

Table 1 (Supplemental File): Post-separation abuse articles published from 2011 through 2022 in the US and Canada

Author	Title	Country	Discipline	Sampling Design	Tactics	Consequences
Qualitative Studies						
(Crossman et al., 2016)	"He Could Scare Me Without Laying a Hand on Me": Mothers' Experiences of Nonviolent Coercive Control During Marriage and After Separation.	US	Family Science	<p>Convenience sample recruited from publicly available divorce records (n = 723) in a midwestern state; n=227 met the inclusion criteria and had available addresses.</p> <p>Qualitative study compared divorcing mothers who had experienced nonviolent coercive control (n = 8) with 47 mothers who experienced violent coercive control and with mothers who had experienced no violence/no control</p>	<p>Weaponizing children: using children to force contact with mother</p> <p>Psychological abuse: including stalking, harassing, and intimidation behaviors such as punching or throwing objects near her, leaving threatening messages, making the mother feel like he can force her into sex; threatening to kill himself if the mother leaves or does not come back to him; showing up where the mother is; taking things that belonged to the mother so that she would have to see her former partner to get them back; calling on the phone and hanging up</p> <p>Mesosystem abuse: frightening people close to the mother</p> <p>Economic abuse: "bothering" the mother while she is at work</p>	<p>Safety needs: mothers reported "intense fear"</p>
(Gutowski & Goodman, 2020)	"Like I'm Invisible": IPV Survivor-Mothers' Perceptions of Seeking Child Custody through the Family Court System.	US – MA	Psychology	<p>Snowball sample of 19 mothers who survived IPV and sought custody through family court</p>	<p>Psychological abuse: the abusive parent threatened, stared down, yelled at, or followed them in the courthouse or when leaving; threats of court action, harassment and constant badgering; using aspect of their identity, such as their gender, race, immigration status, or social class to mistreat them</p> <p>Economic abuse: "I literally was left with nothing"</p> <p>Weaponizing children: [child] was being sexually abused on visits; ex falsely accused her of child abuse</p>	<p>Physiological needs: nightmares</p> <p>Safety needs: 58% reported that the custody process made them feel "severely unsafe"; fearful for their own or their child's safety during the process ; experienced distress in the courtroom during the process in the form of fear, shame, worthlessness, and powerlessness; physical or physiological signs of stress related to the court process including PTSD, insomnia, lack of concentration, excessive tiredness, diarrhea, hair loss; lacked resources which to fight in court compared with the abusive parent; "I always felt unsafe in court because I knew that anytime I could lose it all, even telling the truth"</p> <p>Institutional betrayal: 16% lost custody of their children; abuse experiences used by family court professionals to accuse them of being bad or unfit mothers; reported feeling worthless or dehumanized based on a professional's responses; being forced to compromise unfairly rendered them powerless; being "victimized by the very same system that is supposed to protect"; losing</p>

						custody of children was like “wearing a scarlet letter” Love and belonging needs: disrupted or severed relationships with children
(Haselschwerdt et al., 2011)	Custody Evaluators’ Beliefs About Domestic Violence Allegations During Divorce: Feminist and Family Violence Perspectives.	US	Family Science	Convenience sample of custody evaluators in a midwestern state (14 men and 9 women) selected from a larger survey study of custody evaluators	Psychological and economic abuse: “isolation, financial control, emotional abuse, [or] psychological abuse . . . that had been done for the purpose of trying to assert control” Weaponizing children: “the child goes to [the abuser], and the child is often then used as weapon against the victim. So [the abuser] can’t get at [the victim] physically or verbally or directly anymore, [but] they can get at them through the kid.”	Safety needs: fear, institutional betrayal, not being believed, having allegations dismissed, minimized or thought to be false Love and belonging needs: fear of losing custody of children, victims’ parenting blamed by custody evaluators
(Khaw & Hardesty, 2015)	Perceptions of boundary ambiguity in the process of leaving an abusive partner.	US – Midwest	Family Science	Convenience and self-selecting sample of 25 mothers who had temporarily or permanently left their abusers; recruited through domestic violence and transitional living shelters, community locations, and websites	Weaponizing children: emotional neglect, child abuse, kidnapping, using custody and child support issues to control mothers Psychological/physical abuse: unplanned visits, stalking, home invasions	Safety needs: fear, boundary intrusion Love and belonging needs: confusion around family, identity as mothers, psychological loss and grief relating to children’s father/ former partner, boundary ambiguity Self-esteem: self-blame
