

FEMALE OFFENDERS AND DEPENDENT ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS: Is there a link between dependent romantic relationships with men and the criminal activities of women?

by

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## ABSTRACT

This study explored the possibility of a link between female criminal activity and dependent romantic relationships with men. First, the files of 100 women were examined at a probation office to look for those with a history of dependent, abusive, or dysfunctional relationships with men. In the files where such a pattern was discovered, it was noted whether or not the woman's criminal activity had a connection to the relationship. The second research method used was a voluntary survey administered to 30 female offenders. Third, three criminal justice professionals who work with female offenders were interviewed.

The results of the information gathered from the files indicated that 30 of the 100 women had a tendency toward dependent romantic relationships; of these 30 cases, 21 demonstrated a connection between the criminal behavior and romantic relationships. The survey results posted a 36.6% to 66.6% incidence of a predilection for dependent relationships. Estimates given by the professionals were higher.

The final part of the study consisted of a discussion of possible therapy for female offenders who have a pattern of dependent relationships and preventive measures that could be utilized to lessen cultural norms that foster dependency in all women.

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## CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

"It's Always a Man"

The idea for this study resulted from an interview conducted with a woman who was serving the last six months of a sentence of confinement at Community Corrections Association in Youngstown, Ohio. The interview subject was an African-American female in her late thirties who had been incarcerated in a federal prison on a conviction for embezzlement of approximately \$500,000 from a bank at which she had been employed. In addition to this offense, she had violated parole several times.

The most interesting discovery about this woman occurred during a post-interview review of her file folder and a discussion with a caseworker who knew her well. The main beneficiary of all of her criminal acts were men with whom she was romantically involved. Prior to the embezzling conviction she had no criminal record. A boyfriend had received at least eighty percent of the money she embezzled. After serving a sentence in federal prison, she was paroled and the pattern continued. Another boyfriend, a convicted felon and drug addict, benefited from her parole violations; she had purchased and attempted to deliver drugs to this man when re-arrested. The boyfriend hardly merited these sacrifices. He beat her regularly. Several of the beatings were severe enough for her to require hospitalization. He



also made no attempt to take care of or support his infant son born to her. At the end of a conversation with the caseworker she summed up the defendant's record by saying, quite cynically, "It's always a man."

#### Statement of the Problem

The question explored in this study asks: Is it always a man, or more precisely, is it sometimes a man and if so, how often? What is the nature of female offenders' relationships with men? Do they tend to have dependent, unhealthy relationships? How often do the women's romantic ties play a role in their criminal activities? Do women who have been convicted of crimes have a strong belief in traditional gender roles and idealistic expectations concerning love relationships? If they do have such attitudes is the result a tendency to form unhealthy or dependent attachments? If such patterns as the above are found to be common among women processed by the criminal justice system, what types of counseling or treatment may be useful to keep such women from repeated involvement in destructive relationships and crime?

#### Status of Previous Research

Discussions with people who work in the criminal justice system have indicated that most of the professionals

agree that such dysfunctional and/or dependent romantic relationships are often a precipitating factor in the criminal behavior of women. Though apparently prevalent, this phenomenon has not been extensively addressed in criminal justice literature, and there is no specific treatment model. Instead, most treatment is merely a slight modification of the methods utilized for the rehabilitation of male offenders. Or worse yet, treatment just serves to reinforce the traditional gender role norms that may have played a part in the female offender's problems in the first place (Carlen, 1988, p. 143). In fact, according to Margaret MacMillan (1980), dependency is often encouraged in the treatment for female offenders. Especially guilty of this practice are many of the traditional psychotherapists who work with them in the correctional setting, who often take on the roles of "confessor, savior, educator" (Griffiths, Nance, 1980, p. 214-215).

#### Lack of Studies on Similar Topics

Although much has been written about the female offender, and many studies have been done, none have been found that have attempted an in-depth examination of the factors under exploration in this study. If dependent, dysfunctional relationships of female offenders are even alluded to they are mentioned in passing and no detailed

discussion occurs. Much of the same type of researcher neglect seems to be the rule when the topic is the female offender and her view of her role in relationships or a question is posed concerning the amount of importance that she assigns to having a man in her life.

In fact, the typical published result of research on the gender roles of women and their effects on the female offender has been a group of theories that are the opposite of what is being suggested in this exploratory study. These theories, most of which were composed within the past twenty years, attempted to link increases in female crime with the Women's Liberation movement. One well known proponent of such a theory was Adler, whose 1976 book Sisters in Crime stated that the liberation of women in other areas of life, particularly their new "unisex style of dress, hair and attitude" (Schur, 1983, p. 213) had led to huge increases in crime, especially violent crime, by women. Such theorists claimed that as women gained more equality with men they would begin to think and act like men, which included committing the same types of crimes that men tended to commit, and they would also have more opportunity to engage in criminal acts as they entered domains (especially the work force) that were not as open to them prior to the feminist movement. This theory, however, has been proven to be largely untrue. The increase in female violent or masculine types of criminal behavior that Adler wrote about was shown to not actually exist. At the time that the Adler

book was published, reports indicated that violent crime committed by women had remained at a constant, static rate; only arrests for property crime had risen, and the majority of these arrests were for traditionally feminine types of property crimes such as forgery and nonviolent larceny (Schur, 1983, p. 214-215).

Studies of crimes committed by incarcerated women confirmed that their instances of violent offenses adhered to the traditional female role. If they were involved in a robbery with a gun they usually played a secondary or supportive role in the offense. When a woman committed a murder she tended to follow the typical feminine pattern of killing a loved one in their home, rather than killing a stranger in a public place, outdoors or in someone else's home. In fact, often when a woman killed, the underlying cause was directly related to the inferior role of women in modern society. She may have killed because she felt that she had no other way to escape abuse that she might have been suffering at the hands of her husband or lover (Schur, 1983, pp. 219-220).

#### Feminism and the Female Offender

Another important point that was mentioned by several authors concerned the question of the adoption or embracing of feminist ideas by the population of female offenders.

Were women who committed crimes, as writers such as Adler suggested, doing so because they were exercising their newly acquired rights gained by the Women's Liberation movement? Studies of female offenders suggested that the answer to this question was "no". Incarcerated women were actually very traditional in their views of gender roles. They believed that males were the dominant sex and that the women's sphere was the home and the family. In addition to the conservative outlook on appropriate roles for women, many female criminals ironically also tended to have "dysfunctional relationships with men" and often became involved in "relationships that lead to criminal involvement" (Pollock-Byrne, 1990, pp. 24-26). Not surprisingly, this viewpoint was also reflected in the female offender's idea of appropriate career choices for themselves. Even though training in fields that are not traditionally female, such as auto mechanics, are offered at many women's prisons, most of the inmates preferred fields like cosmetology or secretarial skills. Others desired glamorous jobs such as singer or dancer (Miller, 1986, pp. 152-153). It was suggested in a study by Meda Chesney Lind (Griffiths, Nance, 1980, p. 14) that the socioeconomic class that most female offenders come from, mainly the working or lower-class, has remained fairly untouched by the feminist movement, which is mostly a middle and upper-class phenomenon (see also Miller, 1986, p. 162; Smart, 1977, pp. 74-75; and Morris, 1987, p. 39).

Summary of the Goals  
of the Study

The goal of this study was to discover through various types of exploration the answers to four factors or questions under consideration. First was the possibility or question of a link between dependent romantic relationships and female criminal activity. Second was the extent of the link if a link is found. Third was the degree of prevalence of a traditional, idealistic, and emotionally dependent view of women's roles in romantic relationships (such as care taking, keeping one's man happy, love conquers all, "I'm nothing without a man" or "A bad relationship is better than none") among women who have been involved in crime. And, finally, this study sought to provide possible suggestions for correctional counseling of women who manifested characteristics which suggested that their criminal activity was connected to their romantic relationships.

Overview of the Study

The remainder of this study consists of four chapters. In Chapter II a review of the literature is supplied. Chapter III contains an explanation of the research methodology. Chapter IV furnishes a description of the results of the research. The final chapter, Chapter V provides a discussion of all aspects of the study.

In Chapter II all of the various types of literature pertaining to the topic under consideration are summarized. The Literature Review is loosely arranged thematically by topic. The basic topics can be broken down into three categories: Gender Roles and Romance; Lifestyles of Female Offenders; and Case Histories of Female Offenders and Romantic Relationships.

Chapter III, the Methodology chapter, consists of a detailed description of the methods used to gather data, and offers an evaluation of all methods. This study employed three methods of data collection: an examination of the case files of 100 female offenders, an attitude survey administered to 30 female offenders, and interviews with three criminal justice professionals. The results of all research conducted are explained, illustrated, and discussed in Chapter IV. A more detailed discussion and a tying together of all information gathered from all of the chapters occurs in Chapter V, the Discussion. All data is discussed, integrated, and interpreted. Chapter V also includes an attempt to solve any problems that are discovered as a result of the research. The study concludes with a discussion about the possibilities for future research.

CHAPTER II  
LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature for this study came from several different disciplines including Criminal Justice, Sociology, Psychology, and Women's Studies. Much literature was found relating to female offenders, gender role socialization, and dependent or idealized romantic relationships, but very little was found that included all of these topics. Especially rare was literature about female offenders and their problems with dependent romantic relationships, specifically cases in which such relationships seemed to play a role in the women's criminal behavior.

Literature on the  
Feminine Gender Role

Since it was suggested in the Introduction in the previous chapter that the female offender usually believes in traditional gender roles, literature that describes the feminine gender role and socialization into the same has been used in this study to clearly illustrate what feminine socialization and the feminine gender role entail. Traditional gender roles dictate different behavior and emotional expression from women than from men. Boys are often encouraged to be independent; to explore and achieve, while girls are taught to nurture, (Jack, 1991, p. 15) be



emotionally expressive, dependent, and self-sacrificing (McBride, 1990). For women, achievement is accomplished "through affiliation with others, particularly men" (Mintz, O'Neil, 1990). Much of feminine socialization focuses on relationships with men. From a young age girls are taught that marriage and motherhood are very important goals for women. While there has been much lamenting about the demise of the family, the putting off of marriage, and the practice of living together without being married, the pressure to get married as part of the role of being a "normal" adult is still very strong for women. Women who do not marry may still be stigmatized as deviant by society in a way that men are not (Schur, 1983, pp. 60, 62).

### Romance and the Feminine

#### Gender Role

In her book Love in America: Gender and Self-Development Cancian (1987) described the traditional view of marriage in which women were to assume the role of nurturer at the expense of independence, achievement, and self-development. In this outlook on marriage dependence was encouraged in women, especially dependence on one's husband. (p. 4). Love, Cancian went on to say, has become associated with the feminine gender role because it is centered on the expression of emotions and talking about feelings (p. 69). Contemporary literature on love, particularly in the context

of male-female relationships, has a feminine gender role focus whether the writer represents a conservative or a liberal view or position.

The Total Woman, a book on relationships by Marabel Morgan, described what a marriage should be as defined by the Christian Right. In her view the husband is the leader of the family and the wife plays a secondary role in which she serves and worships her husband and focuses all of her energy on the home; specifically on raising children and keeping her husband happy. Following this role, stated Morgan, would facilitate deep, intimate communication within one's marriage (Cancian, 1987, p. 62).

Nancy Chodorow, a feminist thinker, theorized that women see themselves as more connected with others, and more open to love because they do not need to establish themselves as different from their mothers in the way that boys, as they become aware of being a different gender, must find an identity separate from mother. Cancian explained that Chodorow's theory unintentionally perpetuated love, attachment, and affection as integral parts of women's personalities that are absent from men's personalities. Further, this conception of love as feminine tends to contribute to the lower status of women; men see the expression of such "feminine" love as something to be avoided. It also encourages overdependence and overinvolvement by women in relationships (Cancian, 1987, pp. 72, 79, 81).

Peplau and Gordon (1985) studied gender differences in dating and marriage relationships. They found that the less traditional the person (regardless of gender) the lower the emphasis on sacrifice, dependency and traditional gender roles (O'Leary, Unger, Walston, pp. 257-291). As an offshoot, a study by Conroy (1980) linked the acceptance of the feminine sex role with lower self-esteem than the acceptance of either an androgynous or masculine role (Griffiths, Nance, M., 1980, p. 263). Dependency on the part of women was found to be higher in more traditional marriages because the wife had less opportunity, and therefore less power, in the dynamics of the relationship. She was taught that the husband should be older, more educated, and more financially stable (Peplau & Gordon, 1985, pp. 273, 274 In O'Leary, Unger, Walston).

