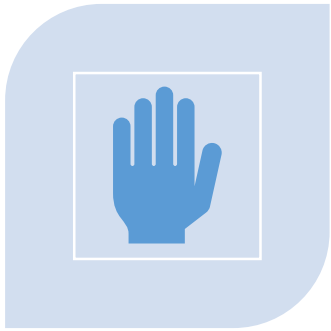


# Barriers to Escaping Domestic Violence

Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence



# Housekeeping



CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW? RAISE YOUR  
HAND



USE THE CHAT BOX OR THE Q&A BOX TO  
CHAT OR ASK QUESTIONS ANYTIME  
DURING THE PRESENTATION



IF YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE WITH  
AUDIO, TRY CALLING IN THROUGH YOUR  
PHONE

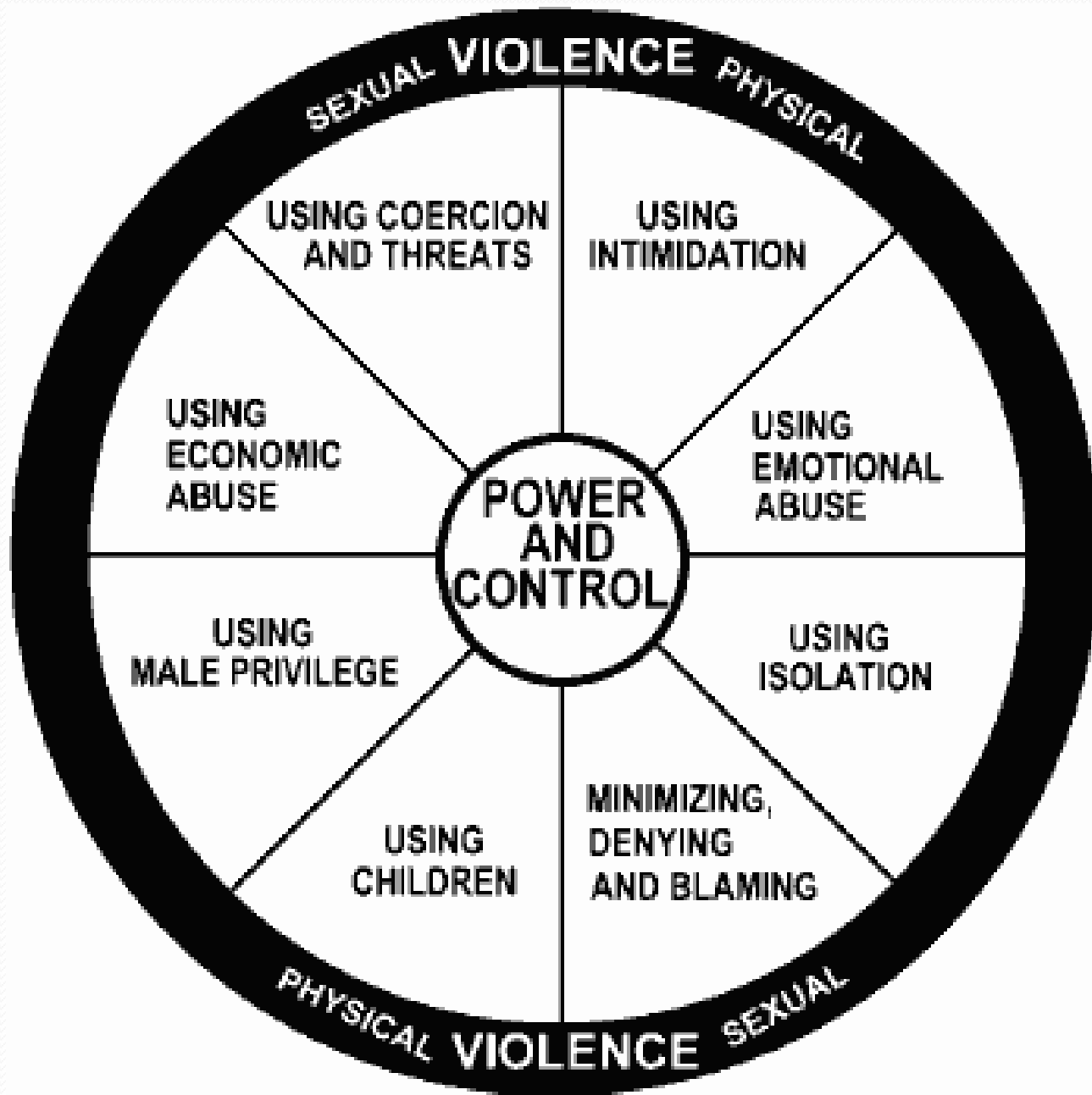
# What is Domestic Violence?

- Pattern of behaviors used to gain or maintain **power and control** over an intimate partner.
- Physical and sexual violence, threats and intimidation, emotional abuse and economic deprivation.

# Survivors...



- 1 in 4 women will experience domestic violence during their lifetime.
- Georgia is consistently one of the worst states for the rate at which women are murdered by men.
- IPV typically escalates over time
- Highest risk period: [SEPARATION](#)



“Why does she stay?”

Think of 3 things you believe prevent survivors from leaving or escaping their abusive relationship.