(Khaw et al., 2021)	“The System Had Choked Me Too”: Abused Mothers’ Perceptions of the Custody Determination Process That Resulted in Negative Custody Outcomes.	US – Midwest, West Coast	Family Science	Convenience sample of 24 abused mothers with negative custody outcomes, recruited by recruited by staff at services utilized by mothers, primarily legal services, and supervised visitation programs across 4 states in the US on the west coast and midwest	Weaponizing children: mother gave up breastfeeding because the abuser believed it alienated the child’s affection from him, and in court used her breastfeeding as a reason that she should lose parenting time Mesosystem abuse: fearing that her abuser would claim her friends were a bad influence in court, mother stopped seeing her friends; stopped counseling because it was used against her in court	Physiological needs: (of child) when mother forced to stop breastfeeding; shelter – participant reported losing home Safety needs: institutional betrayal, mothers described how family court professionals misconstrued their intentions, words, and actions; reported that they were accused of lying about abuse or coaching children; mothers felt the court system left them more vulnerable rather than protected them Self-esteem needs: feeling marginalized, disempowered, disillusioned
(Lapierre et al., 2022)	“He was the king of the house” children’s perspectives on the men who abused their mothers	Canada	Social work / Sociology	Convenience sample of 59 children and youth between 6 and 18 years recruited through domestic violence shelters, community organizations, and child protection agencies in Canada	Psychological abuse: verbal, psychological, and physical assaults, as well as repetitive threats, insults and humiliation; child reported “[father] will continue until he sees us weak or sad” Weaponizing children: physical abuse	Safety needs: Intense fear; “I’m still scared because my dad knows where we live”; impact to child’s development because caregiving relationships with individuals who create unsafe emotional and physical environments do not promote healthy development
(Miller & Manzer, 2021)	Safeguarding Children’s Well-Being: Voices from Abused Mothers Navigating Their Relationships and the Civil Courts.	US	Sociology	Convenience sample of 25 women who terminated abusive relationships and had been out of the abusive relationship for at least 5 years	Economic abuse: fathers withheld necessities; used gendered notions against mothers jobs when they worked full time (e.g. care more about job than child), resulting in women having to give up job or go to part time to maintain custody but having less financial stability Weaponizing children: “mother policing” excessive supervision of women’s parenting,	Physiological needs: sleep deprivation – ex called at 2am every night Safety needs: Many mothers chose to live in reduced economic environments rather than request (more) child support due to fear; mothers reported resistance to tactics including sexual bargaining and using their bodies to shield children; Economic abuse tactics resulting in not

					abusers used the courts mother policing tendencies – gendered notions of mothering – against them Mesosystem abuse: manipulating church communities, spreading rumors to neighbors, making false allegations in court Legal abuse: paper abuse, drawing out legal proceedings, using children as a tool; using civil and criminal court proceedings as new tactics	having enough financial resources to engage with courts for safety; mental health consequences and PTSD symptoms (e.g. one mother reported being chased around her home by her ex-husband with a gun, and judge denied PO (institutional betrayal)
(Miller & Smolter, 2011)	Paper Abuse: When All Else Fails, Batterers Use Procedural Stalking.	US	Sociology	Convenience sample of 10 women survivors, 4 community legal aid attorneys, and focus groups with advocates	Legal abuse – cross filing protective orders to harass, intimidate; threatening and taking action to get custody of children Weaponizing children – threatening to take children	Safety needs – legal abuse (paper abuse) is not counted as ongoing IPV by institutions because the relationship has ended and abuser is utilizing legal options rather than performing criminal acts; results in fear Love and belonging needs: loss of custody of children
(Shepard & Hagemester, 2013)	Perspectives of Rural Women: Custody and Visitation with Abusive Ex-Partners.	US – Midwest	Social Work / Sociology	Convenience sample of six focus groups (n=23 mothers) in rural areas recruited from domestic violence support groups	Weaponizing children: using custody and visitation arrangements to harass, intimidate and keep track of them, keeping information on the children from them, Legal abuse: violating custody and visitation orders Psychological abuse: intimidation, threats	Physiological needs: reported nightmares, sleep difficulties, enuresis/bedwetting for children Safety needs: feeling unsafe, or children are unsafe during custody visitation or exchanges; lack of economic resources compared to perpetrator meant that victim-survivors could not challenge or bring perpetrators back to court even when they violated orders. Lack of ability to afford services that could help (e.g., legal aid, counseling services, lack of batterers treatment, lack of parenting education and support group, lack of services for children). Institutional betrayal where women felt blamed, accused