Femininity, Love, Depression  
and Dependence

As mentioned, traditional gender roles within a marriage or other close heterosexual relationships are linked with lower self-esteem and higher degrees of dependence. Such roles are also linked with depression in women (Thompson, 1995; see also McBride, 1990; Rothblum, 1982). Silencing The Self by Dana Crowley Jack explored the link between traditional feminine socialization, marriage, and depression through interviews with twelve depressed

women. The women described how they lost themselves in their relationships (1991, p. 4, 21) through focusing their energy on gaining the approval of their husbands, keeping the men happy at the expense of their own happiness, and suppressing any opinions that they thought would upset the harmony of their relationships if expressed.

Jack explained the "loss of self" as consisting of several components. "Loss of voice" is the loss of the ability to confidently speak one's mind in the face of growing self-doubt about the validity of one's feelings; it also includes a fear that they are wrong (Jack, 1991, p. 29-33). One common manifestation of the loss of voice is the presentation of an unreal self that strives to appear as the "image provided by someone else--the husband, parental teachings, the culture" (Jack, 1991, p. 31-32). Another facet of the loss of self concerns the fact that many women give themselves low priority in their marriages, putting their husbands and homes before themselves. Others mentioned giving much effort to protecting the husband's ego (Jack, 1991, p.37-38).

The power imbalance that favors men and stresses compliant behavior by women in traditional marriages also contributed to Jack's concept of the loss of self. In what Jack described as "compliant relatedness", the woman holds back on expressing herself freely in the relationship out of a fear that the loved one will decide to sever the attachment. This is connected to the woman's less powerful

position in our culture. Men still often earn more money and it is easier and more acceptable for a man to become involved with younger partners regardless of his own age (Jack, 1991, p. 40-41).

Chapter three of Jack's book is also relevant to the socialization undergone by women in terms of the proper romantic role. Particularly applicable to this study are her sections on "oneness", the culturally prescribed belief that when a woman marries she becomes one with her husband, and the idea that she must serve as a helpmate to her husband. In conversations with the depressed women that Jack interviewed, it is made clear that this "oneness" is a kind of absorption of the women's identity by that of the man. "Oneness" is not an equal compromise or blending of personalities, nor is it a usurpation of the man's identity by the woman (1991, p. 63-64).

The second concept mentioned above, that of helping the husband, is also problematic and sometimes very destructive. The urge to help the partner with a specific problem, such as getting over a terrible childhood which was the situation described by one of the women interviewed by Jack, often leads women to passively tolerate mistreatment by the husband. The woman whose husband had a terrible childhood used this fact to rationalize his physical abuse of her. She fell into the trap of thinking her love could heal him (1991, p. 67-69). This is similar to the romantic ideal described by Sprecher and Metts (1989) which they called

"Love Finds a Way", a belief that love can solve all problems and overcome all barriers. Sprecher and Metts found that this belief was positively correlated with the acceptance of a feminine gender role and values considered to be feminine. Additionally, they discovered that femininity and feminine gender role orientation were related to romanticism in general, and to romantic idealism (defined as a belief that "'good things'" (1989) happen to those who fall in love). According to Sprecher and Metts a feminine gender role orientation included such personality characteristics as: warm, affectionate, gullible, childlike, tender, loyal, understanding, and yielding.

The trait of dependence is often a part of female socialization, and much literature was found relating to dependence, particularly codependency, and romantic relationships. More than one author has referred to the dependence exhibited by some women regarding their relationships as a sort of addiction. Kasl, in her book Women, Sex, and Addiction: A Search for Love & Power, compiled a checklist of signs of relationship codependency. Powerlessness is a major characteristic. It may be manifested by such things as a feeling that one has no power to refuse requests for sex, assistance, or service of any kind. A woman in a codependent relationship may feel unable to stop either trying to change her partner (or stop hoping that somehow change will just happen), or "see herself as a separate person" (1989, p. 35). There are many negative

consequences inherent in codependent relationships. Some of the consequences can be particularly severe. Women in codependent relationships are vulnerable to anxiety disorders and depression, drug addiction (especially to drugs used to treat their anxiety and depression, such as Valium), eating disorders, and some even commit suicide (1989, p. 36-37). One journal article defined codependency succinctly as "extreme dependence on and preoccupation with another person" (Cowan, Bombersbach, Curtis, 1995).

Although they may not themselves be criminals, women who fall in love with criminal men have wholeheartedly accepted at least a few of the beliefs that lead to dependent relationships and "loss of self". In her article "Life Sentences: Loving a Man Behind Bars", Sheila Isenberg profiled a woman who she called Hilary who was in love with a convicted murderer serving a life sentence.

At every turn, Hilary illustrated a willingness to sacrifice her own needs for those of men. Hilary got married young to an alcoholic with the idea that if he had a family to come home to he would stop drinking. It did not work that way; her husband became physically abusive. After several years and four children Hilary divorced him. She then returned to school and became a nurse. It was through this profession that she met murderer Lucas Milton while he was hospitalized after suffering a heart attack. Within six months of meeting they were married, and now Hilary has taken on the financial burden of his bills and the cost of

his many appeals. She has willingly sacrificed her own financial needs, such as buying a new washing machine, to make payments on the television she bought for his cell.

Isenberg attempted to explain what the motivations are of women who fall in love with criminals. Most women who fall in love with such men were often not given much attention while growing up; many have been neglected or abused. Women who were abused as children may associate love with a pattern of mistreatment followed by apologies and making up. Those who fall in love with criminals may also be driven by needs for transcendence, challenge, fantasy, salvation. Other reasons that sometimes motivate such women may include a desire to make up for childhood hurts and avoid the brutalization of the past. Many women who fall in love with criminals feel a much needed, but false, sense of control in the relationship. Especially relevant to the topics of dependence, romanticism, and feminine gender role socialization is the need for fantasy and the need to make up for childhood hurts and the brutalization of the past. The women fantasize about how much, how totally, they will be able to "love and be loved" (1991) when he is released. As mentioned, many women who fall in love with criminal men have been mistreated as children and many, like Hilary, have been in abusive marriages. They may feel safer when their man is locked up.



Examination of the  
Romantic Relationships  
of Female Offenders

So far, several factors have been established in the literature review. One, female offenders tend to have a belief in traditional gender roles. Two, traditional gender roles foster romantic idealism and dependent behavior in relationships. Three, non-criminal women who become romantically involved with criminal men often have a background of abuse by family or partners and beliefs that contribute to dependency and unrealistic expectations of romance. Some literature about female offenders contained small passages that offered support to part of the exploration of their attitudes toward relationships with men and gender roles. In Street Woman, Miller (1986) asked some Milwaukee area female convicts what they wanted in a relationship, and all mentioned the desire to have a man who would take care of them (p. 155). They also exhibited very stereotypical attitudes about the nature of women, expressing a distrust of other women and calling women petty and jealous in comparison to men. They tended to have very few female friends; they mostly saw women as threatening or as competition for them in the search for a good man (Miller, 1986, p. 160-161).

Some researchers have focused on the matter of love and the female offender. Worrall (1990) provided the domestic

and sexuality profiles of fifteen female offenders in her book Offending Women. Of these fifteen, five had had relationships with or marriages to violent men who have beaten them. In Women, Crime, and Poverty by Pat Carlen, thirty-nine English female offenders ranging in age from fifteen to forty-six were interviewed about their lives. Of these offenders, nineteen claimed to have been physically abused; seven had been abused by more than one person. Twelve had been abused by a parent (seven by their fathers, five by their mothers). Eight said they had been beaten by a live-in boyfriend or husband (1988, p. 117, 170). Considering that eight of the women interviewed by Carlen claimed to be lesbians and to have never had a boyfriend or husband, the actual tally of women abused by male partners is eight out of thirty-one, approximately 26% (1988, p. 128). When the five interviewees who were juveniles (three fifteen-year-olds, one sixteen, and one seventeen-year-old) were subtracted, the total of those abused by male partners became eight out of twenty-six or 31%, which was very close to the list of fifteen in the Worrall book out of which five (about 33%) were in abusive romantic relationships.

Prostitution: A Portrait  
of the Status of  
Female Offenders

It was mentioned previously in the Introduction that the typical female offender is not a supporter of feminism, is likely to subscribe to traditional gender role values, and usually commits crimes that are historically feminine. One type of crime that perfectly illustrates the traditional gender role beliefs and a few of the attitudes toward romantic relationships that are held by many female offenders is prostitution. In this crime the woman is doing the work, collecting the money, and paying the penalties through arrest, yet prostitution is really a man's world. It is wrong to think of the prostitute as a woman who is independent, an entrepreneur, making her own money, and being her own boss. Whether she is a streetwalker or a \$100-an-hour call girl, her livelihood is controlled by a man (or men), whether he is a pimp or a customer (Heyl, 1976, In Adler & Simon, 1979, p. 196).

Especially at the streetwalker level, it is impossible to work without a pimp. In Street Woman, Miller conducted interviews with a few prostitutes who had tried to work independently, without a "man", as pimps are sometimes called. They described a life of victimization by both other pimps and would-be customers (1986, p. 145). Heyl also mentioned the hazards inherent in trying to work as an

independent streetwalker. Every pimp patrolled his territory and if a woman was working in his territory and she refused to become one of his girls he would "think nothing of breaking a couple of your arms" (Heyl, 1976, In Adler & Simon, 1979, p. 203).

Despite the mistreatment that many prostitutes suffer at the hands of their "men", they often develop emotional ties to and dependence on them. This is not because the "men" are wonderful people. While "men" do offer protection from other "men", the police, and customers who try to attack them or avoid paying, they also cultivate dependence among their women by undermining any trusting relationship that may begin to develop among the prostitutes. On the other hand, pimps communicate with each other regularly; forming friendships, networks, and generally offering support and assistance to each other. While a prostitute looks to her "man" to bail her out of jail, if her "man" is arrested he will probably call another "man". The "men" help promote and maintain the atmosphere of competition and distrust between the women; the last thing they would want would be for the women to organize and have no need for them (Miller, 1986, pp. 131-132).

Prostitutes often compare each other's "men" and of high priority is the search for a "good man"; one who cares about them, treats their children well, gets them out of jail quickly when they are arrested, and gets them a lawyer if they need one. If a "man" is not a "good man", women

will refer to him as "nothin' but a pimp" (Miller, 1986, p. 131).

An interesting aside about the prostitution trade and the feminine gender role was mentioned by Morris. She learned that many who participate in this trade do so because they feel that it "works well with child care arrangements" (1987, p. 39).

More about the Status  
and Romantic Relationships  
of Female Offenders: Case Histories

What She Did for Love: Diane Downs

There were books on two murder cases that fit several of the criteria of dependency. Small Sacrifices by Ann Rule detailed the story of Diane Downs, an Oregon woman who shot her three young children (killing one and disabling the other two) in 1983. Like many women who turn to crime, Diane grew up in a family atmosphere of abuse. As a child in Arizona she was harshly disciplined and forced to dress and wear her hair in a way that made her a social outcast from an early age (1987, p. 98).

When she was twelve years old her father began sexually abusing her, either by taking her for a long ride in the car or by coming into her bedroom after everyone else had fallen asleep. As a result she became unable to sleep at night,

listening for any footstep that let her know he was coming to visit her room. In an attempt to avoid his abuse she tried to commit suicide at age thirteen by slashing her wrists. The abuse finally ended when, during a ride in the car, a state trooper who was driving by saw Diane taking off her blouse, pulled the car over, took her father aside and somehow managed to intimidate him. Diane was unable to hear what the trooper said to her father, but she related that the abuse stopped after that incident (1987, p. 100-103).

At age fifteen Diane found her first serious boyfriend, Steve Downs, whom she married at age eighteen, mostly to escape her father's home. Right from the beginning the marriage was far from blissful. Steve Downs spent most of his time with his friends or with other women. Diane, feeling lonely and unloved, decided she would create her own source of love by having a baby. She had two daughters by Steve in the mid 1970's (1987, pp. 111-114). After the birth of her second child she made a few attempts to leave her husband, but she always returned. She got a job, but quit and came back to Steve after she was raped by her boss. By the late 1970's, still in her dysfunctional marriage, she had an affair which resulted in a son (1987, pp. 115-119).

Although Diane was always thrilled when she became pregnant and thought of her babies as providing a kind of unconditional love, her attitude changed after they arrived and started to assert themselves as individuals. When the children proved to be regular kids rather than perfect

beings, Diane turned to the same kind of harsh discipline she had endured while young. She often resorted to slapping, hair pulling, and screaming obscenities at them when they did something she disliked (1987, pp. 120-121, 130-131). Some people who knew her well claimed that she put her children last on her list of priorities.

After Diane finally left Steve for good, she got a job delivering mail for the Chandler, Arizona post office. Much of her time outside of work was spent bouncing from one man to another. From the time her oldest child was about six years of age, she was left home alone to look after herself and her siblings. When her youngest daughter was in kindergarten she had to wait in front of a locked, empty house every afternoon until Diane came home from her postal route.

