: Developmental Considerations from...


Communication/Expression


VIII. The Effects of Trauma on Children’s Social/Behavioral Functioning

General


Problem Behavior/Delinquency


**Hyperactivity**


**Relationships with Adults and Peers**


Graham-Bermann, S., S. Cutler, B. Litzenberger, W. Schwartz. (1994) Perceived Conflict and Violence in


### IX. Childhood Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder


X. The Cycle of Violence


XI. Childhood Trauma and the School Setting


**XII. Children Exposed to Domestic Violence and the Legal System**


**XIII. Resilience and Recovery**