(Thompson-Walsh et al., 2018)	Are we in this Together? Post-Separation Co-Parenting of Fathers with and without a History of Domestic Violence.	Canada	Psychology	Random sample of (n=20) divorced fathers co-parenting with and without IPV history, sampled from a larger study - Fathers and Kids - conducted in Toronto	Psychological abuse: fathers with history of DV blamed and denigrated and criticized mothers; showed lack of insight into how their behaviors affected their children and co-parents	Safety needs: Harmful, distressing, and fear-provoking co-parenting interactions
(Toews & Bermea, 2017)	"I Was Naive in Thinking, 'I Divorced This Man, He Is Out of My Life'": A Qualitative Exploration of Post-Separation Power and Control Tactics Experienced by Women.	US	Family Science	Random convenience sample of (n=22) divorced mothers from a larger study from divorce records from a county in the Midwest, who indicated on a survey (n = 279) that they had experienced partner abuse and indicated they would be willing to be interviewed	Physical abuse: most physical violence reported by mothers after separation occurred in front of children, during visitation and custody exchanges Economic abuse: "ruined them financially", hidden money/assets, quit job to reduce child support, threatened their employment, took all the money from their bank accounts; withholding financial resources, withholding or discontinuing children's health insurance, withholding basic expenses	Safety needs: fear, residual fear from past abuse; harms to employment; loss of resources; negotiating abilities hindered due to ongoing threats, intimidation, and coercion Love and belonging needs: abusers manipulated others' perceptions to maintain control, resulting in harms to relationships

					<p>Weaponizing children: threatened to fight for custody or kidnap children, manipulate visitation schedules, irregular visitation schedules, emotional/physical abuse of children, told lies to the children to turn them against their mother; neglecting children's needs; using the children to gain access to mother, degrading the mother to the children; attempting to isolate the children from her</p> <p>Psychological abuse: threats, excessive calling, stalking, destroying her belongings, stalking, name calling, belittling</p> <p>Legal abuse: threatening to take them back to court, using court action to deplete resources</p> <p>Mesosystem abuse: ex-husbands discredited mothering abilities, manipulated court</p>	
(Watson & Ancis, 2013)	Power and control in the legal system: from marriage/relationship to divorce and custody.	US	Psychology	Convenience, purposive, and snowball sampling of n=27 women who had engaged in divorce/custody proceedings	<p>Legal abuse: Using custody and visitation, child support, distorting facts and information, manipulating finances or financially bankrupting the victim, and intimidation; prolonging the case requests for emergency hearings, multiple charges of contempt, failing to supply appropriate documents, and accusations; repeated insults upon her character and parenting abilities; charging with contempt if survivor "didn't agree to absolutely every demand that he had"; seeking changes in child support in order to financially deplete participants; failing to pay child support; seeking full custody to avoid paying child support</p> <p>Weaponizing children: survivors perceived that custody disputes were driven by revenge or vindictiveness, as opposed to truly wanting to spend time with the children</p> <p>Mesosystem abuse: Distorting facts and character defamation; accusations of infidelity and sexual promiscuity, participants' mental and emotional stability questioned; ethnic and religious affiliations were also used against them.</p> <p>Economic abuse: Manipulating finances and "bleeding the other side."</p> <p>Psychological abuse: hateful emails from their abusers, threats that they would lose their homes and possessions, and coercion</p>	<p>Safety needs: fear; expressed difficulty to gain safety for their children as a result of court decisions; fear caused them to drop restraining orders; negative health outcomes as a result of emotional abuse including behavioral problems, depression, delays in growth, and problems in brain development in young children</p> <p>Esteem needs: low self-esteem and psychological trauma may make them more vulnerable to their ex-partners' and attorneys' attempts to influence them - more likely to accept unsatisfying or grossly inequitable offers to avoid being revictimized.</p>