After her divorce, Diane always had lovers. She was often involved with married men (1987, p. 135). She easily ended any affair she began and never seemed to fall in love with any of the men until she began an affair with a married coworker named Lew Lewiston. Soon after the affair started Diane became obsessed with Lew. She wanted to be with him all the time; she decided that they were going to get married even though he thought of her as just a fling. Eventually Lew's wife found out about the affair, but she was very forgiving and they reconciled. Diane became very depressed until she succeeded in resuming the affair. The affair continued in an off and on fashion; Lew left his wife

for a brief time, and with every up and down Diane alternated between depression and elation (1987, pp. 163-165).

There was always another barrier, in addition to Lew's wife, that kept him and Diane from being together permanently. Actually there were three barriers. Lew did not want to be a father. He had undergone a vasectomy at age twenty-one. He claimed to have been honest with Diane, telling her that he did not want to raise children and that he would not divorce his wife. When Diane took a postal job in Oregon, where her parents had relocated, Lew used it as an opportunity to end their relationship permanently (1987, pp. 153-154, 156, 173, 377). He told her he would not move to Oregon, would not leave his wife, and did not "want to be a daddy" (1987, p. 174). By this time Diane was so obsessed with Lew that she would not take no for an answer. In April, 1983 she left Arizona for Oregon, still convinced that Lew would be joining her, that he had not meant it when he told her it was over.

On May 19, 1983 Diane's children were brought into an Oregon hospital. All had been shot; the younger daughter was dead on arrival and the other two were critically injured but survived. Aided by the testimony of her surviving daughter a jury declared Diane Downs guilty of murder, attempted murder, and assault in the first degree. The Judge sentenced her to life plus fifty years in prison (1987, pp. 446-447).



What She Did for Love Part II: Charlene Gallego

Another case that detailed dependence and abuse even more clearly than the story of Diane Downs was the case of Gerald and Charlene Gallego, a married couple who committed nine rape-kidnap-murders of young women and the murder of one young man in California and Nevada in the 1970's. Gerald, raised by his abusive sometimes-prostitute mother and her various husbands or boyfriends (most of whom were also abusive to both Gerald and his mother), was a career criminal with twenty-seven arrests, seven felony convictions, and a history of violence with all of his girlfriends (van Hoffmann, 1990, pp. 32, 69-70, 128). Charlene, thirteen years younger than Gerald, was the child of solidly middle-class parents, played the violin, and had a genius-level IQ (1990, pp. 30, 43).

Although Gerald was physically abusive toward Charlene on a daily basis and unfaithful regularly, she adored him and wanted more than anything to please him. She was submissive to the point of calling him "daddy" and she altered her appearance to resemble how his daughter had looked as a young child. He was attracted to young girls, particularly his own daughter. In fact, he had celebrated his thirty-third birthday by having sex with his then fourteen-year-old daughter and one of her friends. Charlene also supplied all of the couple's financial support; while he kept any money he earned for his own pleasure her

paychecks were used to pay their expenses (1990, pp. 132, 140).

When it began to seem as if Gerald could no longer perform sexually, excluding the incident with his daughter and her friend, Charlene decided that they needed to have "love slaves", teen-age girls that they would kidnap, use for sexual acts, and then kill after they were finished with them (1990, pp. 43-44). Gerald liked the idea and the killing spree began. The Gallegos would travel to any location that they thought would be full of teen-age girls, such as a shopping plaza (the first two victims), the Nevada State Fair (the second pair of victims), and a mall (the third pair of victims). The remaining victims broke away from the usual pattern. The seventh was a young pregnant hitchhiker the Gallegos picked up, and the eighth was a bartender that they kidnapped at gunpoint in the parking lot of the bar she worked in as she was leaving at closing time (1990, pp. 193, 219). The final two victims completely broke the pattern, and it was these two who were the Gallego's undoing. While their other victims were mostly the types of people that are given low priority by the police, such as runaways or others living on the fringes of society, the last two were not. They were college students (a young man and his fiancé who were kidnapped at gunpoint in the parking lot of a restaurant where they were attending a party) from prominent, successful families who cared about them and demanded that their killers be brought to justice.

Although the male was kidnapped along with his fiancé, he was killed soon after and was not sexually assaulted. She, however, became a "love slave" before being killed (1990, pp. 241-247).

The Gallegos were arrested in Nebraska by the FBI while trying to escape. They were taken back to California and put on trial. In 1983, three years after the murders of the college couple, Gerald was convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to death. Charlene made a plea bargain agreement and testified against her husband. Her plea bargain resulted in a sentence of sixteen years in prison for two counts of second degree murder (1990, pp. 259-260, 300, 311).

How did a girl with a good home, talent, and a genius-level IQ get involved in the situation in which Charlene Gallego found herself? Psychiatrists, psychologists, and criminologists have speculated endlessly. According to van Hoffmann, the author of the book, the most likely explanation is that which states that if one person has fantasies about committing a certain type of crime but cannot bring him or herself to do so, he or she will do so if he or she finds a partner "whose personality fills in the gaps necessary for him or her to commit the crime". Gerald and Charlene filled in each other's gaps and merged into one monster (1990, p. 228).

Female Offenders, Love, and a TV Talk Show

On the topic of women, crime, and dependent romantic relationships one of the most definitive sources found was a transcript of the Montel Williams Show, a daytime television talk show. This particular show was aired on October 20, 1993 and was called "Have You Fallen For The Wrong Guy?" The show featured three women who had committed crimes to please a boyfriend. The first woman, named Lorrie, embezzled \$30,000 from her place of employment, which she spent on gifts for her boyfriend. She admitted that he came first, even before her children; she hired a nanny so she could spend more time with the boyfriend. He did not make similar sacrifices for her. He always had many other girlfriends, up to a dozen at a time, while dating Lorrie. Eventually her employer learned of the embezzling, and as a result Lorrie served a prison sentence, lost custody of her children, and was disowned by her family. She admitted that even though she is no longer in contact with him she still feels close to him.

The second guest, named Mori, served a two year sentence for drug dealing. She claimed that her husband suggested she deal and that she took the rap for him. While she was in prison Mori learned that her husband (who was in the entertainment business) was seeing someone else when she saw him with his new girlfriend on a televised awards show.

Calli, the third guest, was on satellite from a prison

where she was serving a life sentence for two bank robberies that she committed for a boyfriend. She no longer has any communication with him and has served about six years of her sentence. In the last segment of the show a therapist, Dr. Sonia Rhodes, appeared and attributed the women's actions to a desperate need for love and feelings of worthlessness.

### Summary of the Literature Review

The focus of the literature review was varied and it was arranged thematically by topic. The first part consisted of an examination of the socialization of females into a certain prescribed set of traits referred to as the feminine gender role, the feminine gender role and its effects on women in love, the feminine gender role and its links to dependence and depression. Described in this segment was the feminine role as applied to love, such as the emphasis of the traditional role of the wife as a nurturer who is secondary to her husband, and how this role has been linked to depression and dependence.

The second part of the literature review contained a closer examination feminine love and its link to depression and dependence. Silencing The Self: Women and Depression by Dana Crowley Jack and Women, Sex, and Addiction: A Search for Love and Power by Charlotte Kasl were discussed in detail. The former explored the connection between

depression and the tendency of many women toward the deferment of their needs and happiness to the wishes of their husbands. The latter focused on codependent relationships and the harmful effects that they can have on women, such as not only depression, but also eating disorders and drug or alcohol problems. The remainder of this portion of the literature review provided a summary of an article by Sheila Isenberg, "Life Sentence: Loving a Man Behind Bars" which profiled a woman (who had no criminal record) who fell in love with and married a convicted murderer.

Finally, an integration of ideas occurred in the last part of the literature review. The romantic ideals of the female offender were examined. They were found by researchers to be distrustful of other women and to desire a relationship with a man who would take care of them. The reality of romance for many female offenders was far from what they had hoped. Books providing information on the domestic situations of groups of female offenders indicated that one in three female offenders were likely to have been involved in abusive romantic relationships. The next portion of this section profiled the stories of two women who committed crimes as a result of their romantic attachments. Diane Downs, of Oregon shot her three children, killing one, hoping to win back her married lover who told her that he did not want to be a father. Charlene Gallego, along with her husband, participated in the sexual

assault and murder of more than half a dozen young people in California and Nevada. The final part of the last section of the literature review described an episode of "The Montel Williams Show" that featured as guests three women who had committed crimes and served prison sentences for the men they loved.

The focus of the next chapter of this study is the research methodology that was employed to examine the lives and attitudes of some of the female offenders who have been processed by the criminal justice system in Ohio and Pennsylvania. The first section of the methodology provides working definitions of various terms as they were used for the purposes of the research. The remainder of the chapter consists of explanations and analysis of the specific methods utilized in this study.

## CHAPTER III

## METHODOLOGY

To better facilitate an understanding of the research methods, it is necessary to provide definitions of certain important terms as they were used in this study. A dependent romantic relationship (in reference to women) had one or more of the following characteristics: abuse (especially physical abuse), a tendency to stay in an abusive relationship or relationships, or a tendency to stay in a relationship that is detrimental to her children for a reason precipitated by her relationship with a man. The study also included variables such as committing an offense either in partnership with a male romantic partner, or with him in a position to benefit from the crime.

Traditional gender roles in romance were defined by a system of beliefs, such as deference to men, that may have included agreement with such statements as: In a marriage or other romantic relationship I believe that the man should be the boss; I would not want to have a relationship with a younger man; and, In a relationship I do not care what we do as long as the other person is happy. A dependent or idealized view of romantic relationships also encompassed certain emotional beliefs which may have included adherence to such attitudes as: It is better to be in a bad relationship than to be alone; love can overcome any problems or barriers; and, I have an empty feeling when the



man in my life is not with me.

There were three components, two primary and one secondary, to the research conducted for this study. The main methods of research consisted of a file search and a survey. The third method, occasionally referred to in Chapter IV but discussed mostly in Chapter V, relied on interviews conducted with three professionals in the criminal justice field.

#### The File Search

The first phase of the research took place at Adult Probation Authority in Youngstown, Ohio and consisted of a search through 100 files of women who had been clients of this agency. The details that were the most important in the files were those providing information about the women's criminal background, family life (including any available information about their childhood), and marital/romantic information. The Pre-sentencing Investigation report (P.S.I.), social history, details of the instant offense, defendant's statement, and any kind of psychological evaluation that may have been included were especially useful in this portion of the research. They were examined for any indications of dependent, unhealthy romantic relationships. Histories including abusive domestic relationships, childhood physical or sexual abuse, obsessive relationships with men, and the presence of codefendants

with whom the woman was romantically involved were noted.

The statistics found in the file research were totaled in four different ways. First, the total number of cases out of the 100 were totaled as to how many exhibited any type of tendency toward dysfunctional romantic relationships. Of those women who had a history of dysfunctional relationships another count was taken to find out how many had committed crimes that appeared to be connected to their romantic relationships. Next, separate tallies were made for probationers and parolees. And third, cases that epitomized certain types of dysfunctional situations were summarized and are presented in the next chapter of this study.

#### File Sample

As previously mentioned, 100 files were examined for this study. All of the files examined were of closed cases, but none were more than five years old. The majority of the files were of cases which had been closed within the past two or three years. Some were much newer; they had been closed in recent months. Fifty of the files belonged to probationers and the other fifty to parolees. The files were taken in no particular order and without any kind of client list or knowledge of certain cases. Demographic characteristics of the women did not play any part in the research. The women were all at least 18 years old. The

majority of the women were in their twenties or thirties. Race was irrelevant. The cases were mostly from Ohio, but some had been transferred from other states, such as Pennsylvania, California, Texas, and Illinois.

### The Survey

The second facet of the research addressed the question of whether or not female offenders have an idealized view of romance and/or a belief in traditional gender roles. The answer to this question was ascertained through the use of a survey designed for this purpose. In its original form the survey consisted of 15 questions which utilized a forced-choice version of a Likert scale (Agree, Agree Somewhat, Disagree Somewhat, Disagree) with the option of "Neither Agree nor Disagree" eliminated. The scoring of the instrument was as follows: Agree=3, Agree Somewhat=2, Disagree Somewhat=1, Disagree=0. Questions on the survey came from three sources. Five came from "The Silencing the Self Scale" composed by Dana Crowley Jack and included in her book Silencing The Self: Women and Depression. Four questions that specifically concerned dependency came from a test created by Henderson and Cunningham for their journal article "Women's Emotional Dependence on Men: Scale Construction and Test of Russianoff's Hypothesis" (1993). Two questions to measure an idealistic attitude toward romance were taken from a brief instrument formulated by

Sprecher and Metts, which was used in their journal article entitled "Development of the 'Romantic Beliefs Scale' and examination of the effects of gender and gender-role orientation" (1989). The remaining four questions were original to this study and were based on information gathered from the Literature Review.

