How Batterers Get Victims to Recant

The 7 Stages of Manipulation

Step 1 — The Victim is Strong and Determined

- Victim resists the accused perpetrator's account of what happened
- Heated arguments from jail between couple about what happened

Step 2 — The Perpetrator Turns Himself into The Victim

- He minimizes the abuse
- Perpetrator appeals to her sympathy by telling her how he is suffering
- Victim feels guilt / regret / worries for him & tries to soothe him

Step 3 — The Couple Bonds Over Their "Us Against Them" Love for Each Other

- They imagine how terrible it will be without each other
- He convinces her the court system is trying to hurt them & their family

Step 4 — The Perpetrator Asks the Victim to Recant

- He tells her she has the power to keep him out of jail
- The victim feels his life is in her hands
- She believes she will be hurting him by cooperating
- Victim agrees to recant

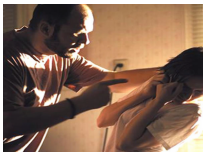
Step 5 — The Couple Constructs Their Recantation Plan

- He gives her specific instructions on what to say
- They view the court system as the enemy that wants to keep them apart or destroy their family

Step 6 — The Batterer is Emboldened

- The batterer has learned that his actions have no lasting consequences
- The batterer has learned that his victim can be manipulated

Step 7 — The Cycle of Violence Begins Again



Is this Happening to You?

- Contact a local victim advocate for help or to discuss your options
- If there is a no contact order in place and you are being contacted by perpetrator-please report it to law enforcement

Created By: The Pinellas County Domestic Violence Task Force