

MYTHS OF BATTERING

1. The battered woman syndrome affects only a small percent of the population.
2. Battered women are masochistic.
3. Battered women are crazy.
4. Middle class women do not get battered as frequently or as violently as do poorer women.
5. Minority group women are battered more frequently than Anglos.
6. Religious beliefs will prevent battering.
7. Battered women are uneducated and have few job skills.
8. Batterers are violent in all their relationships (with men and women).
9. Batterers are unsuccessful and lack resources to cope with the world.
10. Drinking causes battering behavior.
11. Batterers are psychopathic personalities.
12. Police can protect the battered women.
13. The batterer is not a loving person.
14. A wife batterer also beats his children.
15. Once a battered woman, always a battered woman.
16. Once a batterer, always a batterer.
17. Long standing battering relationships can change for the better.
18. Battered women deserve to get beaten.
19. Battered women can always leave home.
20. Batterers will cease their violence "when we get married."
21. Children need their father even if he is violent --- or "I'm only staying for the sake of the children."
22. Lesbians do not abuse thier partners.
23. Women abused in prostitution are not really battered women.

*(Adapted from **The Battered Woman** by Lenore Walker)*