### Survey Sample

A sample of 30 female offenders from three different agencies voluntarily completed the surveys. Six were clients at Community Corrections Association, Inc. in Youngstown, Ohio. Nineteen were clients of The Program Center and the remaining five were from Allegheny County Treatment Alternative (ACTA). Both The Program Center and ACTA are located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. There were some differences among the types of clients treated within each program. Although the Youngstown facility handles both females from federal prisons and misdemeanants, federal prisoners cannot take part in any kind of experiments, so only misdemeanants were used. All of the women at the two Pittsburgh agencies were from the Allegheny county jail, but every client at ACTA was drug or alcohol addicted.

### Analysis

There were specific reasons why the file search, survey and interviews were chosen as the research methods for this study. Each served a particular purpose and was intended to supply a certain type of information needed to form a complete picture of the concept under consideration.

The file search was conducted to find lifestyle patterns among female offenders, especially in reference to family background, romantic history, and criminal activities. This information was important because it provided documentation of social circumstances that were likely to have played a part in shaping the attitudes, beliefs, values, and perceptions of the women. It was presumed for this study that such attributes as low self-esteem, acceptance of physical and/or sexual abuse, and emotional dependence that are learned in childhood are often carried into adulthood. It was further speculated that these attributes resulted in certain types of destructive behavioral patterns, such as dysfunctional or abusive romantic relationships and criminal activities, that are perpetuated unless they can be replaced by healthier, more positive characteristics. The files were very useful in supplying a longitudinal social history of each woman. A path could often be followed between such dubious milestones as first experience of sexual abuse, first memory of violence between the parents, first sibling arrested, first

school suspension, first unplanned pregnancy, first beating by boyfriend or husband, and eventually the first (but usually not the last) arrest.

Unlike the file search, which attempted to explore the women's pasts and speculate on how well the past meshes with the present, the survey was used to determine the present values and attitudes of a sample of female offenders. The information gathered from the survey is information that was not available in the files. The survey asked direct questions about the romantic and gender role beliefs of the women rather than their criminal behavior, providing a current record of each woman's psyche.

Both the file search and the survey were used to tie together information learned from the literature consulted for this study. Several of the books about female offenders mentioned their tendency to be involved in violent or dysfunctional relationships with men, their antifeminist belief system, and their frequent childhood traumas. The books about gender roles linked feminine gender role socialization with dependency, depression, and low self-esteem. The books about women and depression, particularly the Jack book, also linked depression to feminine gender role socialization. Jack also believed that the feminine gender role as prescribed by American culture encouraged passivity and emotional dependence. Because all of the books about dependency, gender roles, and depression were from fields other than criminal justice, the concepts

presented in them had not been tested within the female offender population. The questions taken from various instruments (from Jack, Cunningham & Henderson, and Sprecher & Metts) that were included on the survey had been used by their authors only on non-criminal women. The survey administered in this study was used to apply these concepts to female offenders.

The interviews with three criminal justice professionals (Richard Billak, Ph.D., Michele Wells, Sue Reichwein) assisted in the analysis of the data gathered through the review of the literature, the file search, and the survey. They furnished expert opinions and insight concerning the questions under study and the results obtained from the file search and survey. Additionally, they were instrumental in supplying information used in the discussion of treatment options for female offenders who have been in dependent or abusive romantic relationships. While several of the books consulted for the study stated that many female offenders had a pattern of dysfunctional relationships with men, they neglected to provide in-depth discussion. The interviews with the criminal justice professionals filled these information gaps by answering important questions about female offenders in dependent, often abusive relationships such as "why?", "how often?", and "what can be done?".

The information gathered from each research method yielded data on each of the questions that were explored in

this study. The file search supplied both qualitative and quantitative information that helped answer questions about the nature of the romantic relationships of female offenders, the incidence of dependence and abuse, and the extent of the role that such relationships play in the women's criminal activities. The survey yielded quantitative measurements of traditional gender role beliefs, romantic attitudes, and dependent behavior among the women. The third portion of the research, the interviews with the criminal justice professionals, also provided some quantitative data in reference to the frequency of both dependent, dysfunctional relationships and the connection between dependent romantic relationships. These interviews were instrumental in supplying qualitative data and anecdotal information for nearly all of the questions addressed in this study, particularly those concerning the romantic relationships and attitudes of the female offenders with whom they have worked.

When the information obtained from each research method was integrated, it furnished a complete picture of every element of the problem under investigation as well as an illustration of the scope of the problem as a whole. Finally, the research included possible solutions for each part that makes up the problem. The definition and identification of an issue that affects a significant proportion of female offenders and the search for a solution was the impetus for this study.



Discussion of  
Research Methods

The two methods of research were very different. The file search may have been somewhat less reliable than the survey because the files included events and people as seen through someone else's eyes. All of the written material, such as the P.S.I., details of the instant offense, and any included psychological evaluations, were composed by different third parties. As secondary data, they may have been influenced by biases held by the various writers and were open to interpretation. In fact, the only part of a file that was a first-person account was the defendant's version of the offense, which was a handwritten statement by the offender. Unfortunately, because of confidentiality rules and restrictions by the state of Ohio, personal interviews with probation and parole clients could not be performed. Access was granted for the examination of closed case files only for this study. It is presumed that those who composed the various reports in the client's files attempted to be as objective and professional as possible.

The survey may have been a more reliable tool. It was a first-person account; the women themselves gave answers about their attitudes concerning romance, gender role beliefs, and dependent behavior. The survey was able to eliminate the extra level, such as the Probation Officer (P.O.), police officer, or psychologist, between the

offenders and the researcher. Because all who filled out the survey did so voluntarily and anonymously there is no reason to believe that the answers were not given honestly.

### Summary of the

### Methodology

The methodology utilized in this study consisted of two primary and one secondary component. The first primary component was an examination of 100 files of women who had been clients at Adult Probation Authority in Youngstown. Two specific types of information were sought by reading the files. The first was that which would indicate the prevalence of dependent romantic relationships in the sample of files. The second type of information was that which would indicate any connection between such relationships and criminal activity among the women. The second primary method of research was a survey which was administered to a sample of 30 female offenders. The survey attempted to gauge the romantic beliefs and attitudes of female offenders. A final and more peripheral method was also used in the research for this study. Three criminal justice professionals were interviewed to furnish expert opinions, analysis, and insight. All of the information obtained through each method of research is imparted in Chapter IV and to a lesser extent, in Chapter V.

## CHAPTER IV

## RESULTS

All of the results obtained from the research exhibited a consistent pattern, which is discussed throughout this chapter. The results are divided into two main sections, those that are from the file search and those that are from the survey. The bulk of the results of the file search are described as case histories, but some general characteristics and percentages are presented. A factor analysis was performed using the results of the survey and its effect on the survey are also examined. Although the interviews with criminal justice professionals are primarily utilized in the next chapter, the Discussion, they are also discussed briefly in this chapter.

File Case Histories

## Fighting Back

"Joan" met, became pregnant by, and married her husband while she was a teenager living with her alcoholic mother. Having spent the most recent several years of her life being mistreated by her mother, witnessing gunplay between her parents (when her career criminal father was between jail terms), and watching her mother enter into five chaotic, often violent marriages, Joan was relieved to have a reason to leave home.

The marriage was troubled almost from the beginning. Joan's husband cheated on her regularly and began threatening to beat her. Soon he began to drink heavily and the threatened beatings became reality. He refused to work and made Joan support them through a variety of illegal activities, including drug-dealing and theft. Sometimes Joan was protected from her husband by her two brothers, but after they died, her husband started to beat her on a daily basis. One of his favorite activities was to shoot at Joan with a gun that had one bullet and five blanks, a type of Russian Roulette. She began to sleep in a locked room with a gun at her side. Attempts to leave him ended with her returning because she had nowhere to go and felt dependent on him. Ironically, the day of the killing was the day that she finally decided to really leave, having recently, and secretly, filed for divorce.

The day of the killing started on a very ominous note. Joan woke up and found that she had been brought into her husband's bedroom, a room that she never voluntarily entered. She immediately discovered that the cause of her awakening was her husband, who was shouting at her while clicking a gun. Looking around quickly, she found another gun on the night stand. She claimed that the gun went off when she picked it up, causing her to accidentally shoot her husband in the head. She took the children and fled from the house. A friend talked her into going back to check and see if he was really dead and with this friend's help Joan

drove the body to another city where they disposed of it by leaving it somewhere. Joan was eventually convicted of voluntary manslaughter for which she served a prison sentence and a term of parole. A psychiatric evaluation included in Joan's file diagnosed her as suffering from "Battered Woman Syndrome" which was attributed to "sex role socialization and learned helplessness which made it difficult for her to make a break from her abusive husband."

For the Love  
of a Bad Man

Sometimes the women's dependent behavior manifested itself in obsessive relationships with men who mistreat them. One extreme example was the case of "Teri" whose most serious offense (she had other convictions involving drugs and retail theft) was an assault on the new wife of her former boyfriend, a man whom she should have been glad to be rid of. While she was involved with him, he was abusive and addicted to drugs. He was also HIV Positive, a fact that Teri did not learn until he had already infected her. Still, she was devastated, angry, and jealous when he left her and married another woman. Because she had a baby with the boyfriend she was in somewhat regular contact with him. Eventually her resentment of the new woman exploded in a physical confrontation between the two.

## Innocence Lost,

## Times Two

In several of the files instances of sexual abuse were mentioned. Seven of the women had been molested during childhood by male relatives. Two admitted being raped as adults. One of the more bizarre files examined detailed the case of a young woman who was molested as a child by a man who worked with her father. This woman grew up to continue the cycle by *becoming* a child molester and strangely blurring the boundary between victim and victimizer.

"Linda" was about 9 years old when she met a man in his late 30's who was an acquaintance of her father. Almost immediately after their first meeting, the man began to fondle Linda. When she was 14 years old he began to have intercourse with her, and when she was 15 years old she moved in with the man. Soon, she married him. It was a non-monogamous union during which Linda drank heavily and used drugs. Linda, who had become involved in a sexual relationship as a young girl with the man who became her husband soon realized that his attraction to children had not vanished. She was also aware that she was no longer a child. What happened next almost can be described by the old cliché "if you can't beat them, join them". Linda joined in on her husband's activities with young children, molesting several children, both boys and girls ranging from age 9 to age 13, and taking sexually explicit photos of the

young victims. She and her husband were charged together with the crimes after a couple of the children told their parents what was going on. The husband was sentenced to prison but Linda was deemed mentally unfit to stand trial; she was suffering delusions such as believing that a well-known rock musician lived in her neighborhood and played a part in her crime.

#### No Priors

There were other cases that illustrated dependent behavior in clear but much less dramatic ways. Some of the women had no previous record until their involvement with a certain man. One young woman was arrested for the first time because she was keeping stolen cars in her garage for a male acquaintance until he could sell them for parts.

Another story about a girl, a boy and a car is the case of "Nicole". She moved in with her boyfriend after her parents threw her out because she bought a car made by a company other than the one for which her mother worked. Eventually Nicole decided she wanted to get rid of the car, but she needed money immediately and did not have the patience to try to sell it. As a solution to Nicole's dilemma the boyfriend and two other male friends helped her take the car to a neighboring state where they destroyed and abandoned it. A few days after returning home Nicole called the police and reported the car stolen, which resulted in

filing false reports with both the police and the insurance company.

Another woman seemed to have been victimized by men all of her adult life. "Jennifer", who was separated from an abusive husband and worked in a convenience store to support herself and her young daughter, was in what would probably seem to most people to be an intolerable situation. In addition to suffering from a chronic illness and being stuck in a dead end job, she was being threatened with a pink slip and a bad reference by her boss. The way to avoid this, according to him, was for Jennifer to have sex with him whenever he wanted. The situation was to get even worse. Jennifer's estranged husband forced her to write stolen money orders (taken from the convenience store) with the promise that if she did not comply he would take their daughter and Jennifer would never see her again. Jennifer, who had no prior record, was charged and put on probation for her involvement in the money order scheme.

Dependence does not always manifest itself in violence, dramatics (such as murder or complicated schemes), or the presence of a codefendant in the form of a husband or lover. The sad, quiet case of "Beverly" offers proof. She was a nurse who worked for her doctor-husband until he committed suicide leaving her alone, grief-stricken, and suddenly unemployed. She soon got another nursing job, but getting over the death of her husband proved to be more difficult. Beverly turned to a readily available source of pain relief.



She started to inject herself with prescription painkillers. If a patient was to receive a certain dose of medication, such as Demerol, he or she would be given half the prescribed dose and Beverly would take the other half. Inevitably she became addicted and got caught.

