

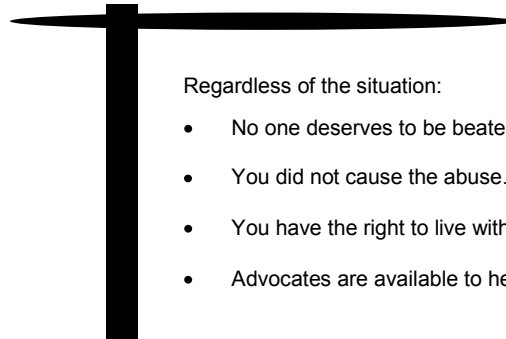
An On-Call Advocacy Program (OCAP) advocate can be called when an intrafamily offense or incident (assault, threat, destruction of property, etc.) has occurred and you want to speak to an advocate about immediate safety options, legal options and other resources for victims.

HOW A SAFE/OCAP ADVOCATE CAN HELP YOU

OCAP advocates can:

- Discuss your options based on your situation
- Try to connect you to emergency relief such as shelter and food
- Help you obtain a protection order
- Provide information about counseling and family services.

Our goal is to assist and support you in protecting yourself from abuse and violence.



Regardless of the situation:

- No one deserves to be beaten, threatened or humiliated.
- You did not cause the abuse.
- You have the right to live without fear and violence.
- Advocates are available to help you.

What to do next?

Whether or not you have decided to report the incident to the police, you can go to one of the Domestic Violence Intake Centers (DVICs) during normal business hours (8:30am-4:30pm) Monday through Friday. Tell the front desk staff that you spoke with an OCAP advocate.

Domestic Violence Intake Center (DVIC)

Advocates at the DVIC will:

- Provide information about and help you obtain a Temporary and/or Civil Protection Order
- Provide you with information about the legal process, including the criminal and civil court processes
- Connect you to support that you may need. This can include counseling for yourself and your children; housing; emergency shelter; referrals to other agencies like Crime Victim Compensation.
- Assist you in finding safe shelter and housing
- Provide support throughout the entire process
- Address any safety concerns you may have about yourself or your children

DC Superior Court

500 Indiana Avenue, NW Suite 4200

Washington, DC 20001

Phone 202-879-7851

Fax 202-879-1191

Judiciary Square Metro—Red Line

Archives/Navy Memorial—Yellow and Green Line

United Methodist Hospital

1310 Southern Avenue, SE

Medical Services Building, Room 311

Washington, DC 20002

Phone 202-561-3000

Southern Avenue Metro—Green Line

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior used to get power and control over another person. It happens in a pattern of abuse over time. Violence usually becomes more frequent and severe as time passes.

Domestic violence comes in many forms. It can be physical violence like slapping or pushing, or emotional and psychological violence, like name-calling, yelling or isolating you from your family and friends. It can involve destruction of your property and threats that make you fear for your safety or for the safety of those around you, including children or people who might be helping you.

No matter what, you must keep one thing in mind: the violence is not your fault – no one deserves to be abused. Violence in the family is completely unacceptable and it is against the law.

Resources continued...

GENERAL SUPPORT CENTERS

- WEAVE (counseling).....202-452-9550, ext 105
- House of Ruth (counseling)202-667-7001 ext 515
- Ramona’s Way (Drug Abuse).....202-257-6790
- Different Avenues (LGBTQ).....202-526-9111
- Asian Pacific Islander DV Project.....202-464-4477
- Victims Service Center (children counseling 4-17).....202-547-6175
- The Women’s Center (HIV/AIDS).....202-293-4580
- Second Chance Employment.....202-331-7451
- DAWN (deaf/hard of hearing)hotline@deafdawn.org
or videophone 202-559-5366

LEGAL SERVICES

- Legal Aid Society 202-628-1161
- Break the Cycle (24 or younger)....202-824-0707
- WEAVE.....202-452-9550
- Bread for the City 202-587-0525
- AYUDA 202-387-4848
- Mil Mujeres.....202-560-5237
- Tahirih Justice Center.....703-575-0070
- Family Law Help Center (JM570).....202-879-1471

OTHER SERVICES

- D.C. Crime Victims Compensation.....202-879-4216
- D.C. Child Support Office 202- 879-7868
- VINE (Victim Info and Notification Everyday)...877-329-7894
(to register for updates if your abuser is incarcerated)

Resources

Domestic violence and regular shelters in DC

Note: Many victims find temporary emergency shelter for up to 30 days by applying to Crime Victim Compensation if they have a police report or TPO/CPO.

