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domestic violence information guide

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be informed

“ Start by doing what’s necessary;
then do what’s possible; and suddenly
you are doing the impossible.”

—Francis of Assisi

if you are a victim or survivor of domestic violence...

This booklet is primarily for you. It is intended to help you in your day-to-day efforts to stay safe. However, you are the best judge of what is safe for you and your family.

Note: *Keep this booklet in a safe place as your abuser may be able to use this information against you.*

if you know someone who is being abused...

This booklet will tell you how you can be most helpful to victims of domestic violence who are your friends, family, neighbors, acquaintances, co-workers and/or employees. Professionals should also find this guide useful in their efforts to provide empowering and supportive assistance to someone experiencing domestic violence.

what is domestic violence?

Domestic violence is commonly described as a pattern of learned behavior in which one person uses physical, sexual, spiritual and/or emotional abuse to control another person. This behavior consists of multiple incidents of abuse. The criminal behaviors include physical assault (hitting, choking, pushing, shoving, etc.), sexual abuse (unwanted, forced sexual activity) and stalking. Although emotional, psychological and financial abuse are not always criminal behaviors, they are forms of domestic abuse and may lead to criminal behaviors of abuse. In abusive relationships, one person is exerting power and control over the other. Anyone of any gender, race, ethnicity, religion, and background can be a victim of domestic violence.



be aware

recognizing forms of abuse

Understanding domestic violence means being aware of the many different things abusers do to control their partners. If your partner restricts your personal freedom or makes you afraid, you may be a victim of domestic violence. The following are some of the most common tactics used by abusers to control their partners.

emotional and psychological abuse...

- Being ridiculed for your beliefs, race, heritage, class, religion or sexual orientation.
- Being continually criticized and called names.
- Being threatened with harm to you, your family or your pets.
- Being denied approval, appreciation or affection as punishment.
- Being manipulated with lies, contradiction and mind games.
- Being convinced you are to blame for the abuse.



- Being harassed about affairs that your partner imagines are occurring.
- Being prevented from seeking work outside of the home or forced to be the sole provider of the relationship.
- Being stalked or followed.

physical abuse...

- Being pushed, shoved, kicked, slapped, bitten, choked, hit or punched.
- Being locked out of your home.
- Being denied help when ill, injured or pregnant.
- Having a weapon used against you.
- Being kept, by physical force, from leaving.
- Having objects thrown at you.
- Being abandoned in a dangerous situation.
- Being injured on parts of the body where bruises and cuts do not show.
- Your partner limits your access to healthcare.

sexual abuse...

- Being treated as a sex object.
- Being forced to dress more sexually than you wish.
- Being forced to perform or watch sexual acts against your will.
- Having unwanted sexual acts forced on you.
- Being forced to have sex after a physical assault, when you are ill or as a condition of the relationship.

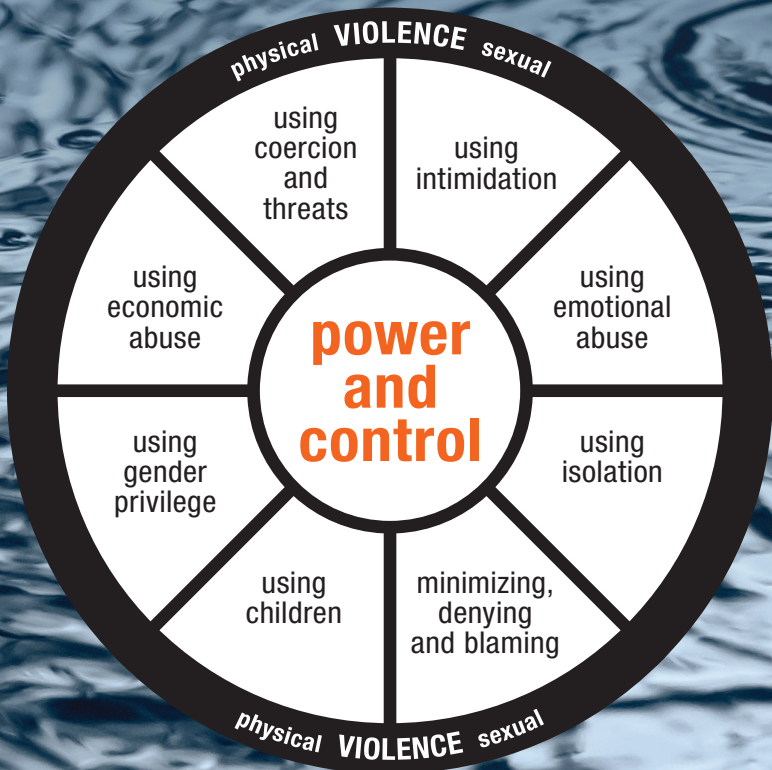
economic abuse...