# Reframing the question...

## Why does she stay?

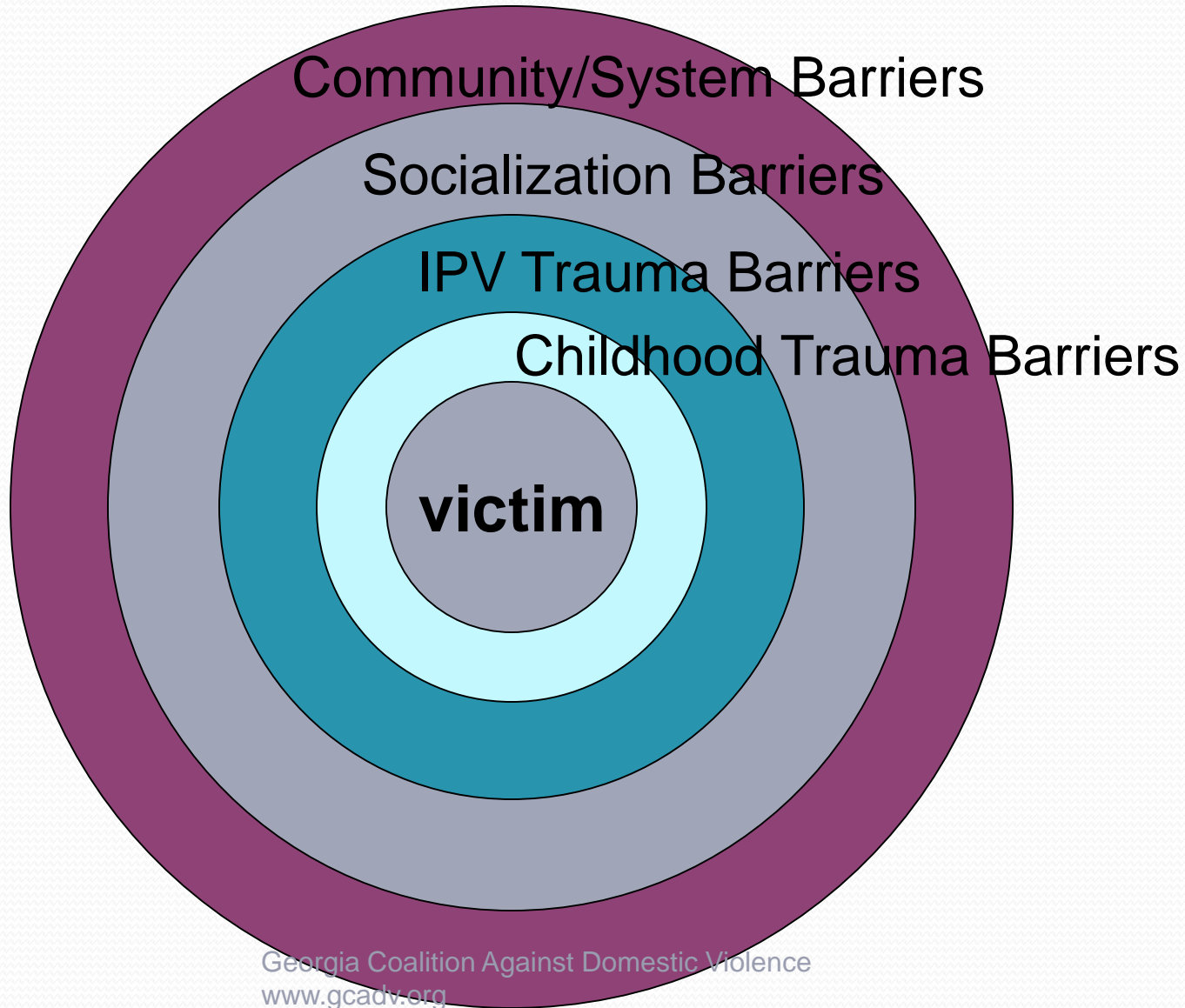
# The Barriers Model

Focusing on the impact of society and context,  
*rather than* the individual

- Safety is the primary goal of intervention.
- Primary barriers to her safety are external, not internal.
- Abusive partner's control is the most significant factor to escape.