(Zeoli et al., 2013)	Post-Separation Abuse of Women and their Children: Boundary-setting and Family Court	US – Midwest	Criminology / Psychology	Convenience sample of (n=19) mothers who had divorced IPV-perpetrating husbands within 1 and 3 years prior to the interview,	<p>Weaponizing children: physical violence towards child during father's access time; emotional abuse of child that led to child's self-injurious behavior; neglect, threats to "take the kids away"</p>	<p>Safety needs: mother decided against obtaining professional counseling services for her child because the father did not give his permission and fear/concern over going to court to get</p>

	Utilization among Victimized Mothers.			recruited from court records in one midwestern county	<p>Psychological abuse: damaging property; repeated, harassing phone calls and texts, harassing them at work, stalking behavior including sitting in parked cars outside of their ex-wives' houses, opening yard gate so dogs would get out/lost; undermining the mother's confidence as a parent; playing "mind games;" and verbally degrading her; manipulating parenting time schedules to exert control over mothers' schedules, such as fathers demanded to see their children outside of scheduled times; demanded flexibility from mothers in rescheduling custodial or parenting times; failed to keep the children for the entire scheduled time, often returning them unannounced; failed to show up for scheduled visits; and refused to take the children for custodial or parenting times</p> <p>Mesosystem abuse: using others to try to gain information about ex-wife</p>	counseling for child without father's consent; children's self-injurious behavior; risks to safety during child exchange times
Quantitative Studies						
(Abdulmohsen Alhalal et al., 2012)	Identifying factors that predict women's inability to maintain separation from an abusive partner.	Canada	Nursing	Secondary analysis of the Women's Health Effects Study (WHES), consisting of a community sample of 286 Canadian women	<p>Psychological abuse: repeatedly calling, harassing, stalking/following, intrusion, forcibly entering home, causing property damage</p> <p>Economic abuse: interrupting work</p>	<p>Physiological needs: sleep disturbances, recurring nightmares, housing instability and homelessness</p> <p>Safety needs: depression and PTSD symptoms; financial strain, poverty</p> <p>Love and belonging needs: social conflict and costs related to seeking help and social support</p>
(Beck et al., 2013)	Patterns of intimate partner violence in a large, epidemiological sample of divorcing couples.	US - Arizona	Psychology	Convenience sample of n=845 couples (1,690 individuals) ordered to attend mediation to resolve disputes related to custody and parenting time of their children in one Arizona county	<p>Psychological abuse: coercion, threats, intimidation</p> <p>Physical violence, sexual assault</p>	Not applicable; did not discuss consequences of experiencing abuse tactics among sample
(Black et al., 2021)	The intersection of child welfare, intimate partner violence and child custody disputes: secondary data analysis of the Ontario incidence study of reported child abuse and neglect.	Canada	Social work / Sociology	Secondary data analysis from the 2013 Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect, selection of 5,265 child welfare investigations, 12% involved a child custody dispute	<p>Weaponizing children: child maltreatment, neglect, physical abuse</p> <p>Psychological abuse: emotional harm</p>	Safety needs: existence of child custody dispute during maltreatment investigation was a significant predictor of case being closed or not transferred to other services
(Broughton & Ford-Gilboe, 2016)	Predicting family health and well-being after separation from an abusive partner: role of coercive control, mother's depression, and social support.	Canada	Nursing	Secondary analysis of Wave 2 of the Women's Health Effect study; sample consisted of n=154 adult, Canadian mothers of dependent children who had separated from an abusive partner	<p>Psychological abuse: intrusion</p> <p>Weaponizing children: difficulty negotiating child custody/access</p>	<p>Safety needs: poor health of family members, costs of seeking help</p> <p>Esteem needs: ongoing intrusion and depressive symptoms resulting from abuse may erode self confidence</p>

(Ellis et al., 2021)	Effects of Historical Coercive Control, Historical Violence, and Lawyer Representation on Post-Separation Male Partner Violence Against Mother Litigants Who Participated in Adversarial Family Court Proceedings.	Canada	Social Work/ Sociology	Nonrandom convenience sample of n=40 former shelter residents/mothers who were going through family court proceedings	Physical abuse Psychological abuse: emotional abuse, coercive control	Safety needs: seeking mental health treatment as a result of the psychological/emotional abuse experienced from their abusive ex-partner
(Estefan et al., 2016)	Depression in Women Who Have Left Violent Relationships.	US – Florida	Public health	Convenience sample of n=156 women who had left an IPV situation seeking legal services with on dependent child or were pregnant; recruited from a community-based collaborative IPV intervention program	Psychological abuse: emotional abuse, frequent contact/stalking	Physiological needs: homelessness, difficulty finding suitable housing Safety needs: fear, worry about frequent contact; depression; access to employment; loss of resources Love and belonging needs: social isolation; need to relocate