- Being denied access to family assets like bank accounts, credit cards or automobiles.
- Your partner controls all the finances, forces you to account for what you spend or takes your money.
- Your partner prevents you from getting or keeping a job or from going to school.
- Your partner takes your paycheck and makes you ask for money.

the struggle for power and control

Domestic violence is not about someone losing their temper. It is a learned behavior that is caused by one partner's need for power and control in the relationship. Factors such as stress, frustration, alcohol and drug abuse, childhood experiences, emotional problems and mental or physical disorders can contribute to the abuse but those factors do not cause it. The Power and Control Wheel helps link the different behaviors that together form a pattern of violence. It shows the relationship as a whole—and how each seemingly unrelated behavior is an important part in an overall effort to control someone.

this gender neutral power and control wheel was adapted from the Duluth Model



components of the power and control wheel

using coercion and threats...

- Making and/or carrying out threats to do something to hurt them, or to commit suicide
- Threatening to leave them, to report them to welfare
- Making them drop charges or do illegal things

using intimidation...

- Making them afraid by using looks, actions, gestures, or displaying weapons
- Smashing things or destroying their property
- Abusing pets

using emotional abuse...

- Putting them down, name calling or humiliating to make them feel bad about themselves
- Making them think they are crazy or playing mind games
- Making them feel guilty

using isolation...

- Controlling what they do, who they see and talk to, what they read, where they go
- Limiting their outside involvement
- Using jealousy to justify actions

minimizing, denying and blaming...

- Making light of the abuse and not taking their concerns about it seriously
- Saying the abuse didn't happen, or shifting responsibility for abusive behavior to the victim

using children...

- Making them feel guilty about the children
- Using visitation to harass them, or using children to relay messages
- Threatening to take the children away

using gender privilege...

- Treating them like a servant or acting like the "master of the castle"
- Making all the big decisions
- Being the one to define roles

using economic abuse...

- Preventing them from getting or keeping a job
- Not letting them know about or have access to family income
- Taking their money, making them ask for money, or giving them an "allowance"

Remember no one has the right to abuse you, your children or your pets.

be alert

are you in an abusive relationship?

- Do you ever feel you are “walking on eggshells” to avoid upsetting your partner?
- Did your partner become quickly involved or attached to you?
- Does your partner track your time (need to know where you always are, when you will be back, who you are seeing, etc.)?
- Are you afraid to disagree with your partner?
- Does your partner make it difficult for you to see family/friends or take the car keys to keep you at home?
- Does your partner take your money and/or refuse to give you money or interfere with your work?
- Does your partner disrespect you (interrupt, change topics, not listen/respond) or insult you (name calling, mocking or humiliating)?
- Does your partner use their size or physical presence (such as standing in a doorway blocking you) to intimidate you?
- Does your partner destroy property or things meaningful to you?
- Does your partner make light of the abuse, insist it didn't happen, shift responsibility for their actions/behavior or blame you for it?
- Has your partner ever pushed, slapped, punched, kicked or physically restrained you?
- Has your partner ever abused or hurt animals?
- Has your partner ever forced sexual contact?
- Has your partner ever threatened to harm you, your children, your pets or themselves?

common traits of an abuser...

The following list is not all-inclusive but includes some of the more common behaviors and characteristics of abusers.

- Does your partner have unrealistic ideas about the traditional roles of men and women?
- Is your partner jealous and possessive?
- Is your partner jealous of you being around other people (friends/strangers)?
- Does your partner keep tabs on you?
- Does your partner want to monopolize your time, even when inconvenient?
- Does your partner blame you when strangers look at you or talk to you?
- Does your partner behave as though they own you?
- Does your partner expect you to always make them happy?
- Does your partner expect you to follow their orders or advice?
- Does your partner blame others for their problems and feelings?
- Does your partner abuse alcohol or other drugs?
- Does your partner think poorly of themselves?
- Is your partner oversensitive?
- Does your partner appear to be two different people (Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, good and bad, charming and mean)?
- When your partner becomes angry, does it make you afraid?
- Does your partner treat you roughly?
- Do you feel threatened by your partner?
- Does your partner hurt animals or abuse your pets?
- Does your partner break objects?
- Did your partner grow up in a violent family—learning that violence is “normal” behavior?
- Does your partner tend to use force or violence to solve problems and/or explodes over “little things”?

If you notice these characteristics in your partner, consider talking with a friend, seeking professional help or calling a domestic violence hotline.



lethality factors

All abusers are dangerous but some are more likely to kill their partner than others. Below are some lethality prediction factors to consider. The greater number of indicators an abuser demonstrates or the greater the intensity of indicators, the greater likelihood of a life-threatening attack.

ownership of you...

“Death before divorce” or “If I cannot have you nobody will.” The abuser believes they are absolutely entitled to obedience and loyalty, no matter what.

repeated intervention by law enforcement...

Police intervention may have been required on one or more occasions.

escalation of risk taking...

