

## **1<sup>st</sup> Case to Discuss**

Lisa\* and Jack\* had only been dating for a couple of months. Lisa had a son from a previous relationship, so she wanted to take things slowly with Jack, but after getting to know each other for only a week, Jack started bringing his things into her home. Lisa said Jack was very charming and convinced her that living together would be best for them. Once Jack was living with Lisa, he began to monitor her phone calls, took her keys so she couldn't leave the house, and she eventually lost her job. The physical abuse began within a month.

Lisa wanted to take her son to a museum and Jack insisted on going even though he had been drinking since early that morning. When they arrived, Jack would not get out of the car, so Lisa took her son into the museum and enjoyed the day. When they got back to the car, Jack was even more intoxicated and refused to let Lisa drive.

Jack began to accuse Lisa of cheating on him with her ex-boyfriend who Lisa still talked to on occasion. As they passed near where the ex-boyfriend lived, Jack began to drive erratically, swerving, and on the wrong side of the road. Lisa begged him to stop before he wrecked but he drove faster and said he would just kill them all. Lisa got out her cell phone to call the police. Jack grabbed the phone from her hand and threw it out the window. He started hitting Lisa in the face with the back of his hand and forearm. Lisa noticed blood from her mouth and nose as Jack stopped the car. She thought he stopped to check on her, but he proceeded to get into the passenger seat with her, punching her in the face until she blacked out. The last thing she remembered was her son screaming and trying to get out of his car seat.

When Lisa woke up, she saw Jack throw her car keys into a nearby field. Lisa's son was still in the car seat, but he now had a large red mark across his cheek. A passing car had stopped, and the couple called the police after seeing Lisa's face covered in blood.

Jack was gone by the time the police and EMS arrived. As Lisa was telling the officer what happened, her son added "and he choked you mommy! I thought he was going to kill you!" Lisa did not remember Jack choking her. The officer took Lisa with him to the magistrate's office for an assault and battery charge against Jack but when the magistrate saw Lisa's face, Jack was charged with malicious wounding and an emergency protective order (EPO) was issued. The magistrate also charged Jack for assault and battery for hitting Lisa's son based on the boy's statement.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Case to Discuss IF time allows**

Molly\* left her husband Marcus\* eleven years ago. She had endured ten years of mental and emotional torture as well as physical abuse that happened almost daily. Molly left in the middle of the night with her two small children, taking only what she could carry in her arms. She reconnected with her family after leaving her husband and started a new life free of Marcus and his control.

Marcus did not give up easily, but Molly made it clear that she was not putting up with his behavior any longer and she would not be returning home. Eventually, the two began what Molly referred to as “almost friendship”. They discussed their children, laughed and talked during child exchanges for visitations, and even talked about their personal relationships with other people openly.

Earlier this year, Molly’s life was turned upside down again. Her son and his wife were diagnosed with a debilitating illness and were in desperate need of medical attention as well as help caring for their two very young children. Molly discussed the situation with Marcus who immediately offered to move all of them back home. Marcus said he regretted the past and wanted to help his son, and most of all he wished to spend time with his grandchildren whom he had never met. He also promised Molly he would honor her wishes that they remain just friends. After several years of a tolerable relationship with him, Molly had hopes that Marcus really had changed. So, with no transportation, little financial resources, and unsuitable housing for everyone, Molly felt she had no alternative. Marcus arranged to have the family relocated.

The verbal abuse began within the first week following several failed attempts by Marcus to begin an intimate relationship with Molly. After three weeks, Marcus assaulted Molly. Both of their children tried to intervene by attempting to pull Marcus away from Molly, but they were injured as well. Marcus was arrested and held without bond due to his criminal history and the severity of the incident.