#### Common Lifestyle

#### Characteristics

Although they did not always appear to be related to the women's criminal behavior, there were certain recurring themes in many of the files. Alcohol and drug abuse or addiction were very common. Lives dominated by chaos, often beginning in childhood and continuing into adulthood, were also prevalent. Such chaos frequently took the form of the mother engaging in multiple marriages or cohabitation relationships, often more than three and usually producing a very large number of children. This often later became a pattern for the women once they reached adulthood. It was not unusual to look at a file belonging to a 30 year-old woman who has had four or five common-law husbands and was the mother of 6 or 8 children, at least one or two from each union. Several files also mentioned obsessive, energy-consuming affairs with married men, and cases in which the woman was the subject of harassment complaints filed by former boyfriends.

When examining the family background reports of the

women it was often revealed that many of their siblings, particularly brothers, were also incarcerated. A few of the women had endured the murder of a parent during childhood. One woman saw her stepfather kill her mother after she had told her mother that the stepfather was molesting her. Another woman, who was convicted of stabbing her boyfriend, allegedly in self-defense, had also lost her mother and one brother to stabbings.

So many of the files examined for this study chronicled lives filled with violence, despair, and betrayal by parents, men, and often society as a whole. Do women with such life experiences reject conventional values and the gender-appropriate behavior expected by cultural norms? The next section is an examination of the survey, which attempted to measure the extent to which female offenders are bound by the dictates of society.

### Survey Results

Despite such terrible situations in the family and romantic lives of nearly a third of the women in the files that were examined, an even higher percentage of the women who were surveyed showed agreement with at least 50% of the items on the survey. The statements on the survey reflected attitudes of idealism in romance, submission of their own needs to the needs of their romantic partner, dependency on men, and traditional gender role attitudes about

relationships.

### Distribution of Scores

Though the survey originally consisted of fifteen items, a factor analysis performed using the results obtained from the sample of 30 female offenders suggested that four of the items should be eliminated. These items (5, 11, 14, and 15) can be found in Appendix A. The Factor Matrix is shown in Table 4.1. Under "Factor 1" it can be seen that all of the items, except the four that were eliminated, have a fairly strong correlation. A correlation is present if the number following the item begins with at least .5 on a scale of 0 to 1.00. Using this particular table, item 5 was eliminated even though it was in the .5 level because it was rather low in comparison to the .6 and .7 ranges of the retained items. With the exception of item 5, the eliminated items were well below the .5 level.

The possible score range for the eleven remaining items was 0 to 33 with a score of 17 as the midpoint (50th percentile). The actual range of scores that occurred was 1 to 32. The number of women in the sample who scored 17 or higher on the survey was eleven (36.6%).

Table 4.1 Factor Matrix of the Survey Results

	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3	Factor 4	Factor 5
Q1	.71255	.22322	-.22341	-.00361	.38513
Q2	.62537	-.39715	.01252	.50566	.04005
Q3	.58221	-.03862	-.56809	-.11968	.05689
Q4	.64822	-.56243	.03127	.00566	-.02726
Q5	.52715	.54652	-.23416	-.14061	.04396
Q6	.68919	.23699	-.33026	-.04537	.26893
Q7	.62710	.42196	.00459	-.04828	-.49123
Q8	.72957	-.20893	.20463	-.37205	-.10231
Q9	.61294	-.53953	.33489	-.16130	.11969
Q10	.65369	.06037	.09860	-.44917	.01960
Q11	.16852	.27381	.69147	-.21128	.47642
Q12	.62444	.28598	.10380	.01835	-.45103
Q13	.65849	-.42047	-.05623	.35992	-.07803
Q14	.33085	.29807	.66229	.24644	-.15687
Q15	.36716	.42906	.07506	.70151	.21168

#### Highest Levels of Agreement

Of the thirty women surveyed at least fifteen (50%) or more of them answered three particular questions of the eleven remaining after the initial factor analysis with full agreement (Agree was circled). These three questions and the number of women responding with either complete or partial agreement are illustrated in table 4.2. When the responses expressing partial agreement (Agree Somewhat answers) are added, the total number of women responding with at least some level of agreement to these three questions increases to at least twenty-two (73%) in the sample of thirty.

Table 4.2 Survey Items with Highest Agreement Levels

QSTN	<u>Agree</u>		<u>Disagree</u>					
	<u>Somewhat</u>		<u>Somewhat</u>		<u>Disagree</u>			
	n	%	n	%	n	%		
2	15	(50)	8	(26.6)	4	(13.3)	3	(10)
4	15	(50)	7	(23.3)	6	(20)	2	(6.6)
13	16	(53.3)	7	(23.3)	3	(10)	4	(13.3)

Note. (2) "In a perfect relationship the man and woman mean everything to each other." (4) "If I were in love with someone, I would stay with him even if my parents and friends disapproved of the relationship." (13) "I like a man to want to protect me."

#### Highest Levels of Disagreement

There were three questions, also after the initial factor analysis, with a very high number of negative responses, which are shown in table 4.3. These questions were responded to with complete disagreement (Disagree circled) by at least thirteen (43.3%) and up to as many as twenty-seven (90%) of the thirty women. Adding the responses indicating partial disagreement (Disagree Somewhat circled) increases the disagreement level to 70% and above for these three questions.

Table 4.3 Survey Items with Highest Negative Response

QSTN	<u>Agree</u>		<u>Disagree</u>					
	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Disagree</u>				
	n	%	n	%	n	%		
7	1	(3.3)	0	(0)	2	(6.6)	27	(90)
10	3	(10%)	6	(20%)	8	(26.6%)	13	(43.3)
12	1	(3.3)	4	(13.3)	6	(20)	19	(63.3)

Note. (7) "It is better to be in a bad relationship than to be alone." (10) "Instead of risking a fight or argument in close relationships, I would rather not rock the boat." (12) "In a marriage or other relationship I believe that the man should be the boss."

#### Survey Questions Examined by Topic

The questions on the survey came from four divergent sources; each type of set of questions was designed to measure something different. All of the questions from the original survey, the topic explored by question (emotional dependence, romantic idealism, traditional gender role beliefs, or the submission of needs to the needs of men), and the scores for each can be found in Appendix B.

Of the eleven items that remained after the initial phase of the factor analysis, the most interesting results were from the questions that pertained to emotional dependence on men. There were four of these questions on the instrument (2, 6, 7, 13); two of the four (2, 13) had

number (6). These results closely matched some of the information obtained through interviews with criminal justice professionals. Michele Wells, Program Director of The Program Center, and Sue Reichwein, Program Director at Allegheny County Treatment Alternative (ACTA) both stated that about 75% percent of their female clients have been involved in dependent, unhealthy relationships with men. Richard Billak, Ph.D., head of CCA, claimed that the rate is 75-80% for the federal offenders and virtually 100% for the misdemeanants (most of whom are prostitutes or drug offenders).

When the questions dealing with submission of one's needs were made into a category, the percentage of the women surveyed responding with at least some amount of agreement was also rather high for three out of the four questions in this category. The percentages of the sample that expressed complete or partial agreement with the five questions addressing submission of needs were as follows: (9), 63%; (8), 43%; (3), 37%; and (10), 30%.

#### Factor Analysis Rotation and its Effect on the Survey

After the first step of the factor analysis, which resulted in the elimination of four of the survey questions, a rotation was performed to find a stronger correlation among certain items. The Rotated Factor Matrix, shown in

Table 4.4, exhibited a strong factor 1 correlation (above .5) among five of the survey questions. The questions in this category were: 2, 4, 8, 9, and 13. For four (2, 4, 9, 13) out of the five items the correlation was very strong, in the upper .7 or even the .8 range on the scale of 0 to 1.00. Even the lowest correlation, item 8, was almost in the .6 range.

Table 4.4 The Rotated Factor Matrix

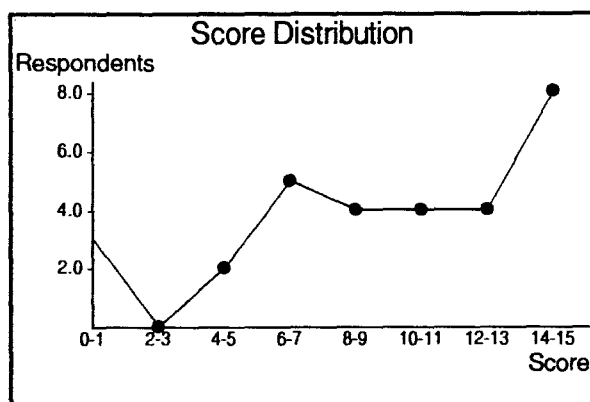
	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3	Factor 4	Factor 5
Q1	.24824	.78826	.09517	.15874	.19638
Q2	.77430	.13104	.06719	-.10210	.41788
Q3	.28786	.68987	.09970	-.32159	-.09272
Q4	.83192	.16289	.09021	-.02689	-.10386
Q5	-.13363	.67739	.40504	.07232	.08427
Q6	.19970	.79544	.15604	.02900	.12966
Q7	.07309	.31217	.84154	-.02793	.05663
Q8	.58478	.29285	.39317	.26597	-.33711
Q9	.81232	.08885	.04855	.32766	-.20443
Q10	.30794	.46748	.36377	.31018	-.31768
Q11	-.02461	.07828	.00103	.91874	.04803
Q12	.19888	.21307	.76979	.02134	.09092
Q13	.77764	.16157	.15417	-.17636	.25196
Q14	.12942	-.18123	.52490	.50885	.37180

When the five questions extracted from the rotation were examined a new pattern to the survey scores was discovered. For these five items the possible score range was 0 to 15. The range of actual scores obtained was 1 to 15. The 50th percentile was a score of 8. Of the thirty women who completed the survey twenty (66.6%) scored at least 8. In fact, twelve of the thirty women (40%) scored at least 12 out of 15, which was a score of 80% or higher. The five questions and scores of the women are shown in



Table 4.5.

Table 4.5 Results of the Rotated Matrix



Survey Items Scored From  
the Rotated Matrix:

(2) "In a perfect relationship the man and woman mean everything to each other." (4) "If I were in love with someone, I would stay with him even if my parents and friends disapproved of the relationship." (8) "In a close relationship, it is my duty to make the other person happy." (9) "One of the worst things I can do is be selfish." (13) "I like a man to want to protect me."

#### Analysis of the Five Items

After the above items were grouped together in the rotation phase of the factor analysis it was necessary to ascertain what common element or concept was shared by all five. Two common themes seemed to be "selflessness" and "unconditional love". Each question suggested participation in altruistic giving or caretaking behavior by the women and a wish that such behavior would be reciprocated. It is interesting to note that much of the literature on dependency examined in Chapter II contained descriptions of various types of self-sacrificing behavior exhibited by women in unhealthy relationships. The role that such elements played in the dynamics of unhealthy relationships

was emphasized in the Isenberg article and the Jack book. Isenberg (1991) wrote about the fantasies of total, complete, and mutual love that were common among women who were in love with criminal men. Jack's (1991, pp. 67-69) description of the woman who tolerated abuse from her husband because he had had a terrible childhood, and she believed her love could heal him, illustrates an example of "selflessness" and "unconditional love" at its most destructive. The consistency of these results and a comparison with the opinions of experts will be examined in the following section.

#### Interpretation of the Results

The files of the 100 women were examined with no prior knowledge of the women's cases, without being able to guarantee a completely heterosexual group (at least one woman in the files was definitely a lesbian), and with no guarantee that the files would even be complete (often the case with some of the transfers from other states). Because of the earlier problems mentioned concerning the file research (incomplete files, secondary source information that may not have been compiled impartially) it was hard to judge the accuracy of these numbers.

The survey was able to be controlled to guarantee a heterosexual sample and all thirty surveys were completely

filled out. This led to the conclusion that the survey results more accurately measured the admitted amount of dependency, romantic idealism, and traditional gender role beliefs among heterosexual female offenders than the file search. The survey also provided much more detailed quantitative results, whether it was examined as a whole or separated into four thematic categories based on the topics of the questions.

When the results of the research are applied to the first two questions under exploration, namely how prevalent are dependent, dysfunctional, or unhealthy relationships among female offenders and what is the female offender's attitude concerning dependency, sex roles, and romance, several different scenarios emerge. Two fairly close percentages were obtained through both the file search and the initial survey results. The file search indicated that 30% of the female offenders had a history of dependent, dysfunctional, or unhealthy relationships. The survey posted two sets of results. The first set suggested that 36.6% of the female offenders had attitudes and beliefs that would make them susceptible to dependent, abusive or exploitive relationships. The second set was much higher at 66.6%. Estimates given by all three of the criminal justice professionals interviewed more closely matched the second set of survey results regarding both the history and attitudes of female offenders.

The answer to the question of how often dependent,

unhealthy romantic attachments played a part in the crimes of women proved difficult to answer. Some of the files gave clear indications that such a relationship had in some way contributed to the crime. Of the 100 files examined, the number whose crimes seem to be related to romantic associations was 21 (21%). All 21 of the cases are a subset encompassed within the 30 files (out of the 100 that were looked at) that documented dependent, dysfunctional relationships. When this second number, 21 out of 30, was computed the connection between dependent dysfunctional romantic relationships and female criminal behavior rose to 70%.