The chances of a lethal assault increase significantly when the abuser begins to act without regard to the legal or social consequences that previously constrained their violence.

threats of homicide or suicide...

The abuser must be considered extremely dangerous when they have threatened to kill their partner, the children, relatives or themselves.

fantasies of homicide or suicide...

The more the abuser has developed a fantasy about who, how, when and/or where to kill, the more dangerous the abuser may be.

weapons...

The potential for a lethal assault increases when the abuser possesses, has access to or is obsessed with weapons and/or has used them or has threatened to use them.

history of antisocial behavior...

The abuser is more likely to be dangerous when they have demonstrated aggressive behavior to the public such as bar fights, gang related violence, job related violence, vandalism and repeated unlawful behavior.

drugs and alcohol...

Abusers with a history of drugs and/or alcohol show a high risk of lethality. Intoxication at the time of the assault increases risk.

violence in the family of origin...

The level of violence within the family as they grew up, whether experienced personally or observed, increases the potential of risk.

strangulation...

Lethality increases when there is a history of the abuser choking their partner.



is someone you know being abused?

- Do they appear anxious, depressed, withdrawn and/or reluctant to talk?
- Does their partner criticize them in front of you, making remarks that make you feel uncomfortable when you are around them?
- Do you see or hear about repeated bruises, broken bones or other injuries that reportedly result from “accidents”?
- Does their partner try to control their every move, account for their time and accuse them of having affairs?
- Are they late or absent from work?
- Have they quit a job altogether?
- Do they leave social engagements early because their partner is waiting for them?



how to help

let go of any expectations you have that there is a “quick fix” to domestic violence or the obstacles a victim faces...

Understand that a victim’s “inaction” may very well be the safest strategy at any given time.

DO—

- Ask
- Express concern
- Listen and validate
- Offer help
- Support their decisions

DON'T—

- Wait for them to come to you
- Judge or blame
- Put pressure on them
- Give advice
- Place conditions on your support



educate yourself about domestic violence...

Read this handbook, research domestic violence information online, visit the SAFE Place web page at safepaceshelter.org and review and help prepare a personal safety plan.

***Caution:** If you are a victim of domestic violence, research from a safe computer so your abuser cannot trace your search history.*

let them know that you believe them...

If you know their partner, remember that abusers often behave differently in public than they do in private.

listen to what they tell you...

If you actively listen, ask clarifying questions and avoid making judgments and giving advice, you will learn what is needed.

validate their feelings...

It is common for victims to have conflicting feelings—love and fear, guilt and anger, hope and sadness. Let them know that their feelings are normal and reasonable.

avoid victim blaming...

Tell them that the abuse is not their fault. Reinforce that the abuse is their partner's problem and their partner's responsibility. Do not badmouth their partner.

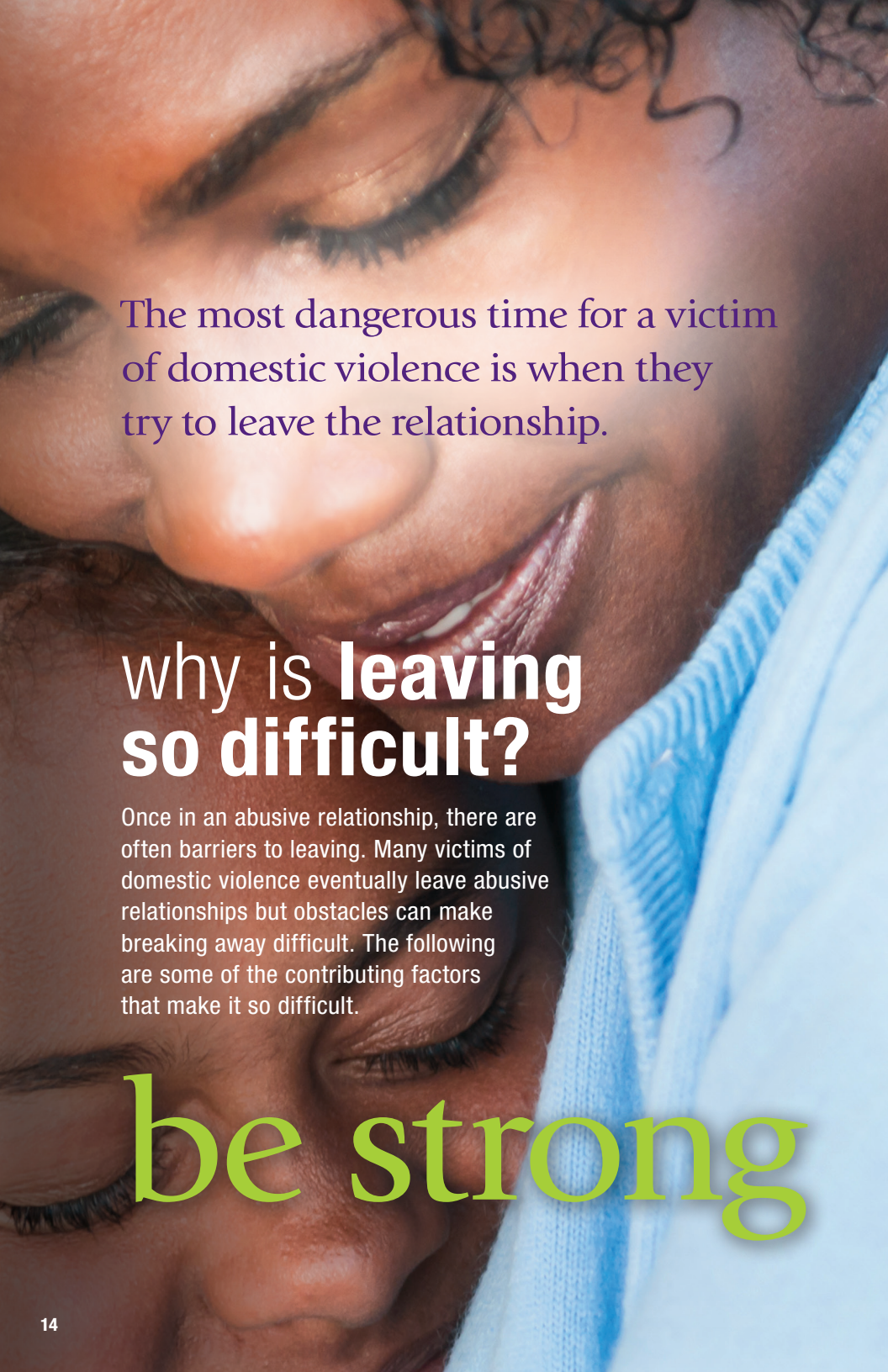
take their fears seriously...