# THE BARRIERS MODEL



# Childhood Trauma Barriers

**Coping strategies  
used to survive  
child abuse  
become  
maladaptive in  
adulthood**



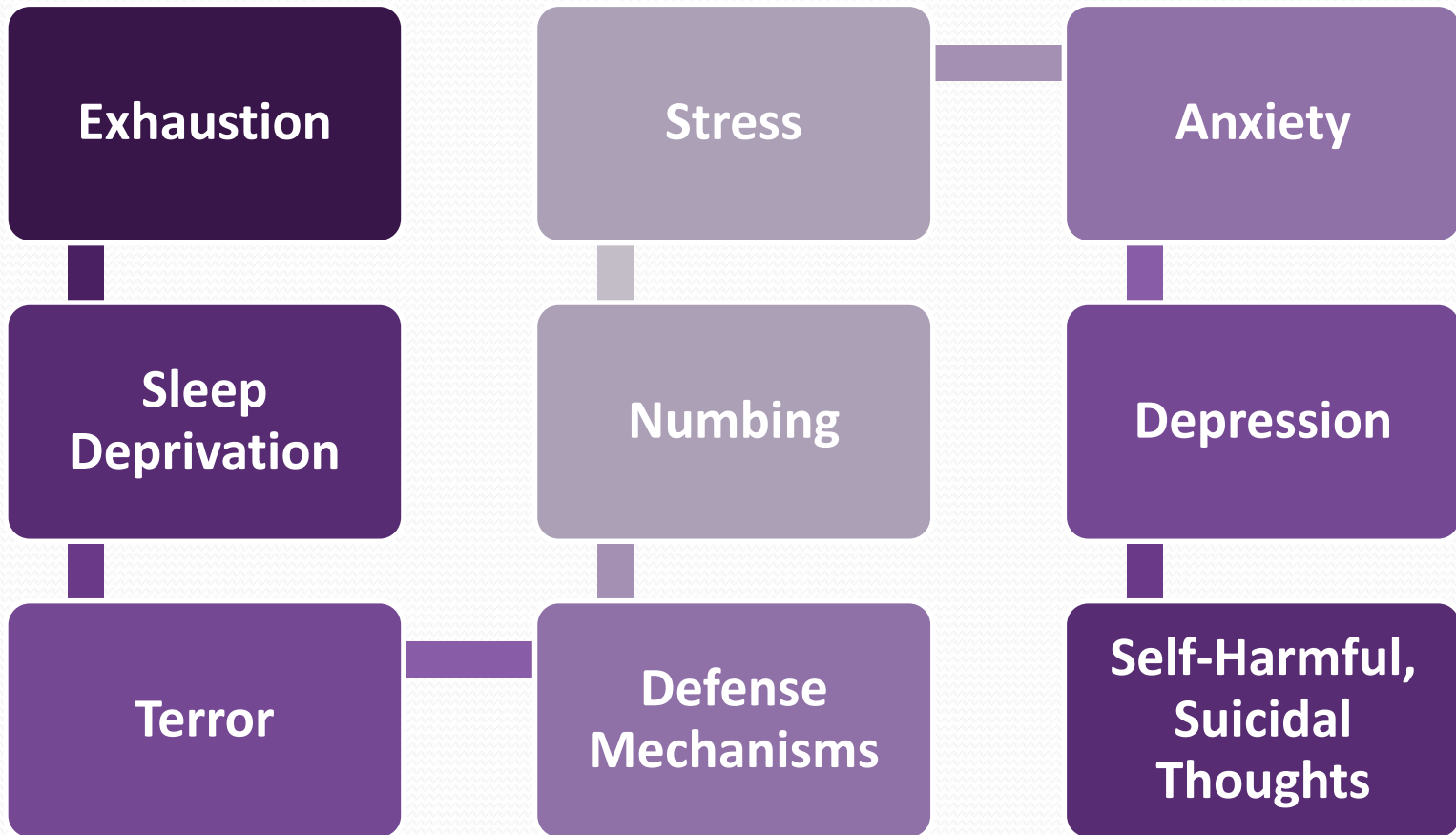
**Long-term impact  
of experiencing  
child abuse**

**Impact of neglect  
– Internalized low  
expectations**

**On-going  
dissociation &  
limited radar  
system for 'red  
flags'**

**Early experiences  
of mental health  
issues or chemical  
dependency**

# IPV Trauma Barriers



# IPV Trauma Barriers



**Isolation, Stress &  
Injury-Related  
Conditions**



**Blaming &  
Doubting Self**



**Self-Medication**



**Effects of  
Brainwashing &  
Compliance  
Strategies**



**Memory  
Impairment**

# Socialization Barriers

Barriers created by the messages we receive from the world & societal values.

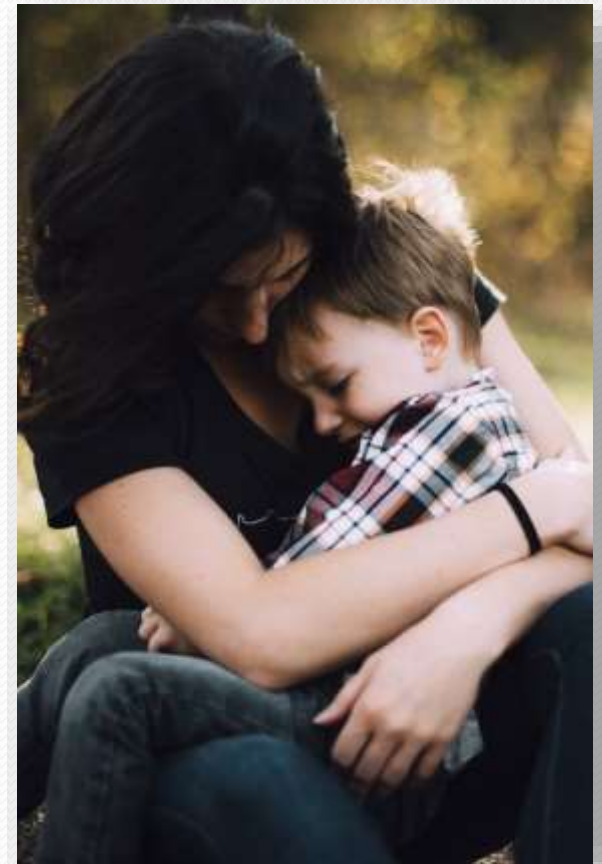
- “Every woman needs a man.”
- “Your husband & children should come first.”
- “Single parenthood is harmful to children.”
- Jealousy & stalking are romantic.
- Violence is normal and expected.
- “Divorce is not an option in our faith.”
- “God won’t give you more than you can bear.”
- “You made your bed, *you lie in it.*”

Patriarchal Values

Messages from the Media

Religious Values

Victim Blaming



# Socialization Barriers

## Barriers Faced by Immigrant, Refugee and Asylum Seeking Women

**Culture accepts violence against women:**

- Women are expected to endure violence.
- Ostracized by community if she leaves the abuser.

