



*Addressing the Subjects of Family Abuse
and Parenting in Canada to Newcomers*

Segment # 7 (13:06)

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Preparing and Presenting the Subject of
Family Abuse to Newcomers

In Preparation of Your Session

- Establish a relationship with a local family counselling agency.
- Be aware that there is a statistical certainty there will be clients in your audience who are victims and perpetrators of abuse.
- During the presentation avoid using the word “you” and instead use the third person such as “they” or “someone” or a “person” to avoid any unintentional accusation.
- Review the Facilitator’s Guide and screen the video.
- Be mindful of the impact the setting can have in presenting this subject.
(privacy and confidentiality)
- Arrange for childcare and interpreter services if required.
(Children under 16 should not attend.)
- Display materials obtained for hand-out after the session.
- Be Patient, Respectful, Empathetic, Sensitive and Non-judgmental. Maintain open and transparent communication, and build upon your trusting relationship with your clients.

ORIENTATION – INTRODUCTION

Incorporate Affirmative Terminology into Presentation:

- ***“Healthy Relationships”-“Acceptable Behaviours”-“Positive Conduct”-“Responsible Interaction”***

Begin by Explaining to Your Clients:

- The session topic will be on the laws in Canada pertaining to the health and welfare of the family.
- The reason why this subject is being presented:
 - ***“To ensure the safety, protection and well-being of all families”***
- This information is given to all newcomers.

Let Clients Know the Video Will Explain:

- All people in Canada have the constitutional right to live in a free, safe and secure environment
- In Canada it is against the law to abuse anyone, for any reason
- Types of family abuse
- The serious consequences of committing abuse
- The help available for both victims and perpetrators

Just Prior to Playing the Video

- Tell your clients they will be seeing the entire video, which is recommended, or a specific segment and the language version, then start the video. Be mindful of your audience’s reaction.

ORIENTATION – POST SCREENING

After the Video Concludes:

(Note: Do not have a formal question and answer period as it could create anxiety among your clients for fear of being connected with family abuse somehow.)

- Begin by saying that you recognize that what they saw was difficult but important as it relates to the protection and nurturing of all families in Canada; the underlying theme.
- Summarize the content of the video or the individual segment screened. A suggested summary is in the Facilitator's Guide.
- Once you complete the summary and if you're playing specific segments, briefly introduce the next and then play that segment. Continue this process until your session finish
- If you have obtained hand-out materials let your audience know that you will distribute them at the end of the session.
- Tell your clients that if they have further questions they can come to you or any other counsellor.
- Remember, do not cross the line between facilitator and family counsellor. If a client discloses they are in an abusive situation refer them to a local counselling agency.
- Disclosures by perpetrators – separate the behaviour from the person.