If you are concerned about their safety, express your concern without judgment by simply saying, "Your situation sounds dangerous and I'm concerned about your safety."



support their decisions...

Remember that there are risks attached to every decision an abused person makes. If you truly want to be helpful, be patient and respectful of their decisions, even if you don't agree with them.



The most dangerous time for a victim of domestic violence is when they try to leave the relationship.

why is **leaving** so difficult?

Once in an abusive relationship, there are often barriers to leaving. Many victims of domestic violence eventually leave abusive relationships but obstacles can make breaking away difficult. The following are some of the contributing factors that make it so difficult.

be strong

threats/fear/retaliation...

When the abuser makes threats against the victim, their fear is very real. They know the abuser has the means and opportunity to carry out their threats. Often the abuser threatens to harm the victim, the children or themselves if the victim suggests or attempts to leave.



children...

The abuser threatens to take the children or make false CPS reports. Often the abuser manages to manipulate the children. A victim can have fear of losing custody of their children to their abuser or having to follow a court ordered parenting time schedule in which they cannot protect their children.

lack of resources...

The victim may have limited or no access to money, transportation, housing, etc. to support themselves or their children. Isolation is a common dynamic in domestic violence. A victim can end up being homeless.

love and hope that the abuser will change...

The victim is truly in love with the abuser because during the good times their partner is charming and loving.

emotional abuse...

The abuser has convinced the victim that no one else will want them.

mental illness or other health issues...

If a victim has mental health or other health issues they may rely on their abuser for health care, medical transportation and health insurance.

religious, cultural beliefs and gender stereotyping...

Certain religions and cultures have very strong beliefs in the roles that each partner is to abide by and blame the victim if they do not follow these expected roles. Guilt can play a strong role in the desire to leave.

prior experience...

Leaving is a process and many times when a victim leaves, the above barriers force a victim to go back. There is a strong possibility that a past negative experience can challenge the desire to leave.



be watchful

how abusers' behavior **may affect children**

A home in which physical, sexual or emotional abuse occurs is frightening, unhealthy and can be devastating to a child. Often children in these homes cannot truly be children. These children may try to protect their parents or younger siblings. While many children demonstrate abundant resiliency and do not become abusers or abused themselves, it is common to see some of these traits. They may worry about being an additional problem or burden to their family and fear for their own safety and security. The following are some examples of how witnessing domestic violence may affect children.



emotional effects...

- Guilt—feeling responsible for the violence
- Fear of expressing feelings, of divorce, of the unknown, of injury, of a hostile and unsupportive community
- Confusion—conflicted loyalties (love/hate)
- Anger—about violence

behavioral effects...

- Acting out or withdrawing
- Care taking—filling adult roles
- Aggressive or passive bullying or “doormats”
- Bedwetting and/or nightmares

physical effects...

- Nervous, anxious—short attention span (seems like “hyperactivity”)
- Sick, often with colds, flu, etc.
- Neglect personal hygiene
- Regression in development, tasks or behaviors

social effects...