(Fleming et al., 2012)	Intimate partner stalking victimization and posttraumatic stress symptoms in post-abuse women.	US	Psychology	Convenience sample of n=192 community women with divorce histories, recruited as part of larger investigation of stress and aging in midlife women using newspaper advertisements	Psychological abuse: stalking; intrusive and unwanted behaviors; psychological aggression Physical and sexual abuse	Safety needs: fear; PTSD symptoms
(Ford-Gilboe et al., 2022)	Trajectories of Depression, Post-Traumatic Stress, and Chronic Pain Among Women Who Have Separated from an Abusive Partner: A Longitudinal Analysis	Canada	Nursing	Secondary data analysis of the longitudinal study Women’s Health Effects Study in Canada of n=309 women over a 4-year period time period	IPV measured by the Index of Spouse Abuse which includes physical and non-physical tactics of abuse	Safety needs: depression, PTSD symptoms, chronic pain; financial strain; access barriers to needed care services
(Hans et al., 2014)	The effects of domestic violence allegations on custody evaluators’ recommendations.	US	Family Science	Convenience sample of 607 custody evaluators recruited through advertisements on professional organizations and through outreach from information available on court websites for referrals	Psychological abuse: coercive controlling tactics Economic abuse: “controlled all the finances” Mesosystem abuse: counter-allegations (tactic used as a form of coercive control that can manipulate systems) Physical abuse	Safety needs: skepticism from custody evaluators in believing allegations, custody evaluators recommending joint or sole custody to perpetrator of coercive controlling violence based on vignettes
(Hardesty et al., 2016)	Marital violence and coparenting quality after separation.	US – Midwest	Family Science	154 mothers with different marital IPV experiences	Psychological abuse: harassment, intrusion Weaponizing children: communication and contact necessary for coparenting provides opportunities for control Physical violence	Safety needs: perceived threat of future harm; fear
(Hardesty et al., 2017)	Coparenting relationship trajectories: Marital violence linked to change and variability after separation.	US – Midwest	Family Science	Convenience sample of n=135 mothers who participated in five interviews in the year following their divorce filing, recruited from all women named in divorce filing during 12-week time period using public court records		

(Hardesty et al., 2019)	Relationship dynamics and divorcing mothers' adjustment: Moderating role of marital violence, negative life events, and social support.	US – Midwest	Family Science	Convenience sample of n=135 mothers who participated in five interviews in the year following their divorce filing, recruited from all women named in divorce filing during 12-week time period using public court records	Psychological abuse: harassment, stalking, coercive control Physical abuse (IPV measured with revised conflict tactics scale and coercive control measured with the Domination-Isolation subscale of the Psychological Maltreatment of Inventory during the marriage)	Physiological needs: restless sleep Safety needs: physical health, depressive symptoms, PTSD symptoms
(Hayes, 2012)	Abusive Men's Indirect Control of Their Partner During the Process of Separation.	US	Criminology	Convenience sample recruited from all women who obtained an order of protection in a New York City family court between 2002 and 2005; n=242 female participants with a child in common with the abusive partner she was seeking a protective order against	Mesosystem abuse: contacting friends and family without woman's permission; threats to report mother Weaponizing children: told lies to the children, kept the children longer; manipulation of access schedules; prevented contact Psychological abuse: controlling behaviors including blames mother for his problems, threats to harm; destroy belongings; threaten to harm family	Not measured or discussed
(Hayes, 2017)	Indirect Abuse Involving Children During the Separation Process.	US	Criminology	Convenience sample of n=168 women who obtained an order of protection in a New York City family court between 2002 and 2005, with at least one child with the male she was seeking an order of protection against	Weaponizing children: threaten to harm the kids if you leave (don't come back); threaten to take the kids if you leave (don't come back)	Not measured or discussed
(Lyons et al., 2020)	Risk Factors for Child Death During an Intimate Partner Homicide: A Case-Control Study	US	Public health	Secondary data analysis of NVDRS from 2003–2017 of all intimate partner homicide cases involved child corollary victims. Total sample of 227 children killed in the context of IPV and compared to cases where a child was present but not killed (n=350)	Psychological abuse: stalking Weaponizing children: threats to child; child custody stressors Sexual violence: rape	Lethality