The interviews yielded opinions that were somewhere between the two calculations above of 21% and 70% when they were asked to estimate the amount of crime that may be precipitated by dependent romantic relationships. Sue Reichwein believes that of the 75% of women who have such involvements, it contributes to their crimes about 50% of the time. Dr. Billak also thinks that a majority of women's crime is connected with relationships, while most men commit crimes for gain or profit. The pattern among the offenders he has worked with indicated that the men tended to keep whatever they acquired through crime, while the women were more likely to share a large portion with the husband or boyfriend. These observations are consistent with the concepts of selflessness, caretaking, and unconditional love shared by the five items extracted from the rotation phase

of the factor analysis.

### Summary of the

#### Results

The results of the research for this study proved to be consistent with points and numbers found in the literature review. Of the one hundred files (50 probation and 50 parole) that were examined at Youngstown Adult Probation Authority, 30% contained statements of evidence of dependent, chaotic, dysfunctional, or abusive relationships with men. When these results were broken down into separate categories for probation and parole, the incidence was higher for the parolees than the probationers, 18 out of 50 versus 12 out of 50. Six of the 100 files perused were of women who had killed a boyfriend or husband; in all but one of these cases, physical abuse at the hands of the man was cited as the reason for the killing. Some of these cases read like textbook examples of "the battered woman syndrome". Of these relationships 21 (9 probationers, 12 parolees) could be linked through the file description to the woman's criminal activity. Other findings from the files examined included evidence of childhood physical and sexual abuse, along with family environments plagued by crime, neglect, multiple marriages, and alcohol or drug problems. Many of the problems experienced in childhood were perpetuated into adulthood by the female offender,

becoming part of the lifestyle to which her own children were then subjected.

After the initial phase of the factor analysis, which eliminated four of the original fifteen items, the results of the survey indicated that of the thirty women who participated, eleven had moderately high to very high levels of agreement with the questions which measured dependency, romantic idealism, and belief in traditional gender roles. The rotation phase of the factor analysis grouped five items together as highly correlated. Twenty of the women (66.6%) posted high scores when only these items were scored. This figure was very close to the observations of the professionals interviewed. The possible meaning of the results obtained through all of the research and speculation about solutions for any of the problems discovered during this study will be among the topics examined in Chapter V.

## CHAPTER V

## DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

Summary of the Study

The study sought to explore three areas. How prevalent are dependent, unhealthy romantic relationships with men among female offenders? Do female offenders display high levels of emotional dependence, romantic idealism, and belief in traditional gender role attitudes? How often might such relationships and attitudinal beliefs contribute to the criminal behavior of women?

The literature used for this study came from several different disciplines: Criminal Justice, Women's studies, Sociology, Psychology, and even a television talk show (Montel Williams). The criminal justice material consisted of theoretical and descriptive writings by female experts in the field and books profiling groups of or individual female offenders. The remaining types of books, which were general rather than criminal justice related, examined the topics of gender roles, dependent relationships, love, depression, and self-esteem. The Montel Williams episode featured women who had committed crimes for the men with whom they were romantically involved.

The methodology employed consisted of two main parts. The first part was an examination of 100 files of female offenders who were clients at Adult Probation Authority. Fifty files each of parolees and probationers were taken in

no particular order and searched for evidence of dependent romantic relationships, such as those characterized by abuse, drug and alcohol problems, chaotic lifestyles (such as multiple marriages and many children by several different men). Childhood environments were also explored in a search for backgrounds plagued by physical or sexual abuse, family members involved in crime, or parents who were involved in violent relationships or drug and alcohol abuse.

The second method of research was a survey administered to heterosexual female client volunteers from three criminal justice agencies. The survey originally contained a total of fifteen questions, but four were initially eliminated after performing a factor analysis. Nine of the remaining questions were taken from three other instruments: The Silencing the Self Scale (four questions), the scale from Cunningham and Henderson (three questions), and the scale from Sprecher and Metts (two questions). Two additional questions were specifically designed for this study. Four of the survey questions gauged emotional dependence. Another set of four questions assessed the degree of submission of one's needs to the needs of the partner. One measured belief in traditional gender roles. The remaining two estimated romantic idealism.

Interviews were also conducted with three criminal justice professionals, those who are in charge of the three agencies from which the survey sample was obtained. Some parts of these interviews were used to reinforce information



found on the surveys. The remainder of the information is utilized later in the discussion.

### Discussion of the Results

It was found in this study that at least 30% and possibly up to nearly 70% of women who have committed crimes have a background that includes dependent romantic relationships when the file search, survey results, and the literature review are considered. The file search produced a 30% estimate of female offenders who have a history of dependent romantic relationships. The survey initially presented results that indicated that 36.6% of the women in the sample demonstrated a propensity toward the acceptance of behavior and beliefs conducive to the establishment of dependent, dysfunctional, and abusive relationships. After the rotation phase of the factor analysis the survey results indicated that 66.6% of the sample may have had such a propensity.

Two books that featured examinations of the domestic/romantic backgrounds of groups of female offenders supplied findings similar to the first survey results. In Offending Women: Female lawbreakers and the criminal justice system by Anne Worrall (1990), a table of characteristics of fifteen women illustrated that five (33%) had a history of abusive relationships with men. Women, Crime, and Poverty by Pat Carlen supplied information on thirty-nine female

offenders. When the eight who were lesbians, and the five who were under age eighteen were subtracted from the list, of the remaining twenty-six, eight (30%) had been involved in abusive relationships.

Interviews with three criminal justice professionals provided much higher estimates, 75% or three out of four. This number was based on what these professionals discovered in practice during the many interactions with their female clients. On the basis of the results of the research for this study it can be concluded that at least one in three female offenders has a pattern of involvement in dependent, unhealthy, dysfunctional romantic relationships.

The results of the research and the opinions of the criminal justice professionals who were interviewed indicated that abusive, unhealthy, dysfunctional relationships with men, particularly relationships exhibiting a tendency toward emotional dependence, are a fact of life for many female offenders. Using this general consensus as a starting point, the next step in this study is an examination of some of the specific problems of a proportion of female offenders found through the file search, survey, and discussions with criminal justice professionals. The most common problems among female offenders who have a history of emotional dependence and dysfunctional relationships can be addressed by examining some of the literature about dependence, self-esteem, and gender role expectations used earlier in this study.

Traditional feminine gender role socialization of women can cause harm in many different ways. Dependency is often one of these harmful results. It is pointed out by Cowan, Bommersbach, and Curtis (1995) that dependency and inequality are intrinsically and culturally related. The more dependent or codependent the woman is, the less power she feels in the relationship. The person on whom one is emotionally dependent holds the power to determine one's self-esteem and self-image. This phenomenon is more prevalent among women because their "sense of self is more relationally based than men" (Thompson, 1995).

In addition to dependence, socialization that encourages women to put substantial emphasis and importance on relationships with men is linked to depression. This is particularly true of the woman who is hoping to marry a man who will provide all of the financial support. Studies have indicated that depressed women recover faster if they are employed than if they stay at home (Rothblum, 1982).

Feminine gender role socialization often results in a loss of self-esteem. According to an article by Henderson and Cunningham, women are socialized from childhood to be dependent on men and much of their self-esteem can rest on whether or not they are involved in a relationship (1993). Yet, relationships that are destructive may be clung to, further eroding the self-esteem.

Dependency and loss of self-esteem are especially evident in the relationship patterns of many female

offenders. When one destructive relationship ends it is very quickly followed by another. As Michele Wells, Director of The Program Center (TPC), puts it, "they will come out of one relationship and a week or two later they are in another relationship, with the first person who seems interested". She attributes this pattern to low self-esteem and a feeling that they need a man to validate them as women; that to be a real woman one must be sexually involved with a man. Dr. Billak agrees with Wells that relationships are very important to the female offender, much more than to male offenders, stating that they go from "monogamous relationship to monogamous relationship". This is in contrast to the male offenders he has worked with, who, especially the younger ones, tend to be involved with several women at once. Sue Reichwein, Director of Allegheny County Treatment Alternative (ACTA), claims that the women she has worked with usually get involved in relationships for emotional reasons while the men seek relationships for the physical aspects.

The female offender also finds it very important to have a man who is protective of her. This was mentioned time and time again by offenders interviewed in the book Street Woman by Miller (1989) and the same type of question on the survey, number (13), was answered with some type of agreement by 77% of the women in the study sample. In fact, this question was the one that had the highest amount of agreement on the entire survey.

If relationships with men are given a priority in the lives of women in general, the female offender seems to put even more importance on having a man. Such an attitude can jeopardize the rehabilitation or recovery from addiction of the female offender. The Program Center has had problems with both of these situations. Michele Wells described how a Narcotics Anonymous (NA) or Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meeting can become like an episode of Love Connection, "many women will only start going to meetings because they saw someone there that they are attracted to ... they start getting all dressed up like they're going to a cabaret." Like the women interviewed by Miller, women in The Program Center also expressed a dislike, or at least a distrust of other women. Part of the NA or AA programs that many of them are involved in emphasize the need to form a support system of female friends. According to Wells the women are not receptive to this idea; "they seem to have no use for other women, they don't want to have relationships with women, they don't trust other women, but they have a tendency to trust men."

The tendency to be so trusting of the men in their lives can also cause problems with the rehabilitation of the women, particularly if the man with whom they are involved has played a role in the woman's in criminal activity. It was described in an earlier chapter how women often commit crimes that are in a category that is seen as feminine. Klein and Kress (1979) describe the second-best position

that the female offender typically occupies in the world of criminal activity, comparing it to the role occupied by non-criminal women; "they are no more big-time drug dealers than they are finance capitalists" (p. 87). Three basic positions that women occupy in the criminal world, according to the authors, are the petty criminal (such as shoplifting and bad checks), accomplices to men in more serious offenses (such as robbery), and in selling themselves by way of their sexuality through prostitution (Klein & Kress, In Adler & Simon, 1979, pp. 82-90). The female offenders who are clients at The Program Center are equally entrenched in the inequality of the criminal subculture. When the women are at The Program Center the men in their lives often feel threatened. They realize that if the treatment received in The Program Center is successful the woman will take back control over her life. Wells explained the presence of the fence around the facility with the story of a prostitute who walked away from her chance at rehabilitation when her boyfriend, who was also her pimp, found her alone sweeping a stairway in the building. He told her he really needed her to work the streets for him; she left immediately.

Such problems with dependency, abusive relationships, and lack of control over their lives has some psychological basis. Dr. Billak, who is a psychologist, states that many of the female offenders he has worked with have suffered from abusive backgrounds which results in a "victimization syndrome". Such a mindset leads women who are in abusive

relationships to "feel trapped, and think that the abuse is caused by her own inadequacy as opposed to the male pathology." He explains that a woman in this type of situation will stay in the relationship because she thinks that this relationship, no matter how horrible, is the best she can have. She sustains herself by "living between traumas with some semblance of stability knowing full well that the next abusive situation is in the near future."

Views that match those of Dr. Billak can be found in criminal justice literature. Anne Worrall (1990) talked to British female offenders about their marriages. Her interviews revealed much domestic violence which was almost always rationalized and accepted by the women. One of the women, named Jackie, was full of optimism about saving her marriage. After the end of her husband's prison sentence for assaulting her she planned to work on their relationship (p. 147). Another woman, Eileen, talked about her husband's abuse with resignation and self-sacrifice. Even though she knows that he will hit her when he is released from prison she will accept it saying "If he comes out and he feels better after hitting me, let him hit me" (p. 148). An attitude as self-sacrificing, even martyr-like, as Eileen's may be very common. The rotation phase of the factor analysis that was performed on the survey used in this study resulted in a grouping of five items that all shared a theme of selflessness and unconditional love. These five items were discussed and illustrated in detail in Chapter IV.

Although the mental state of the women and the men in their lives has a detrimental effect on treatment and rehabilitation, the part played by the system itself must not be ignored. The criminal justice system has a history of judging female offenders on how well their behavior fits in with socialization into the feminine gender role, particularly the role of the woman in the family setting (Carlen, 1988, p. 143).

Worrall also discovered some sexist attitudes among some of the Probation Officers that she interviewed. Several of them were very willing to put the burden of maintaining relationships almost entirely on the female. This was made especially obvious when the Probation Officers spoke about the female partners of men under supervision. Getting the females involved in the supervision of their men as volunteers at the particular facility is common practice. As a result of the presence of the women who are involved with male clients, many of the P.O.'s have observed the dynamics of the relationships. The women tended to be more harshly judged than the men as a result of these observations. When a relationship failed the woman was usually blamed. If the woman tried to seek any enjoyment or pleasure out of the relationship she was seen as manipulative. And if she changed boyfriends among the clients or was seeing more than one man at a time some of the P.O.'s came to the conclusion that she may be a prostitute; "using us as a sort of picking up spot", stated



one of the P.O.'s interviewed (Worrall, 1990, pp. 120-121).