- Isolated—no friends or distant in relationships
- Difficulty trusting others
- Poor conflict resolution skills
- May be excessively social (overcompensates by staying away from home)



cognitive effects...

- Blames others for their behaviors
- Believes it is okay to hit others to get what they want, to control them or to feel power over them
- Low self-esteem
- Trouble identifying adult roles

safety planning

It is important to have a safety plan when you are in an abusive relationship. Even if you do not leave your abuser, consider the following ideas to make life safer for you and your children. Remember that you are the best judge of which safety ideas are right for you. Trust your instincts.

Visit [safepaceshelter.org](https://www.safepaceshelter.org) for more safety ideas. An abuser may be able to trace your search history; therefore, it is important to always use a computer that your abuser cannot access.

safety during a violent encounter...

- Know where the exits are in your home and places you visit.
- Avoid rooms with no doors to the outside.
- Brainstorm reasons to get out of the house (take out trash, walk the dog, etc).
- Is there a safe location for you to go?
- Keep your phone charged. A charged phone, even without minutes, can call 911.

safety planning with children...

- Teach children their address and how to call 911 for help.
- Teach children that their job is to stay safe and not get involved. Identify a safe place they can go if violence escalates.

safety planning with pets...

- Establish ownership of your pet by creating a paper trail of vet records/licenses.
- Personal Protection Orders (PPO's) have provisions to keep your pet safe.

safety during a pregnancy...

- If your home has stairs, stay on the main floor in case your abuser becomes violent.
- If being attacked, get in the fetal position using your body to protect your stomach.

safety when substance abuse is involved...

- If you know your partner is using/drinking, think about a safe place for you and your children to stay for the night.
- Make a plan for when your abuser is using/drinking and you cannot leave.
- Know that the use of alcohol and drugs may reduce your awareness and ability to act quickly to protect yourself if abuse happens.
- If you are going to use or drink, decide if there is a safer place to do it.
- Decide who can help if things start to escalate.

safety when preparing to leave...

- Determine the safest opportunity to leave that allows you time to pack without your abuser knowing.
- Memorize/keep a list of important numbers in case your abuser takes your phone.
- Determine who you can stay with or where you can go to be safe.
- If you need to return to the house, have someone go with you or call 911 to request a peace officer to go with you.

safety with technology and social media...

- Change passwords often.
- Be aware that your abuser can monitor your social media handles without you knowing. Techniques like **geotagging** can pinpoint when and where pictures you post were taken.
- **Spoofing** is another technique to be aware of. It allows someone to make a call or text you may think is from a friend, family member or someplace like your child's school. The abuser can add background noise, change the sound of their voice and record the call.
- Turn off all location settings on all social media apps and GPS on your phone.
- Change privacy settings and limit personal info you and your children put on social media.
- Start your own phone plan if you are currently on the same plan as your abuser.

safety while in a shelter...

- Keep your plans and location of the shelter limited to trusted friends and family.
- Avoid using normal routes and/or visiting places your abuser would know to look for you.
- Always have a charged cell phone on you. Even without minutes it can call 911.
- Keep your children close and aware of what to look for.

safety in your own residence...

- Change locks and make sure all windows and doors are locked.
- If your windows don't lock, wedge something in the frame so it cannot open.
- Be aware of your surroundings when outside.
- Alert landlord and/or neighbors about your situation and potential danger.
- Keep car keys next to your bed so you can set off car alarm to alert neighbors.

safety with a personal protection order (PPO)...

- Avoid initiating contact with your abuser.
- Call 911 if your PPO has been violated.
- If the PPO is violated and the abuser is not arrested, talk to a PPO Coordinator or Domestic Violence Victim Advocate about filing a show cause hearing.
- Be truthful in all statements you make to the court.



safety on the job and in public...

- Take different routes to work. Vary your routine.
- Have security or someone walk you to your car.
- Park in a well-lit lot, close to a building and in view of a security camera if able.

safety when you're not ready to leave...

- If it is safe, look up information on websites including safepaceshelter.org about intimate partner violence, power and control, and abuse warning signs.
- Take care of yourself, physically, emotionally and psychologically. Remind yourself of your good qualities. Find joy wherever you can.
- Always remember the abuse is NOT your fault.

if an assault has occurred, consider the following...

- **CALL 911** and seek medical attention if you have injuries.
- Save as much evidence as you can to document the abuse including medical records, photographs of injuries and damage to property.
- Ask for the complaint number, name and agency of the police officer that took the report.
- Participate with criminal prosecution—contact the Victims Services Unit at the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and/or consider applying for a PPO.

what is a personal protection order?

Personal Protection Orders (PPO) are orders of the Circuit Court or Tribal Court that prohibit certain activities. The person filing a PPO is the Petitioner and the person you file against is the Respondent.

a PPO may order the respondent not to...