**“It is a woman’s place.”**

- Disclosing abuse and divorce would dishonor family.
- Hierarchy in the family → Abusers could be other family members.

**Many women of color are impacted by historical, generational and familial cycles of violence and oppression.**



# Community and System Barriers

**What are examples of barriers survivors could experience with community resources and services?**



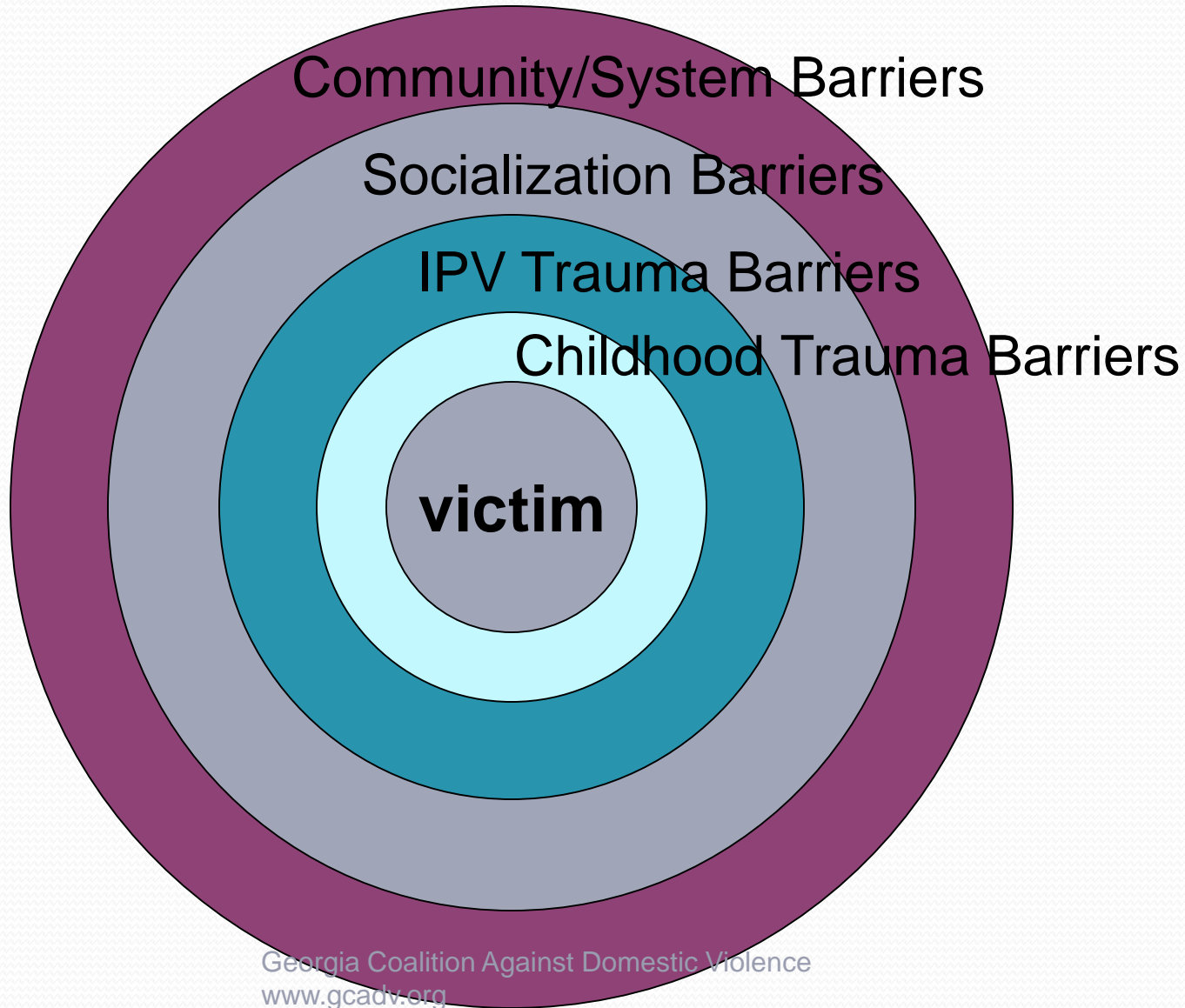
Do you think *our domestic violence programs* have barriers for survivors?