(Meier, 2020)	U.S. child custody outcomes in cases involving parental alienation and abuse allegations: what do the data show?	US	Law	Convenience sample of all US family court cases with published opinions online involving claims of partner abuse (DV), child physical abuse (CPA) and child sexual abuse (CSA), as well as mixed forms of abuse were examined for 10-year period from 2005-2014. A total of 4,338 cases were coded and included in the analysis.	Weaponizing children: child physical abuse, child sexual abuse, child neglect Physical abuse Mesosystem abuse: claims of alienation can be misused to deny actual abuse and manipulate court professionals	Safety needs: courts are less likely to believe abuse claims when alienation is counter-alleged Love and belonging needs: custody losses
(Nielsen et al., 2016)	Exploring Variations Within Situational Couple Violence and Comparisons with Coercive Controlling Violence and No Violence/No Control.	US – Midwest	Family Science	Convenience sample of n=147 divorcing mothers experiencing situational couple violence (n = 23), violent coercive control (n = 86), non-physical violent coercive control (n = 48), and no violence/control (n = 38); data taken from the Co-Parenting (CoP)	Physical abuse Psychological abuse: harassing and stalking behaviors, e.g., "he keeps showing up wherever I am"; coercive control IPV measured as situational couple violence, coercive controlling violence, and no violence Mesosystem abuse: frightens people close to the victim-survivor	Safety needs: fear, depressive and PTSD symptoms

				Project and the Mothers' and Kids' Experiences in Transition (MAKE IT)		
(Pedersen et al., 2013)	Explaining aboriginal/non-aboriginal inequalities in postseparation violence against Canadian women: application of a structural violence approach.	Canada	Medicine / Public Health	Secondary data analysis of 2004 Canadian General Social Survey, final study population consisted of 2,355 women (125 Aboriginal and 2,230 non-Aboriginal).	Physical violence Sexual violence Psychological abuse: coercive control, put down victim to make her feel bad, stalking, damaged property, demanded to know where she was at all times Economic abuse: prevented her from knowing about or accessing family income Mesosystem abuse: limited contact with family and friends	Safety needs: negative mental health consequences, depression, PTSD
(Rennison et al., 2013)	Intimate relationship status variations in violence against women: urban, suburban, and rural differences.	US	Political science/ Criminology	Secondary data analysis of 1992-2005 NCVS data, restricting sample to nonfatal victimizations against females results in an overall unweighted sample size of 16,920	Physical abuse Sexual violence Intimate violence risk is greater for separated and divorced individuals as compared to married individuals	Not measured or discussed
(Rezey, 2020)	Separated Women's Risk for Intimate Partner Violence: A Multiyear Analysis Using the National Crime Victimization Survey.	US	Criminology	Secondary data analysis of NCVS data, nationally representative sample of 50,000 households. Incorporated data from 1995-2010 NCVS	IPV measured includes any rape (sexual violence), physical violence, robberies, aggravated assaults, and simple assaults. NCVS does not report on non-physical forms of IPV	Not measured. However, demographic data such as unemployment was reported (safety needs)
(Rivera et al., 2018)	A Longitudinal Examination of Mothers' Depression and PTSD Symptoms as Impacted by Partner-Abusive Men's Harm to Their Children.	US	Psychology / Criminology	Longitudinal study of convenience sample of n=40 abused mothers who had separated from partner with children shared in common, interviewed 4 times over a year; recruited by domestic violence agency staff	Physical abuse Sexual violence Psychological abuse: threats of harm, stalking, followed/spied on her, stood outside home, school, or workplace, called names, made her account for her whereabouts Mesosystem abuse: threats to kill friends or family Legal abuse: procedural abuse including filed motions in family court about child support or child custody, tried to get custody to stay in [victim's] life, threatened to take her back to court, tried to get custody for revenge Economic abuse: refused to pay child support, Weaponizing children: tried to turn children against them, threatened to take children away, used children to stay in their life, harass, intimidate, or frighten them	Safety needs: depression, PTSD
(Saini et al., 2013)	Child Custody Disputes within the Context of Child Protection Investigations: Secondary Analysis of the Canadian Incident Study of	Canada	Social work/ sociology	Secondary data analysis of 11,562 child maltreatment investigations from CIS studies	Weaponizing children: child maltreatment Legal abuse: ongoing child custody dispute (12% of all child maltreatment investigations involved child custody dispute) Mesosystem abuse: malicious claims	Safety needs: not adequately addressing harm or risk to children

	Reported Child Abuse and Neglect.					