- Enter onto your property
- Engage in stalking behaviors
- Assault, attack, beat, molest or wound you
- Threaten to kill or physically injure you
- Remove the children from you if you have legal custody, unless there is a court ordered visitation schedule in place
- Interfere with you at your place of employment or education
- Interfere with your efforts to remove your children or personal property
- Purchase or possess a firearm
- Contact you by phone, email or social media
- Send you mail or other communications
- Injure or remove your pet(s)

a PPO does not...

- Evict a person in landlord/tenant issues
- Mediate neighbor disputes
- Protect personal property from damage



penalties for violating a PPO...

- Maximum 93 days in jail and/or up to \$500.00 fine (**granted by the State of Michigan**)
- Maximum 90 days in jail and not more than \$1000.00 fine (**granted by the Tribal Court**)

how do I apply for a PPO?

If you are considering filing for a PPO, contact a Domestic Violence Victim Advocate to discuss if this is the right choice for you and your situation. Once you have made the decision to file:

- Contact the Circuit Court Clerk's Office in the county where you live. You may also contact SAFE Place for assistance or if you are in Tribal Jurisdiction, contact the Tribal Court Clerk's Office or Domestic Violence Victim Advocate.
- Complete the PPO Forms.
- Provide a detailed affidavit, including date(s), time(s), location(s) of the incident(s), details of injuries and description of event(s). You do not need to have copies of your police report although police reports may be added to your affidavit.



- Upon completion and filing of your PPO petition, a judge will review it. The judge will either grant the PPO, deny the PPO or deny it and allow you the right to have a hearing.
- Once the judge has had time to review your petition, call the Clerk's Office to see if the judge has granted, denied or denied the petition with a right to a hearing.
- If your PPO was granted, pick up the paperwork and have it served on the respondent.
- If the judge denied your PPO but allowed you to set a hearing, set a date with the Clerk's Office and arrange to have the paperwork served on the respondent.
- Once the respondent is served with a PPO or Notice of Hearing, file the Proof of Service with the Clerk's Office.
- If a hearing has been set, attend the hearing.
- Keep a copy of the signed PPO order with you.

helpful information to include when filing a PPO...

- Police Report(s)
- Pictures of injuries
- Custody, support and/or parenting time order(s)

what should I do if my PPO is violated...

If a violation of your PPO occurs, **CALL 911**. If the police are unable to make an arrest, call the Circuit Court Clerk's Office or Tribal Court Clerk's Office to file a Show Cause Hearing.

criminal prosecution

If your assailant has been arrested for assaulting you, you may follow up with the Victims Services Unit of the Prosecutor's Office—a department that assists victims of crime. They can answer questions, give explanations and information that pertain to your case as it progresses through the criminal justice system. The Unit can inform you about:

- Status information on your case.
- Referrals for counseling, support groups and emergency services (food, shelter, clothing).
- Crime victim compensation claim form information.
- Assistance with victim impact statements.
- Help with the return of personal property taken as evidence.
- Accompanying a victim to court.
- Employer intervention.
- Orientation to the courtroom setting and information on how the court system works.
- Privacy and safety while waiting to testify in court.

If you are a victim of a crime, call your local Prosecutor's Office to activate your victim's rights. The Legal Advocacy Program at SAFE Place also works with the Victims Services Unit and can support and guide you.

frequently asked questions about prosecution

am I a “crime victim”?

Under the Crime Victims’ Act, a “victim” is an individual who has suffered direct or threatened physical, financial or emotional harm as a result of the commission of a crime. If the victim is deceased, then that person’s spouse, child, parent, guardian or grandparent might qualify. If the victim is a minor (under age 18) then the victim’s parent, guardian or custodian may choose to exercise the child-victim’s rights. If the victim is mentally or emotionally unable to participate in the legal process then his or her parent, guardian or custodian may exercise the rights.

as a victim of a crime I want to drop the charges—can I?

Many people incorrectly believe that a victim has the power to “press charges” against the wrongdoer or to later “drop the charges”. All charges are offenses committed against the community, not just the individual victim. Criminal complaints are prosecuted on behalf of the State of Michigan, not the people who called the police or those who were personally harmed by the defendant’s conduct. **ONLY the Prosecuting Attorney can issue or dismiss charges.** This is important because it takes the responsibility for prosecuting the wrongdoer off the victim’s shoulders and puts it on the Prosecuting Attorney. It also means that the defendant cannot pressure the victim into dropping the charges.

Although the decision to prosecute is ultimately up to the Prosecuting Attorney, the victim’s opinion is important and the Prosecuting Attorney will take those wishes into account when making his or her decision regarding the case. A variety of factors are considered when deciding whether to honor a complainant’s request not to proceed with prosecution. Some factors include the nature and extent of the defendant’s prior history, severity of the alleged crime, whether the defendant has other pending charges in the criminal justice system and the future danger the defendant poses to the community (including the current victim).

what is a PA53 or “no contact order”?