**What barriers do you think survivors and their children could experience with a domestic violence program?**





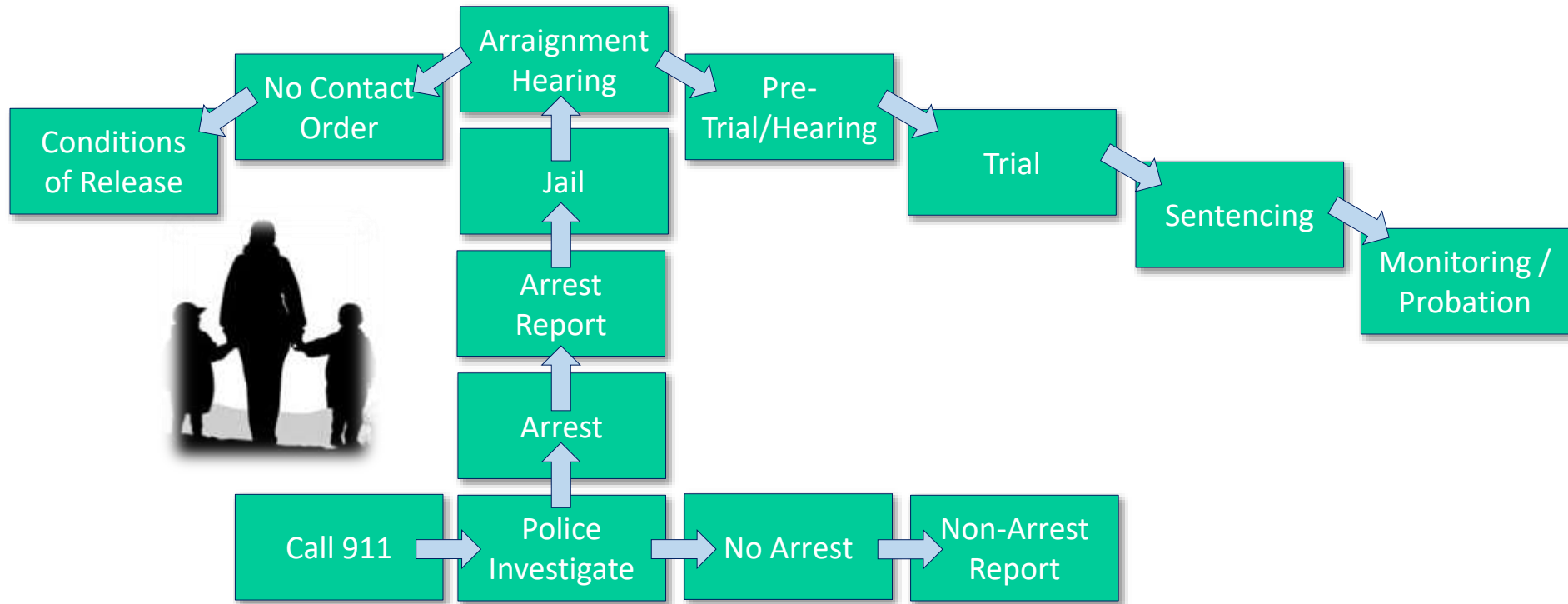
# THE BARRIERS MODEL



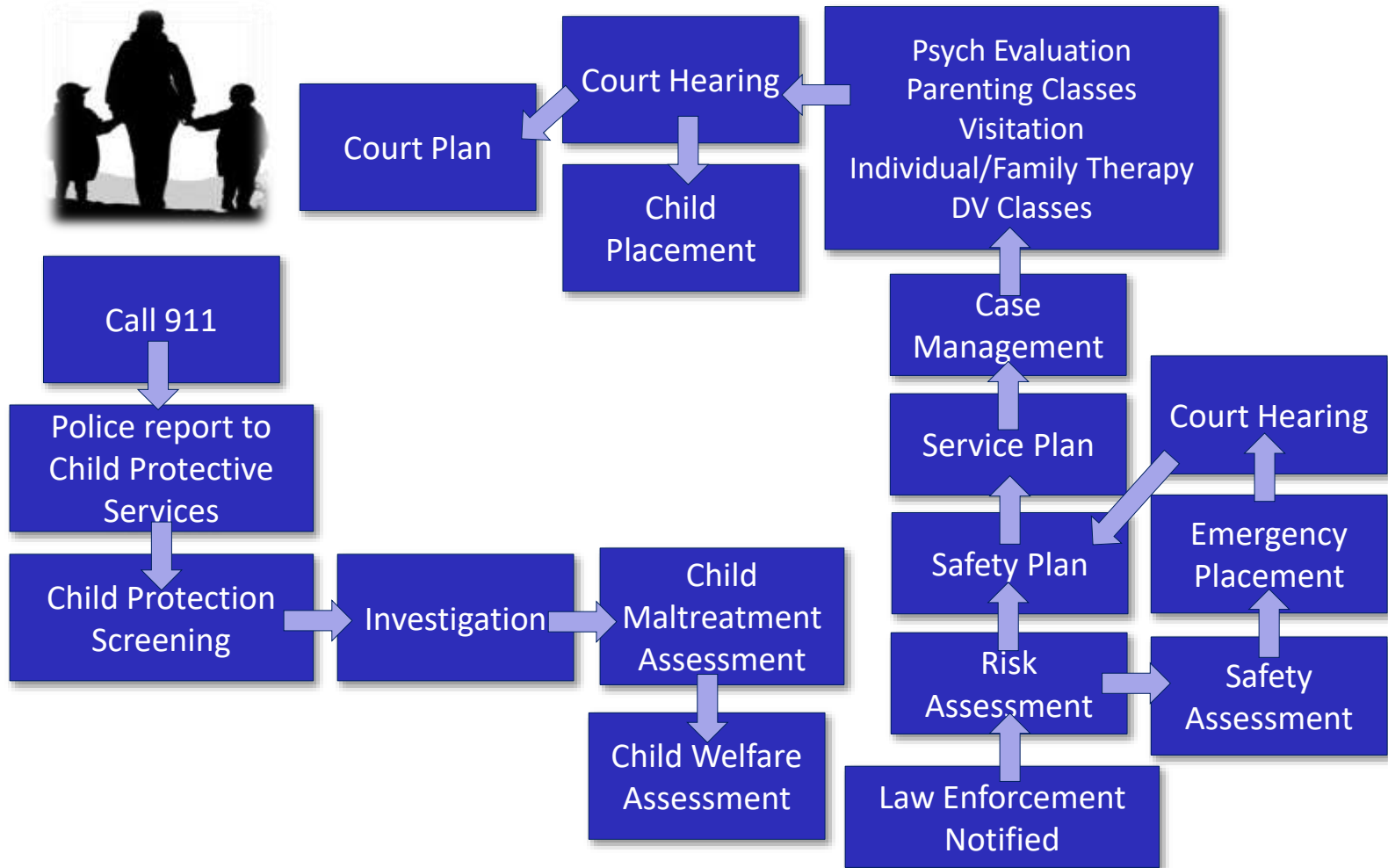
## **Maze Map:**

This map displays the processes survivors may encounter when involved with the child protection, civil and criminal justice systems.