(Saunders et al., 2013)	Factors associated with child custody evaluators' recommendations in cases of intimate partner violence.	US	Social work/ Sociology / Psychology	Convenience sample of n=465 custody evaluators completed surveys. Almost all had advanced degrees (94%): 42% had masters and 46% had doctoral degrees. Approximately half (52%) were psychologists, 24% were social workers, 7% counselors, 6% marriage and family therapists, 3% lawyers, 2% psychiatrists, and 6% were "other or multiple." Most (57%) had conducted over 100 evaluations, and 20% had conducted over 500.	Study evaluated custody evaluators' beliefs using vignettes. Tactics below were discussed in vignettes Psychological abuse: coercive control Weaponizing children: psychological harm to children Mesosystem abuse: claims of alienation Physical abuse	Safety needs: custody evaluators who held beliefs that IPV was not relevant to custody decisions; mental health consequences
(Warnecke et al., 2017)	Sheltering for Safety in Community Women with Divorce Histories.	US	Psychology	Convenience sample of n=197 community-based women with divorce histories recruited from community	Physical abuse Psychological abuse: coercive control	Physiological needs: housing instability, need to shelter for safety Safety needs: fear, threat; head injury; concussive symptoms; other physical injury
Mixed Methods						
(Clements et al., 2021)	The Use of Children as a Tactic of Intimate Partner Violence and its Relationship to Survivors' Mental Health	US - Pacific NW	Psychology	Convenience sample of n=299 unstably housed survivors, subset of a larger study recruited from five DV organizations within a Pacific Northwest state in the United States	Weaponizing children: used the children to stay in the survivors' lives, harass, intimidate, track, or frighten them, as well as tried to turn the kids against them or convince the survivor to take the abuser back Psychological abuse: stalking, harassing behaviors, emotional abuse, Physical abuse Sexual abuse	Safety needs: depression, PTSD, anxiety, fear for child's safety
(Gutowski & Goodman, 2022)	Coercive Control in the Courtroom: the Legal Abuse Scale (LAS)	US	Psychology	Convenience sampling of (n= 222) survivor-mothers who had been involved in family law proceedings, recruited from legal agencies and domestic violence agencies. and 23 experts	Legal abuse: threatened or actually used court to take child custody (weaponizing children), threatened or actually used court to get unsafe access to children, threatened to use court to punish, took survivor to court repeatedly, took survivor to court only to cause distress, Economic abuse: threatened or actually withheld financial support, threatened or actually took control of all assets Mesosystem abuse: told professionals that survivor was trying to harm relationship with children and perpetrator, was dishonest about survivor's mothering abilities, mental health, or character	Safety needs: harm to finances, Love and belonging needs: harm to motherhood Esteem needs: harm to self/motherhood
(Kieffer & Turell, 2011)	Child Custody and Safe Exchange/Visitation: An Assessment of	US	Social work / Sociology	Convenience sample of ethnically diverse parents (N=77) whose families experienced abuse or	Psychological abuse: emotional, spiritual; stalking; "not following the rules"	Safety needs: difficulty in accessing services, limited agency interaction and

	Marginalized Battered Parents' Needs.			violence and used supervised visitation and safe exchange (SEV) programs, SEV service providers (N=17), and SEV referral sources (N=128)	Weaponizing children: emotional, physical, sexual, spiritual abuse of children, using alcohol/drugs while children were under his care, pressing children for information Economic abuse Physical abuse Sexual violence	connection; fear of institutional response
(Lapierre & Côté, 2016)	Abused women and the threat of parental alienation: Shelter workers' perspectives.	Canada	Social work / Sociology	Convenience sample (n = 30 shelter workers) recruited from domestic violence organizations in Quebec	Weaponizing children: claims of alienation can be used to gain custody of children or to force her to return to relationship Mesosystem abuse: claims of alienation to discredit abuse	Physiological needs: insomnia, loss of appetite Safety needs: fear, children may experience somatization of fear; fear of losing custody; institutional betrayal Love and belonging needs: distrust, social isolation Esteem needs: low self-esteem, feeling of insecurity, self-doubt