A PA53/No Contact Order is a condition of a defendant’s bond that prohibits contact with the victim of the assault. During arraignment, the judge will commonly place this condition upon the bond and notify the defendant. If this condition is violated, the defendant’s bond may be revoked or increased. A PA53/No Contact Order is different from a Personal Protection Order (PPO). You may also want to apply for a PPO because a PA53/No Contact Order is only in effect until a criminal case is closed.

how can I tell if there is a PA53/no contact order?

If you are the victim of an assault crime, you may call the Victims Services Unit in the Prosecutor’s Office of the county in which the crime was committed. The Victims Services Unit can advise you of the bond amount and any conditions of the bond. You may also appear at arraignment to let the judge know your wishes concerning contact upon release. The judge will have the final say.

what if the defendant violates the PA53/no contact order?

You can contact the police to report the violation. Violation of a court order can subject the defendant to immediate arrest depending upon the nature of the violation. You also may contact the Victims Services Unit of the Prosecutor's Office in the county where the crime was committed.

as a victim of a crime, what are my rights?

The Michigan Constitution (Act. 1, Sec. 24, effective December 24, 1988) and the Crime Victims' Rights Act give crime victims the right to:

- Be treated throughout the criminal justice process with fairness and respect for their dignity and privacy.
- Timely disposition of the case following the arrest of the accused.
- Receive an explanation of court procedures.
- Reasonable protection from the accused throughout the criminal justice process, including having a waiting area separate from the defendant and the defendant's relatives and witnesses (if practical) and to receive an explanation of procedures to follow if threatened or intimidated by the defendant.
- Be free from threats or acts of discharge from your employer because you are subpoenaed or requested by the Prosecuting Attorney to testify in court.
- Consult with the Prosecutor to give your views about the disposition of the case.
- Request the name of the Prosecutor with information about your case.
- Request notification of all scheduled court proceedings, including sentencing.
- Attend trial and all other court proceedings.
- Confer with the prosecution before trial and before the jury is selected.
- Request notification if defendant is released on bond or escapes while awaiting trial.
- If the judge has ordered a pre-sentence investigation report, you may request the address and telephone number of the probation department preparing the report.
- Make an oral statement to the pre-sentence investigator or have a written impact statement included in the pre-sentence report.
- Make an oral or written statement to the Court at sentencing. Your statement is important! Only you can really explain the impact of the crime upon your life.
- Restitution.
- Information about the conviction, sentence, imprisonment and release of the accused.
- An explanation of the appeal process, to be advised if the defendant is released on an appeal bond and to be advised of the time/place of appellate court proceedings.





be safe

what is crime victim compensation?

Because of the Crime Victim Compensation Act of 1976, injured victims of crime are entitled to be reimbursed for a variety of monetary losses including medical expenses, lost wages and counseling services. Contact the Victims Services Unit in your county for more info.

what will the defendant's sentence be?

Sentencing in Michigan varies with the crime and can be the most confusing part of the criminal process. Some crimes have mandatory sentences but often the sentences are at the judge's discretion. In determining a sentence, the judge reviews a pre-sentence investigation report that has been submitted by a probation agent. In preparing the report, the probation agent gathers information about the defendant's educational and family history, the crime committed and the impact of the crime on the victim. The judge will use the Michigan Sentencing Guidelines to determine the length of the sentence. Defendants have an opportunity to read the pre-sentence report. Any comments you make as a victim to the probation officer will be included in this report.

the judge ordered the defendant to pay restitution to me but so far, I haven't received anything—who can help me?

The District Court probation department or the Circuit Court probation department should be able to help you. You will need to speak with the probation officer assigned to your abuser's case. The probation officer can help you get your money if the restitution was a condition of the defendant's probation and if the defendant is still on probation. Otherwise, you may see a private lawyer.

how can a domestic violence program help me?

SAFE Place offers a range of social intervention and advocacy services designed to help victims of domestic violence. The program focuses on empowerment, personal choice and safety, strengthening the family and providing a continuum of care through community resources and referrals.

help and hope



shelter and non-shelter services...

You do not have to stay at the shelter to receive help from SAFE Place. All shelter services are free of charge. Any victim of domestic violence and their children can access counseling, housing, legal and social services advocacy and referrals for resources.

SAFE Place also provides adults and children victimized by domestic violence temporary emergency shelter. SAFE Place operates a **free crisis hotline—269.965.SAFE (7233)** or toll free at **888.664.9832**—that can be accessed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

counseling services...

SAFE Place offers **free counseling** to victims of domestic violence and their children. Counseling at SAFE Place is supportive and educational. Individual counseling, support groups and domestic violence classes are available and provided by advocates, counselors and master's level therapists.

legal advocacy program...