Treatment: Practices  
and Possibilities

As discussed above, the female offender may seem to be pushed into a role of dependency, passiveness, and resigned acceptance of abuse from all sides; by her own mentality, by her male partner, by society, and even sometimes by the criminal justice system itself. Both the literature that was read for this study and the interviews with criminal justice professionals yielded information on treatment methods that either could be or are being utilized to attempt to reverse such tendencies.

It was previously mentioned that therapy can sometimes be detrimental if it is done in a way that reinforces dependency and the gender role socialization that has been a contributing factor to some of the problems suffered by women. Rothblum (1982) described some of the criticism that feminists have voiced about psychotherapy and behavior therapy. Many objected to a perceived endorsement of the status quo, claiming that it led the therapist to focus treatment on assisting women in molding themselves within the feminine sex-role and second class status of her gender. Susan A. Basow expanded on this criticism in her book Sex Role Stereotypes: Traditions and Alternatives, (1980) stating that traditional psychotherapy may discriminate

against women by "looking for personal solutions to social problems (a form of blaming the victim) and by reinforcing powerlessness through the hierarchical nature of the therapist/client relationship" (p. 307). Both Rothblum and Basow discussed remedies for this situation. Rothblum listed the standards for feminist therapy as devised by The Federations of Professional Women as including:

- \* A more egalitarian relationship between the client and therapist.
- \* An understanding of the effects of sexism, discrimination, and sex-role socialization on the development and maintenance of problems in men and women.
- \* Encouragement of expanded role options for men and women.

In addition to the points above, feminist therapy advocates social change for women in terms of societally-prescribed roles. The role of women in the family is one area subject to change. Feminist therapy seeks such change in part, through "redefining the responsibilities of family members, equalizing power, questioning sex role stereotypes in relationships" (Rothblum, 1982).

Basow described another take on the concept, resocialization, which stresses changing from a stereotyped to an androgynous (a blending of positive characteristics associated with both genders) personality style. Clients are encouraged to focus nurturing feelings on themselves and

a more equal relationship between the client and therapist is emphasized (Basow, 1980, pp. 307-308).

In her book, Silencing The Self: Women and Depression, Dana Crowley Jack (1991) discussed some of the moral themes that may be behind some women's depression, submission, and dependence. Such a focus on assigning moral values is a particularly common trait in the way women assess themselves in terms of whether they believe that they are worthy of being loved. Typical of this view is the woman who thinks that her self-worth rests on being a good wife and mother. When the marriage of such a woman fails she will completely blame herself (pp. 195-197). The process of breaking this type of belief system requires her to question the rules of the dominant system (status quo) and learn to change the standards by which she judges herself. This will probably not be easy; these beliefs are nearly always bound by culture and the expectations of both a woman's family and male partner. Such standards can be changed jointly through the woman's experiences and through therapy designed to combat the elements that tie her to the set of harmful moral standards. As the woman has more and more experiences that cannot be made to fit the mold of what society dictates as a woman's role in relationships (to be kind, good, compliant, nurturing, and do not demand too much or you will end up alone) she will begin to analyze the status quo. The next step will be the replacement of the status quo with a standard that no longer requires that she silence herself.

Therapy's role in the process is to recognize the culturally imposed stifling of women's expression; of anger, assertiveness, and identity, and to provide a safe environment for their emergence (pp. 196-197, 202-204).

Other ideas to reverse dependence, submission, and sex role socialization included in the literature focused on education and socialization itself. The former can be accomplished by several means. It can be done through actual courses on gender role socialization (Rothblum, 1982). It can be done by teaching all girls, starting in childhood, to plan for self-sufficiency through a career goal, rather than to expect to find a man to take care of them. Women who are already in a pattern of dependency can be taught to start protecting themselves. Instead of analyzing, making excuses, and neglecting to put their own protection first in an abusive relationship because of concern about upsetting the partner, they should learn to look after themselves without feeling guilty. An example given to explain this was the story of a woman who planned to tell her violent husband she was leaving him in person, even though he would probably attack her, because she was afraid of hurting him by not telling him face-to-face (Kasl, 1989, pp. 343-344). Women and girls can also be taught problem solving skills, assertiveness, autonomy, and leadership (Basow, 1980, pp. 309-310; see also McBride, 1990).

The second factor, socialization, involves changing the

way children are raised and educated. Parents would be taught how to raise a child in an androgynous atmosphere, such as by fostering expression of positive traits associated with both sexes in their children, regardless of gender. Girls would be taught not only to be sensitive and expressive, but also to be independent and adventurous. Boys would be taught in the same fashion. Schools would be changed so they would not promote sex typing in any way, whether it be in the instructional materials or in the attitudes of the teachers (Basow, 1980, pp. 311-312).

The criminal justice professionals who were interviewed focused on some of the issues of treatment that have been described along with a few new ideas. The Program Center, Allegheny County Treatment Alternative (ACTA), and Community Corrections Association, Inc. (CCA) all encourage the women to become more self-reliant through helping them improve educational and job skills. All three agencies also help them deal with any alcohol or drug addictions they may have.

When dependent, harmful relationships are a problem, CCA's first step toward a solution is the removal of the woman from the situation. Because CCA is a residential facility, it is not difficult to remove the client from her home. Dr. Billak believes that it is very important to physically separate the woman from the situation; that it is required to effectively help her. After the woman begins to mentally and emotionally emerge from the relationship, the staff at CCA "begins to focus on the new set of options that

the woman may have failed to consider" while in the relationship. The woman also participates in group therapy that analyzes the dynamics of the situation from the standpoint that she was a "victim rather than a willing participant" and helps her learn to establish healthy relationships. He describes this breaking of a pattern of destructive relationships as a long, difficult process that is both psychological and behavioral. This is because many of the women have suffered from abuse since childhood and have little or no self-esteem and no concept of what constitutes a healthy relationship.

ACTA, like CCA, is a coed residential facility, but all of the clients are addicted to drugs or alcohol. One way that the agency tries to aid women who are emotionally dependent is to help them replace harmful relationships with positive, supportive relationships, such as with other people in Narcotics Anonymous (NA) or Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). They also have gender groups, where men and women are separated, so they can talk over any issues that they might not feel able to discuss with the opposite sex present. For the many women who are mothers there are parenting programs that teach them that they can take care of themselves and their children and help them to break any cycle of abuse that may be present. This particular program takes place at the third agency profiled, The Program Center.

The Program Center, TPC for short, uses several methods to lessen dependency on unhealthy relationships with men.

Most of the women are in therapy and they are encouraged to attend the women's group that meets at the facility. For those women who are in NA or AA there is encouragement to form supportive friendships with other women. In fact, they are told that if they are really serious about their recovery they should stay out of romantic relationships for a year so that they will focus all of their energy on themselves and their recovery. The staff also tries to teach through example by presenting themselves as role models of independence and healthy relationships. According to Michele Wells, the women employed in the center come from all types of domestic situations. Some are married, some are single, some are married with children, others are divorced or single with children. They try to show clients who are in similar domestic circumstances that there is a better way than to stay in an abusive relationship or to go from bad relationship to bad relationship. They demonstrate through their own lives that if they can be good single parents, if they can hold a job, if they can form a healthy relationship, then so can the client. They try to show the female offenders that they deserve better, and that they can do better.

Implications for  
Future Research

This study was done from a sociological and criminological perspective. Although some aspects of the research were psychological, that discipline was not a large part of the study. However, the topic could be adjusted and researched from a much more psychological angle. A researcher who has a background in psychology could focus more on the mental and emotional aspects of dependency and the female offender. Testing instruments from the field of psychology could be administered in place of or in addition to the survey that was used for this study. Possibilities for therapy could be a much larger part of such a project and could be written by and for those who have extensive study in such fields as counseling and psychology.

Another way this study could be done differently, but which was not possible at this time, would be through the inclusion of in-depth offender interviews during which they are asked not only about their romantic relationships, but also about their criminal backgrounds. This would be a good approach for one who is employed in a criminal justice profession because he or she would have much freer access to the offender population.

Other possibilities could involve various group comparisons. Attitudes of both female offenders and women without a criminal background could be compared by



conducting interviews or administering the survey from this study to both groups. Female offenders who have been involved in abusive relationships could be compared with those who have not. An additional idea, mentioned by Dr. Billak, would be to compare personality/psychological differences between battered women who have criminal records, or have become involved in crime through such relationships, with those who do not have criminal records.

Another variation would be to adjust some of the survey questions so that it could be administered to either sex. This new gender-neutral instrument could be completed by two groups, one consisting of male offenders and the other of female offenders. Any differences by gender could be compared and discussed. Such a readjusted survey could be given to separate groups of heterosexual and lesbian female offenders and any differences by sexual orientation could be analyzed.

The possibilities for variations on this theme, and for the use of or development of different research instruments are vast. The focus options are many and varied. Research could be done from any ideological angle or from any of several fields. Others will probably find ways that have not been mentioned or thought of during this study.

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Appendix A: The Original 15 Question Survey

1. If I love someone I know I can make the relationship work, despite any obstacles.

*Agree Agree Somewhat Disagree Somewhat Disagree*

2. In a perfect relationship the man and woman mean everything to each other.

*Agree Agree Somewhat Disagree Somewhat Disagree*

3. Caring means putting the other person's needs in front of my own.

*Agree Agree Somewhat Disagree Somewhat Disagree*

4. If I were in love with someone, I would stay with him even if my parents and friends disapproved of the relationship.

*Agree Agree Somewhat Disagree Somewhat Disagree*

5. In a close relationship I don't usually care what we do, as long as the other person is happy.

*Agree Agree Somewhat Disagree Somewhat Disagree*

6. I feel empty if/when the man in my life isn't with me.

*Agree Agree Somewhat Disagree Somewhat Disagree*

7. It is better to be in a bad relationship than to be alone.

*Agree Agree Somewhat Disagree Somewhat Disagree*

8. In a close relationship, it is my duty to make the other person happy.

*Agree Agree Somewhat Disagree Somewhat Disagree*

9. One of the worst things I can do is to be selfish.

*Agree Agree Somewhat Disagree Somewhat Disagree*

10. Instead of risking a fight or argument in close relationships, I would rather not rock the boat.

*Agree Agree Somewhat Disagree Somewhat Disagree*

## Appendix A cont.

11. While growing up I was always told how important it was for me to have a boyfriend, and to get married as soon as possible.

*Agree Agree Somewhat Disagree Somewhat Disagree*

12. In a marriage or other relationship I believe that the man should be the boss.

*Agree Agree Somewhat Disagree Somewhat Disagree*

13. I like a man to want to protect me.

*Agree Agree somewhat Disagree Somewhat Disagree*

14. I would not want to have a serious relationship with a younger man.

*Agree Agree Somewhat Disagree Somewhat Disagree*

15. It's important to me to have a man in my life who cares about me above all other women.

*Agree Agree Somewhat Disagree Somewhat Disagree*

1, 4 from S. Sprecher & S. Metts (1989)

2, 6, 13, 15 from S. N. Henderson & J. D. Cunningham (1993)

3, 5, 8, 9, 10 from D. C. Jack (1991)

7, 11, 12, 14 from S. Vincent

Appendix B: Results of the Original 15 Question Survey

## Results and Percentages for all Questions

R1. If I love someone I know I can make the relationship work, despite any obstacles.

R					
Agree	Agree Somewhat	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree		
7	10	6	7		
23.3%	33.3%	20%	23.3%		

D2. In a perfect relationship the man and woman mean everything to each other.

D					
Agree	Agree Somewhat	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree		
15	8	4	3		
50%	26.6%	13.3%	10%		

S3. Caring means putting the other person's needs in front of my own.

S					
Agree	Agree Somewhat	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree		
4	7	10	9		
13.3%	23.3%	33.3%	30%		

R4. If I were in love with someone, I would stay with him even if my parents and friends disapproved of the relationship.

R					
Agree	Agree Somewhat	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree		
15	7	6	2		
50%	23.3%	20%	6.6%		

S5. In a close relationship I don't usually care what we do, as long as the other person is happy.

S					
Agree	Agree Somewhat	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree		
2	4	10	14		
6.6%	13.3%	33.3%	46.6%		

## Appendix B cont.

D6. I feel empty if/when the man in my life isn't with me.

D

Agree	Agree Somewhat	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree
6	6	6	12
20%	20%	20%	40%

D7. It is better to be in a bad relationship than to be alone.