(Rivera et al., 2012)	Abused Mothers' Safety Concerns and Court Mediators' Custody Recommendations.	US	Psychology / Criminology	Convenience sample of 19 mothers recruited from local county court clerk's office from review of publicly available divorce records	Weaponizing children: threatening to harm or kill the children, fight for custody or kidnap children, perpetrator's disregard for child well-being; fathers blaming the mothers	Safety needs: fear for children, fear or actual loss of custody of children
Literature Review and Theory Development						
(Ellis, 2017)	Marital Separation and Lethal Male Partner Violence.	Canada	Social Work	Theory development	Legal abuse: use of proceedings to harass, threaten and abuse Mesosystem abuse: use of affidavits in legal proceedings that contained embarrassing, exaggerating, hurtful or false allegations	Lethality Safety needs
(Hardesty et al., 2012)	An Integrative Theoretical Model of Intimate Partner Violence, Coparenting After Separation, and Maternal and Child Well-Being	US	Family Science	Theory development	Psychological abuse: harassment, threats, intimidation, monitoring time and activities, intrusion Mesosystem abuse: isolating survivor Weaponizing children: harassment through child contact arrangements and child custody	Lethality Safety needs: depression, fear; physical ailments and health problems Love and belonging needs: isolation
(Markwick et al., 2019)	Technology and Family Violence in the Context of Post-Separated Parenting	US, multiple	Social work / Sociology	Literature review	Psychological abuse: technology-facilitated abuse and cyberstalking; using technology to view and monitor survivor's activities; to make private information about survivor public, posting defamatory material, using social media that facilitates obsessive relational intrusion Mesosystem abuse: using technology to cause social embarrassment Legal abuse: using social media and other technology in legal proceedings to call in to question parenting suitability, use to obtain evidence to use in legal proceedings	Safety needs: fear Esteem needs: shame, humiliation

					Sexual violence: use of sexual images to force, coerce, blackmail victim into unwanted sexual contact	
(Saunders, 2015)	Research Based Recommendations for Child Custody Evaluation Practices and Policies in Cases of Intimate Partner Violence.	US	Social work/ Sociology	Literature review	<p>Mesosystem abuse: Tries to limit contact with family and friends</p> <p>Psychological abuse: coercive controlling behaviors, jealousy, possessiveness, “Insists on knowing who you are with at all times”; “Calls you names or puts you down in front of others”; “Makes you feel inadequate”; “Shouts or swears at you”</p> <p>Economic abuse: “Prevents you from knowing about or having access to the family income even when you ask”</p> <p>Legal abuse: using custody to continue to harass and manipulate</p> <p>Weaponizing children: with- hold consent for a child’s counseling, medical procedures, and extra-curricular</p>	<p>Safety needs: fear, PTSD, depression, anxiety</p> <p>Love and belonging needs: alterations in relationships with others, isolation</p> <p>Esteem needs: shame, guilt, stigma</p>
(Spearman et al., 2022)	Post-separation abuse: a concept analysis	US	Nursing / Family science	Concept analysis	<p>Psychological abuse: intimidation, gaslighting, damaging property, intrusion, stalking, harassment</p> <p>Weaponizing children: threats of harm to children, child maltreatment, putting children in age-inappropriate settings</p> <p>Mesosystem abuse: isolating and discrediting survivor, portraying them as “unfit” or “alienating”; manipulations of systems</p> <p>Economic abuse: withholding access to resources, interferences with employments</p> <p>Legal abuse: custody stalking, frivolous lawsuits, system manipulations</p>	<p>Lethality</p> <p>Safety needs: fear, institutional betrayal, health consequences, economic deprivation</p> <p>Love and belonging needs: loss of custody</p> <p>Esteem needs: loss of autonomy, entrapment</p>
(Stark & Hester, 2019)	Coercive Control: Update and Review.	US, UK	Social Work / Sociology	Literature review	<p>Psychological abuse: including coercive control, belittlement, frightened survivor, threatened survivor</p> <p>Weaponizing children: children used as pawns as tools of coercion and control</p>	<p>Safety needs: fear</p> <p>Esteem needs: entrapment, constraints to autonomy</p>

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