



Myths and Facts about Domestic Violence

MYTH: Domestic violence happens only in low-income families.
 FACT: Domestic violence happens in all kinds of families, rich and poor, urban, suburban and rural, in every part of the country, in every racial, religious and age group.

MYTH: Alcohol and drugs cause domestic violence.
 FACT: Alcohol and drugs do not cause domestic violence. Domestic violence is a choice. Many abusers will make sure they have alcohol or drugs on hand, in order to use them as an excuse for their actions. Abusers will also claim their actions resulted because they could not have the alcohol or drugs.

MYTH: Domestic violence is an anger control issue.
 FACT: Domestic violence has nothing to do with anger. Anger is a tool abusers use to get what they want. We know abusers are actually very much in control because they can stop when someone knocks on the door or the phone rings; they often direct punches and kicks to parts of the body where the bruises are less likely to show; and they are not abusing everyone who makes them "angry", but waits until there are no witnesses and abuses the one he says he loves.

MYTH: Domestic violence happens only once or twice in a relationship.
 FACT: Abusers usually escalate violent behaviors in frequency and intensity over time.

MYTH: Some women want to be beaten. They ask for it. They deserve it. Some women go from abuser to abuser - it must be something about them.
 FACT: No one deserves to be abused. Everyone has the right to live free of violence. No one would want to have their partner be abusive. Women who find that their second or third partner are abusers will often be blamed by others for the violence - "it must be something about her" or she will blame herself - "I always seem to pick abusers." In reality, the abuser uses the tactic of charm early in the relationship to find out that she was previously abused. He uses this information to blame her for the violence - "see it must be something that you are doing wrong, or there would not have been two of us" or to silence her - "you are not going to tell anyone, because if you do they will never believe you because you said that before."

Domestic violence is a crime. It is against the law for anyone to physically harm or harass another person.

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, psychological violence, and emotional abuse. Domestic violence is an epidemic affecting individuals in every community, regardless of age, economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality.

The following signs often occur before manifestation of full abuse and may serve clues to one person in a relationship becoming abusive of the other. Think about the following questions and apply them to your partner. If you can identify with one or more of the scenarios or answer "yes" to any of the questions below, you may be with an abusive partner.

- Does your partner tend to use force of violence to "solve" their problems?
- Does your partner have a quick temper? Do they over-react to little problems and frustration? Are they cruel to animals? Do they punch walls or throw things when they are upset?
- Do they abuse alcohol or other drugs?
- Do they have strong traditional ideas about "roles" in relationships? For example, do they think all women should stay at home, take care of their husbands, and follow their wishes and orders?
- Are they jealous of your other relationships -- anyone you may know? Do they keep tabs on you? Do they want to know where you are at all times? Do they want you with them all of the time?
- Do they have access to guns, knives or other lethal weapons? Do they talk of using them against people or threaten to use them to get even?
- Do they expect you to follow their orders or advice? Do they become angry if you do not fulfill their wishes or if you cannot anticipate what they want?
- Do they go through extreme highs and lows almost as though they are two different people? Are they extremely kind one time, and extremely cruel another?
- Do they treat you roughly? Do they physically force you to do what you do not want to do?

IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS, SEEK HELP TODAY!

District Attorney General	615-862-5500
Metropolitan Nashville PD	615-862-8600
MNPD Domestic Violence	615-880-3300



Juntos, la Fiscalía y el Departamento de Policía Metropolitana de Nashville, forma Dando Valor para dar una voz a las víctimas de crimen, trabajando para despertar conciencia sobre los derechos de cada víctima y acceder servicios para terminar con la violencia.

In a joint collaboration, the Office of the District Attorney General and the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department, for Dando Valor to empower victims of crime by giving them a voice, working to raise awareness of victim's rights and access to services available to stop violence.



Office of the District Attorney General

GLENN R. FUNK, DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL

The District Attorney General for the 20th Judicial District is responsible for the prosecution of all alleged violations of state criminal laws that occur within Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County. If you are a victim of domestic violence, a lawyer from the DA's Office will help you (you do not need to hire a private attorney). You can expect our office to:

- ◆ Call you to let you know that the person who abused you has been arrested and when you are expected to be in to be in Court.
- ◆ Schedule a meeting to talk to you about the case, at which time you will meet with an Assistant DA and a Victim Witness Coordinator.
- ◆ Provide guidance and support as through the judicial process.
- ◆ Keep you informed of the status of your case and ensure that you are informed of all proceedings, and of the release, transfer or escape of the accused or convicted person.
- ◆ Inform you of your constitutional rights as a victim of a crime.

Office of the **DISTRICT ATTORNEY** **CALL US TODAY**
NASHVILLE **615-862-5500**

POLICE

STEVE ANDERSON, CHIEF OF POLICE

If you believe you are the victim of an abusive relationship or domestic violence, please call the police and allow us to assist you. As the responding officers are in route to your address remember that they are there to help you and your children. Below is but a few of the issues that the officers will address and what you can expect. When Police arrive, you can expect the Officer to:

- ◆ Write a report of the incident that occurred.
- ◆ Determine if medical attention is needed.
- ◆ The officer will help you if you wish to prosecute or wish to obtain an order of protection.
- ◆ They can provide transportation to obtain a warrant, order of protection, or shelter.
- ◆ They can refer other social services as needed.



CALL US TODAY

615-862-8600

615-880-3000

EMERGENCY:

911



The Counseling Section of the Metropolitan Police Department Domestic Violence Division is to provide counseling and advocacy services to the victims of domestic violence, free of charge. You do not need to make a report in order to receive services. We believe that every victim of domestic violence has:

- ◆ The right to these services regardless of whether or not they may prosecute the offender;
- ◆ The right to be respected and to be treated fairly, regardless of race, religion, creed or sexual orientation;
- ◆ The right to confidentiality (exceptions will be discussed by the counselor); and,
- ◆ The right to victim's compensation information, when applicable.

COUNSELING

We provide personalized, compassionate and confidential services, which include:

- ◆ Short term individual counseling.
- ◆ Resource and referral services.
- ◆ Safety planning.
- ◆ Group counseling for victims and their children.

CALL US TODAY

615-880-3000