D

Agree	Agree Somewhat	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree
1	0	2	27
3.3%	0%	6.6%	90%

S8. In a close relationship, it is my duty to make the other person happy.

S

Agree	Agree Somewhat	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree
5	8	5	12
16.6%	26.6%	16.6%	40%

S9. One of the worst things I can do is to be selfish.

S

Agree	Agree Somewhat	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree
11	8	3	8
36.6%	26.6%	10%	26.6%

S10. Instead of risking a fight or argument in close relationships, I would rather not rock the boat.

S

Agree	Agree Somewhat	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree
3	6	8	13
10%	20%	26.6%	43.3%

T11. While growing up I was always told how important it was for me to have a boyfriend, and to get married as soon as possible.

T

Agree	Agree Somewhat	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree
1	0	5	24
3.3%	0%	16.6%	80%



## Appendix B cont.

T12. In a marriage or other relationship I believe that the man should be the boss.

T				
Agree	Agree Somewhat	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree	
1	4	6	19	
3.3%	13.3%	20%	63.3%	

D13. I like a man to want to protect me.

D				
Agree	Agree Somewhat	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree	
16	7	3	4	
53.3%	23.3%	10%	13.3%	

T14. I would not want to have a serious relationship with a younger man.

T				
Agree	Agree Somewhat	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree	
5	7	6	12	
16.6%	23.3%	20%	40%	

D15. It's important to me to have a man in my life who cares about me above all other women.

D				
Agree	Agree Somewhat	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree	
16	6	4	4	
53.3%	20%	13.3%	13.3%	

- 1, 4 from S. Sprecher & S. Metts (1989)  
 2, 6, 13, 15 from S. N. Henderson & J. D. Cunningham (1993)  
 3, 5, 8, 9, 10 from D. C. Jack (1991)  
 7, 11, 12, 14 from S. Vincent

The capital letter in front of each question and in left upper corner of result box signifies the topic of each question.

- D = Emotional Dependence question (2, 6, 7, 13, 15)  
 R = Romantic Idealism question (1, 4)  
 S = Submission of needs question (3, 5, 8, 9, 10)  
 T = Traditional Gender Role question (11, 12, 14)

Dr. Richard Billak  
Mr. John Geras  
RE: Susan Vincent's Thesis

The question to be addressed in my thesis consists of the following elements: How often do female offender's relationships with men play a contributing role in the crimes they commit? What is the nature of female offenders relationships with men, specifically do they tend to have dependent, unhealthy relationships (characterized by abuse, an eagerness to please that extends into a willingness to engage in criminal activity, criminal involvement that serves to assist or benefit the romantic partner in some way, putting the man at the top of her list of priorities, such as above children, friends, and family)? And, do women who have been convicted of crimes have a strong belief in traditional gender roles and idealistic expectations concerning love relationships that produces in them a tendency to form unhealthy and/or dependent attachments? In the discussion section of my thesis I will try to provide a possible treatment/prevention model for those with a tendency toward criminal activity related to dependent romantic relationships.

The first part of the question has been answered through my research in the closed probation and parole files at Adult Probation Authority in Youngstown, and to some extent through my review of the literature. The second part of the question has also partially been answered through the file research and literature review. The rest of the answer will come from interviews with professionals working in the criminal justice field, such as probation/parole officers and police officers and others working in relevant fields like psychology and women's studies. Such interviews will also help with the formation of a possible treatment model. It is this last part of the question, and less directly the devising of a treatment model, that will be the focus of my research at

Community Corrections Association. I have put together a 15-question survey with a Likert type of scale. My goal is to have these questions answered by as many willing heterosexual female clients as possible. The confidentiality of the women will be protected, in fact, I do not need to know their names or the details of their criminal activity because that is not a part of what I am measuring at CCA. The questions are taken from three different sources: "The Silencing the Self Scale" created by Dana Crowley Jack and featured in her book *Silencing The Self: Women and Depression*, a journal article by Susan N. Henderson and John D. Cunningham (1993) "Women's Emotional Dependence on Men: Scale Construction and Test of Russianoff's Hypothesis" (*Sex Roles*, 28, 5/6, 1993), and "Development of the 'Romantic Beliefs Scale' and examination of the effects of gender and gender-role orientation" (Susan Sprecher & Sandra Metts, *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 6(1989) 387-411). Additionally, I have designed four of the questions myself. I have included a copy of the questionnaire that I will be administering.

Thank you very much for your time and cooperation. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (216) 399-1178.

Sincerely,

Susan D. Vincent

Dr. Richard Billak  
Mr. John Geras  
RE: Susan Vincent's Thesis

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Thank you very much for your time and cooperation. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (216) 399-1178.

Sincerely,

Susan D. Vincent

2637-F South St. S.E.  
Warren, Ohio 44483

February 28, 1996

Michele Wells  
The Program Center  
3342 5th Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

I am a student in the Master's program for Criminal Justice at Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio in the process of writing my thesis. Because I was unable to reach you by phone, I am writing you this letter to inquire about the possibility of conducting some of my research at your facility, to explain the nature of my research, and to address possible concerns (such as confidentiality). I was given your name and phone number by Alyssa O'Toole after calling the Program for Female Offenders and discussing my research with her. I have also talked to Sue Reichwein and am planning to do research at ACTA.

The question to be addressed in my thesis consists of the following elements: How often do female offender's relationships with men play a contributing role in the crimes they commit? What is the nature of female offenders relationships with men, specifically do they tend to have dependent, unhealthy relationships (characterized by abuse, an eagerness to please that extends into a willingness to engage in criminal activity, criminal involvement that serves to assist or benefit the romantic partner in some way, putting the man at the top of her list of priorities, such as above children, friends, and family)? And, do women who have been convicted of crimes have a strong belief in traditional gender roles and idealistic expectations concerning love relationships that produces in them a tendency to form unhealthy and/or dependent attachments? In the discussion section of my thesis I will try to provide a possible treatment/prevention model for those with a tendency toward

criminal activity related to dependent romantic relationships.

The first part of the question has been answered through previous research in the closed probation and parole files at Adult Probation Authority in Youngstown, and to some extent through my review of the literature. The second part of the question has also partially been answered through the file research and literature review. The rest of the answer will come from interviews with professionals working in the criminal justice field, such as probation/parole officers and police officers and others working in relevant fields like psychology and women's studies. Such interviews will also help with the formation of a possible treatment model. It is this last part of the question, and less directly the devising of a treatment model, that will be the focus of my research at ACTA, a facility located in Youngstown called Community Corrections Association, and, hopefully, at The Program Center. I have put together a 15-question survey. My goal is to have these questions answered by as many willing heterosexual female clients as possible. The confidentiality of the women will be protected, in fact, I do not need to know their names or the details of their criminal activity because that is not a part of what I am measuring at any of these facilities. The questions are taken from three different sources: "The Silencing the Self Scale" created by Dana Crowley Jack and featured in her book *Silencing The Self: Women and Depression*, a journal article by Susan N. Henderson and John D. Cunningham (1993) "Women's Emotional Dependence on Men: Scale Construction and Test of Russianoff's Hypothesis" (*Sex Roles*, 28, 5/6, 1993), and "Development of the 'Romantic Beliefs Scale' and examination of the effects of gender and gender-role orientation" (Susan Sprecher & Sandra Metts, *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 6(1989) 387-411). Additionally, I have designed four of the questions myself. I have included two

copies (one for you and one for Ms. Reichwein) of the questionnaire that I will be using.

Thank you very much for your time and cooperation. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (216) 399-1178.

Sincerely,

Susan D. Vincent





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Youngstown State University / Youngstown, Ohio 44555-0001

Criminal Justice Department  
17 July 1995

TO: Ms. Jill Goldhart

FROM: Susan D. Vincent  
2637-F South St. S.E.  
Warren, OH 44483  
(216) 399-1178

RE: Research Proposal

I am a student in the Master of Science program in Criminal Justice at Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio. I have begun research for a thesis that will be exploring female criminality and its connection with codependency in romantic relationships with men. Through some of my coursework and discussions with faculty and other students who are currently employed in the criminal justice field, I have learned that it is common for the female criminal to have acted, often in large part, with the desire to help, gain (or keep) the approval or love of, or prolong a relationship with a man. Also, in many of these cases of female criminal activity, the relationship with the man who is the recipient of such efforts is very dysfunctional; physical or emotional abuse and drug use are common.

Although what I have described above appears to be a widespread problem it does not seem to have been addressed in Criminal Justice literature. In my thesis I plan to not only describe and research female criminal behavior and codependent romantic relationships, but to attempt to suggest ways that counseling of such women could be changed to better meet their needs. The portion of my research that will involve your organization will consist of my looking through the case files of women who have been clients in order to discover what percentage fit the profile of criminal activity combined with such codependent romantic relationships.

Identifying characteristics such as names, addresses, towns in which the activity occurred, or physical descriptions will not be used in the research data or included in the thesis. Examples of typical situations will probably be described, but they will not be described in a way that would identify the people involved. An example of how the description might appear would be along the lines of:

"Subject A is a white woman in her late 20's who was arrested when she attempted to sell drugs to an undercover officer. Police learned that she was selling the drugs for her boyfriend because she had a much less extensive record and the courts would be easier on her. The police department knew the boyfriend through his lengthy record, which included several domestic violence

2637-F South St. S.E.  
Warren, Ohio 44483

September 7, 1995

Dr. Lamar Johnson  
Bureau of Mental Health Services  
Department of Corrections  
1050 Freeway Dr. North  
Columbus, Ohio 43229

Dear Dr. Johnson:

I am writing you this letter in order to clarify the method of research I will be utilizing at the Adult Probation and Parole office in Youngstown, Ohio. I have no pre-set client list from the agency where I will be conducting the research or from any other agency. My research will consist of looking through the files of offenders who have been processed through the Adult Probation and Parole office and pulling and examining the files of women in order to ascertain through the offenders' background information contained in the files whether or not they meet criteria that would indicate a pattern of dependency, or codependency, in their romantic relationships with men. How dependent or codependent relationships might have a link to the women's offenses is of particular interest. I will then record totals of how many files of women were looked at and how many out of the total meet the criteria indicating the type of relationship examined.

My criteria list (in short):

Was the woman involved in any kind of exclusive heterosexual relationship at the time the offense was committed?

Does the woman have any history of involvement in relationships in which she was abused (physically, threatened, terrorized) and police became involved?

If the woman has children has she stayed in a relationship with a man that was detrimental to her children?

Did the woman have any prior offenses; if so, how serious (felony, misdemeanor); did the man have a record, participate in the offense with her, benefit or stand to benefit from her offense?

Criteria that are met will be tallied and the degree of dependency or codependency in each woman's background will be assessed. Certain cases which seem to epitomize dependent or

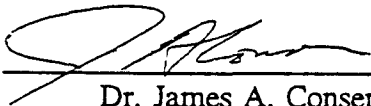
arrests for attacks on A who always ended up dropping the charges. When A called her boyfriend from the police station he refused to help her or admit to any part in her activities. He has since left town."

I will also be conducting interviews with women at another agency to measure their belief in traditional sex roles to ascertain, in part, what should be emphasized in the counseling of female offenders whose criminality is caused or aggravated by codependent romantic relationships with men. I expect that my research at your facility will last 4-5 weeks and I will be visiting 2-3 times a week. I am willing to meet with other department officials, if necessary, to address questions or concerns regarding my research. I would appreciate the opportunity to use the records in your agency to assist and expand the research scope of my thesis.

Thank you for considering my request.

---

Susan D. Vincent



---

Dr. James A. Conser  
Graduate Director

codependent relationships will be profiled, but no identifying details will be included and their names will be changed.

I hope that I have managed to address any questions or misgivings that you may have. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at (216) 399-1178.

Sincerely,

Susan D. Vincent



# Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

1050 Freeway Drive, North  
Columbus, Ohio 43226

George V. Voinovich, Governor

Reginald A. Wilkinson, Director

November 17, 1995

Susan D. Vincent  
2637-F South St. S.E.  
Warren, OH 44483

Re: *"Female Criminality and it's Connection with Codependency in Romantic Relationships with Men"* - Youngstown State University

Dear Ms. Vincent:

The Human Subjects Research Review Committee has reviewed and approved your proposal on the above captioned topic. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction appreciates your interest in doing research in this area with this population.

A copy of your proposal will be forwarded to the Division of Parole and Community Services for final approval from Jill Goldhart, Deputy Director. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me call at (614) 752-1733.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Lamar Johnson", enclosed in a large, hand-drawn oval.

J. Lamar Johnson, Psy.D., Chairman  
Human Subjects Research Review Committee

cc: Jill Goldhart, Deputy Director of Parole and Community Services  
Human Subjects Research Review Committee Members  
Correspondence  
File

/gjs/c:hsrr/vincent.apr



Ohio Quality Corrections . . .

. . . Quality Services through Partnership