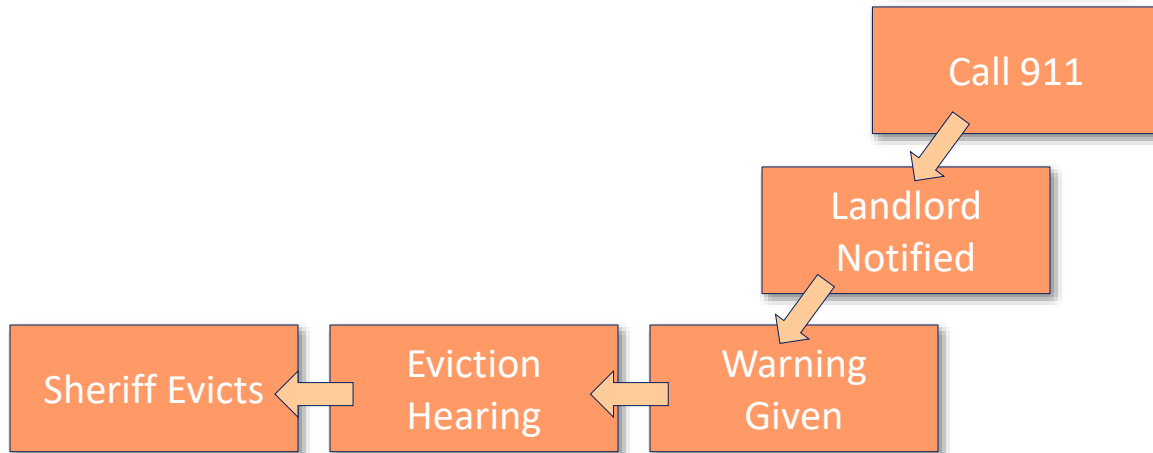
# Domestic Violence/Arrest Incident Map



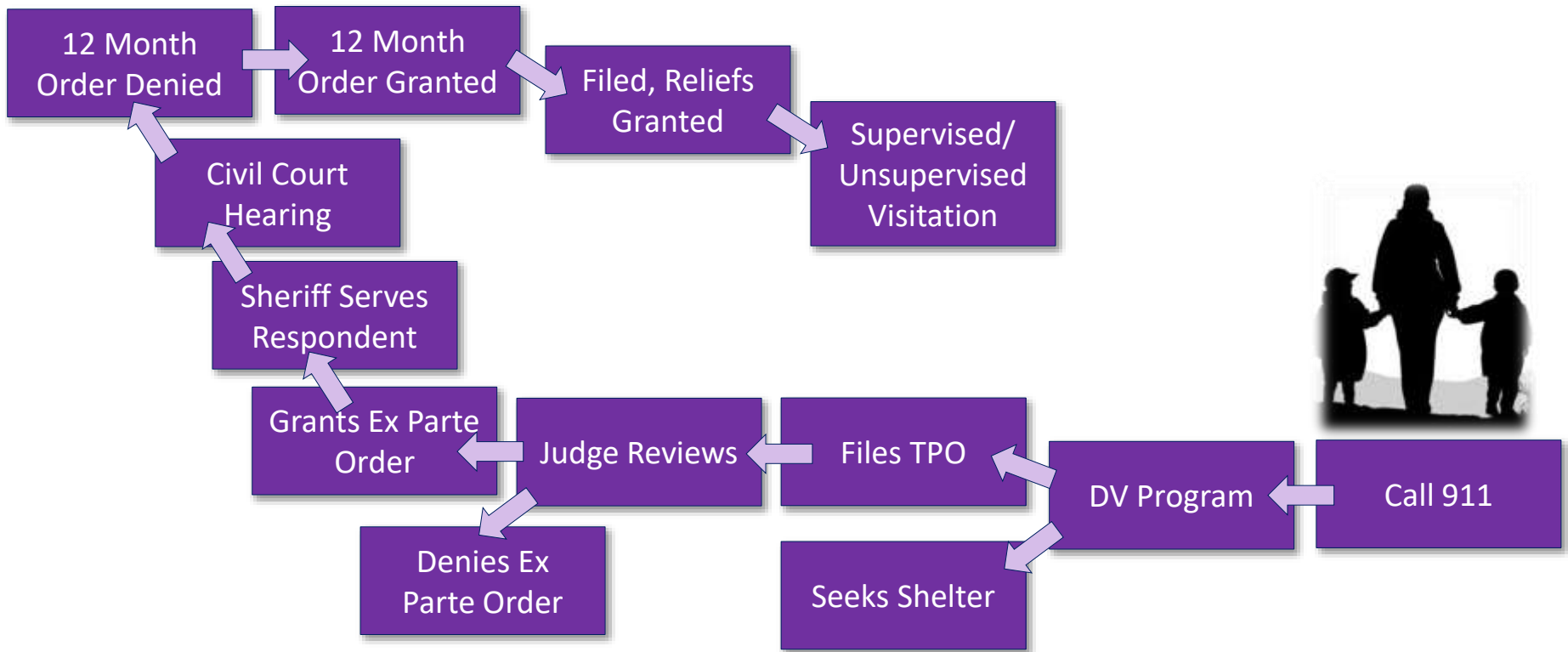
# Child Protection Map



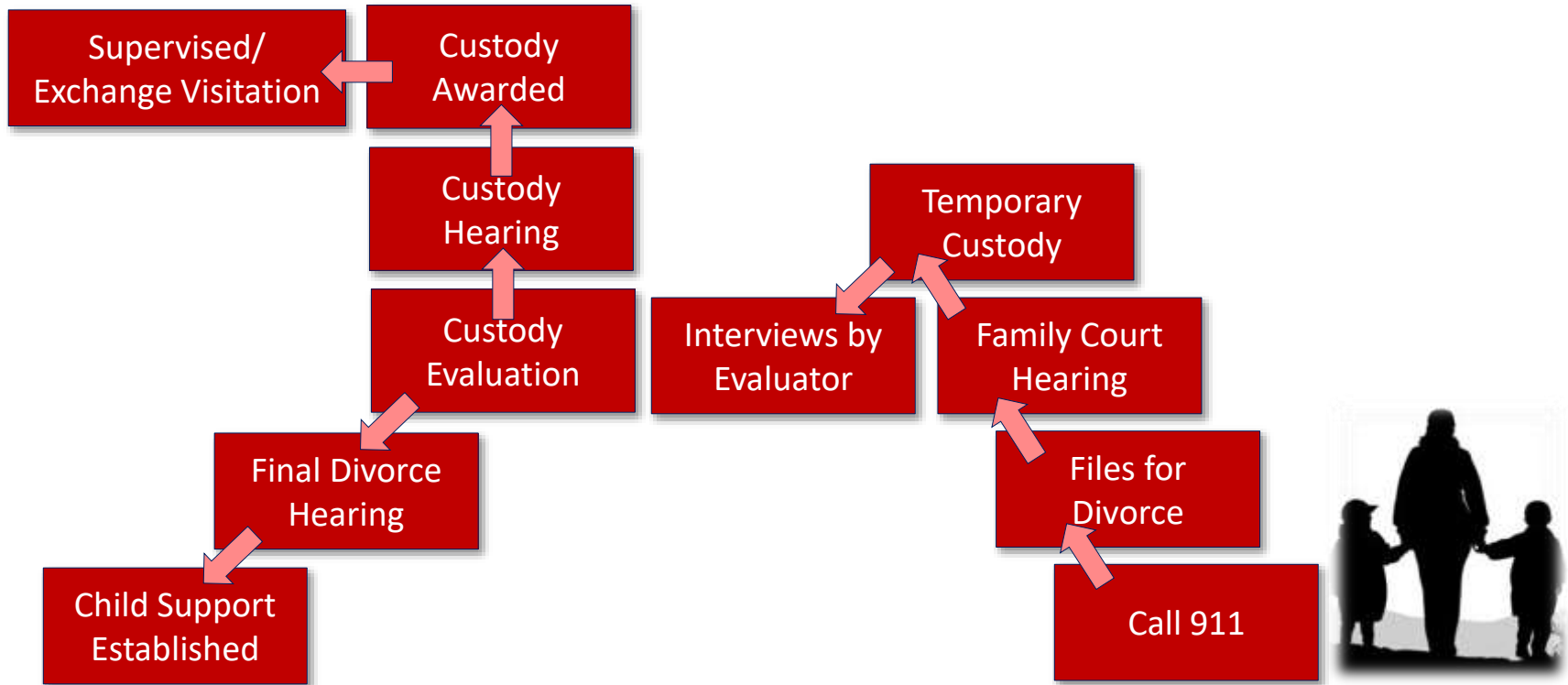
# Housing Map

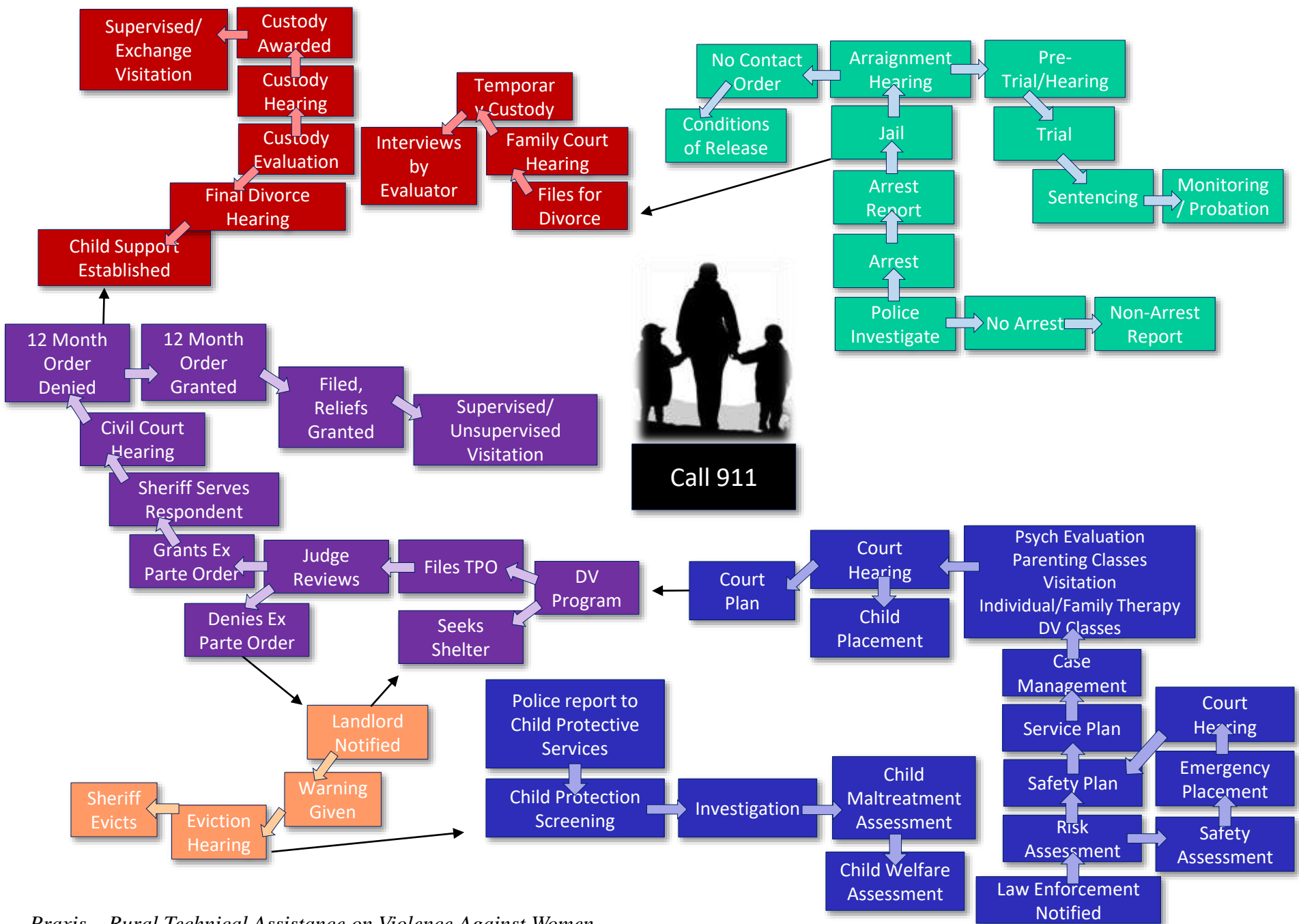


# Temporary Protective Orders – Civil Court Process



# Custody Map







# So How Can We Help?

Strategies for helping survivors overcome barriers

# Strategies for helping

- Be non-judgmental and supportive
- Do NOT pressure victim to leave or only talk about “shelter” services
- Express concern for safety
- Share resource information with victim
- Link with local domestic violence services and other community resources
  - 24 Hour Statewide Crisis Line:  
1-800-33-HAVEN (800-334-2836)

# Explore...

- Victim's strengths and survival skills.
- Victim's knowledge of DV dynamics and resources.
- Environmental barriers putting her at risk.
- Batterer's tactics to keep victim from leaving.
- Victim's beliefs/values about violence, marriage/divorce, family, woman's role, etc.

# More Strategies

- Help her to access community resources.
- Encourage contact with other survivors: support group, friends, neighbors, etc.
- Encourage focus on healing and rest.
- If needed, refer to mental health resources experienced in working with survivors.
- Become involved in multi-disciplinary and coordinated community responses to DV.

# In Conclusion

- Leaving is a process, not an event.
- Battered women stay and/or return in order to survive.
- Awareness of **unique barriers** for each individual is **essential** to providing effective services.
- **Planting seeds**...an important part of the process!

# For Additional Information:

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(404) 209-0280