Legal Advocates assist victims through the civil and criminal legal system. The advocates work closely with the Prosecutor's Office, Personal Protection Order Office, Legal Services and other local agencies to ensure that victims receive the services they need. They help victims discover their options and rights, develop a safety plan and attend court hearings.

children's services...

Children who have experienced domestic violence can participate in activities and events through the Children's Program. It offers counseling, organized activities, crafts, tutoring, one-on-one time and advocacy services for children and their non-abusive parent.

24-hour hotline...

Advocates are available 24 hours a day to provide crisis intervention, emotional support, information and referrals, advocacy, safety planning, shelter admission and referrals if the shelter is full.



resource guide

police agencies

barry county...

Barry County Sheriff's Department, Hastings
Barry Twp Police Department, Delton
Hastings Police Department, Hastings
Michigan State Police, Wayland
Nashville Police Department, Nashville
Prairieville Police Department, Prairieville



269.948.4801
269.623.5512
269.945.5744
269.792.2213
517.852.9866
269.623.2664

calhoun county...

Albion Department of Public Safety, Albion
Battle Creek City Police Department, Battle Creek
Calhoun County Sheriff Department, Battle Creek
Calhoun County Central Dispatch Non-Emergency
Emmett Twp. Department of Public Safety, Emmett
Kellogg Community College, Campus Police/Security, Battle Creek
Marshall Police Department, Marshall
Michigan State Police, Marshall

517.629.3933
269.966.3322
269.781.0880
269.781.0911
269.968.9303
269.965.4147
269.781.2596
269.558.0500

eaton county...

Bellevue Police Department, Bellevue
Charlotte Police Department, Charlotte
Eaton County Sheriff's Department, Charlotte
Eaton Rapids Police Department, Eaton Rapids
Grand Ledge Police Department, Grand Ledge
Michigan State Police, Lansing
Olivet Police Department, Olivet
Potterville Police Department, Potterville

269.763.9429
517.543.1552
517.543.3512
517.663.8118
517.627.2149
517.322.1907
269.749.9961
517.372.8215

domestic violence shelters

SAFE Place, Battle Creek
SIREN /Eaton Shelter, Charlotte
Green Gables, Hastings
MSU Safeplace, Lansing
Eve Inc., Lansing

269.965.7233
517.543.0748
269.945.4777
517.355.1100
517.372.5572

homeless shelters

Haven of Rest, Battle Creek
In As Much, Battle Creek
SIREN/Eaton Shelter, Charlotte

269.965.1148
269.660.2945
517.543.0748

for information to obtain a personal protection order (PPO)

Calhoun County Clerk's Office	269.969.6518
Calhoun County PPO Coordinator	269.969.6921
Barry County Clerk's Office	269.945.1285
Eaton County Clerk's Office	517.543.4335

victims services at the prosecutor's office

Barry County Prosecutor's Office	269.945.1297
Victims Services Unit	269.945.1297
Calhoun County Prosecutor's Office	269.969.6980
Victims Services Unit	269.969.6944
Eaton County Prosecutor's Office	517.543.4801
Victims Services Unit	517.543.4835

nottawaseppi huron band of the potawatomi (NHBP) resources

NHBP Police Department, Fulton	269.729.5222
NHBP Tribal Court Clerk's Office	269.704.8404
NHBP Domestic Violence Tribal Court Victims Services	269.704.8396
NHBP Domestic Violence Victim Advocate	269.704.8396
NHBP Tribal Prosecutor's Office	269.704.8417
NHBP Tribal Government	269.729.5151

other important numbers

Battle Creek VA Medical Center, Battle Creek	269.966.5600
Bronson Battle Creek Hospital, Battle Creek	269.245.8000
Child and Adult Protective Services Central Intake	1.855.444.3911
Department of Health and Human Services...	
Barry County	269.948.3200
Calhoun County	269.966.1284
Eaton County	517.543.0860
Grace Health, Battle Creek	269.965.8866
Gryphon Place, Kalamazoo	269.381.1510
Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital, Charlotte	517.543.1050
Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Calhoun and Barry	269.965.3951
Legal Services of South Central Michigan, Eaton and Ingham	517.394.3121
National Domestic Violence Hotline	1.800.799.SAFE (7233)
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline	1.800.273.8255
Oaklawn Hospital, Marshall	269.781.4271
Pennock Hospital, Hastings	269.945.3451
Sexual Assault Services, Battle Creek	269.245.3925
Summit Pointe, Battle Creek	269.966.1460
2-1-1	211 or toll free statewide 1.844.875.9211

Whatever the situation, calling 211 is an easy-to-remember number that makes critical connections between those in need and the appropriate community resources to help.

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**NOTTAWASEPPI HURON
BAND OF THE POTAWATOMI**
A FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBAL GOVERNMENT



s.a.f.e.
PLACE
secure area family environment

“ Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.”

—Desmond Tutu