The shelters below usually do not require that you have those forms of documentation:

My Sister's Place202-529-5991
House of Ruth—DC.....202-667-7001
Dash.....202-726-3274
Sasha Bruce (youth only)202-547-7777
Covenant House (youth only).....1-800-999-9999
Virginia Williams (homeless families).....202-724-3932
Homelessness Shelter Hotline.....800-535-7252
St. Ann's Maternity Home (teen mothers).....301-559-5500

Domestic Violence Shelters outside of DC

Note that these shelters may not always take victims from other areas like DC

Doorways (in VA).....703-237-0881
Bethany House (in VA).....703-658-9500
ACTS-Turning Points (in VA).....703-221-4951
Family Crisis Center (PG County MD)1-866-382-7474
House of Ruth—MD (Baltimore MD).....410-889-7884
SARC (Bel Air MD).....410-836-8430

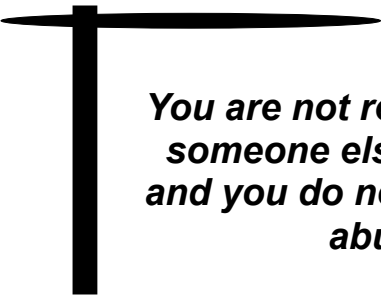
Characteristics of an abuser

There is no typical batterer. Batterers come from all socioeconomic backgrounds, races, religions. People who abuse may:

- o Fear losing control
- o Believe in stereotypical gender roles
- o Have low self-esteem
- o Believe that emotional distress is caused by external factors
- o May be socially isolated
- o Have witnessed violence between his/her parents or was abused themselves as a child
- o Have unrealistic expectations for their relationships
- o Blame others for their own problems or for uncontrollable events

Signs to look for:

- o Extreme jealousy and possessiveness
- o Controlling behavior
- o Quick involvement in the relationship
- o Unrealistic expectations
- o Isolation
- o Cruelty to animals



You are not responsible for someone else's behavior and you do not deserve the abuse.

Documentation

Abusers often lie and try to discredit their victims so that victims are not believed if/when they decide to report the abuse.

You can help protect yourself by documenting the abuse in as many ways as possible and keeping the documentation in a safe place so that the abuser can't find or destroy it.

Some ways to document:

- Keep a journal or calendar of incidents of abuse, try to remember and write down past incidents as far back as you can remember. Include names and contact information of witnesses who may have seen or heard the abuse in each incident
- Log phone calls and text messages in your journal or calendar, including the number the abuser contacted you from. Ask your phone company for copies of your phone activity
- Take photographs of injuries, text messages, destroyed property, etc. Advocates in the DVICs can take photos for you and store them if need be.
- If you are unable or if it is unsafe for you to keep a log yourself, ask someone you trust to keep the record for you and update that person when there are new incidents.
- Keep copies of all court records, including civil and criminal cases, medical records from your doctor, therapist or emergency room visits, and letters of support from domestic violence advocacy agencies together somewhere safe.
- Contact the police to file a new Offense report and get new report numbers for each new incident of abuse and/or update and supplement your petition if you have filed for a CPO.
- Print out email, Facebook, or other online contacts from the abuser and save or keep them somewhere safe
- Don't delete threats, voicemails, texts or contacts from your abuser, even though it is tempting to do so!

While this may sound like a lot of work, it may save you time later on and help you show/prove the pattern of abuse when you need assistance.

Relationship Quiz

Yes

No

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are you or your children afraid of your partner? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does your partner prevent you from seeing your friends and family? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does your partner criticize the way you look or act? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Has your partner ever destroyed your personal property? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Has your partner ever forced or pressured you into sexual activity? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does your partner constantly check in on you and limit your activities? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does your partner embarrass you in front of friends, family or strangers? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does your partner threaten you, grab you, shove you, choke you or hit you? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does your partner not allow you to have or earn any money? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you sometimes lie to cover up your partner's abusiveness? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does your partner accuse you of having affairs or flirting? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does your partner use your substance abuse or HIV/AIDS status as a way to control you or put you down? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does your partner refuse to accept you ending the relationship or respect your asking for space? |

Personal Safety Tips

Protection Order Information

What is a Civil Protection Order (CPO)?

A CPO is a paper signed by a judge to provide you with long-term legal protection. A CPO lasts for up to one year and can be extended by going back to court. CPOs can be tailored to meet your needs, meaning you can ask for what protections you think will make you and your loved ones safer from the abuser.

You = Petitioner

Person you file against = Respondent

A CPO can:

- Order respondent not to assault, threaten, abuse, or harass you
- Order respondent to stay away from you, your home, your job, and any where you spend a lot of time (like a doctor office or friend's house).
- Orders respondent not to contact you in any manner including via a third party, or to limit the contact to certain types (like only by text message)
- Award temporary custody of minor children
- Sets up visitation schedules for the non-custodial parent
- Award child support
- Order respondent to leave the house in certain circumstances
- Order respondent to domestic violence intervention, drug treatment or other types of intervention

What is a Temporary Protection Order (TPO)?

- A TPO is an order similar to a CPO but it only lasts for 14 days. It is usually used to protect you in an emergency situation until you come to court for the CPO hearing. A TPO is requested and can be received the same day that the petition for the CPO is filed. A TPO may be renewed if necessary. Almost all forms of relief available through a CPO are also available through a TPO.

How do you get a CPO?

1. File a petition (request) at one of the Domestic Violence Intake Centers.
2. Have papers "served" on the respondent.
3. Go to court for a hearing before a judge two weeks later.

You = Petitioner

Person you file against = Respondent

You can file for a CPO even if no police report was filed or no arrest has been made.

There is no cost to obtain a protection order.

When a fight breaks out

- Move away from the kitchen, bathroom, or any place where there are dangerous, sharp objects.
- Plan the easiest escape. Decide on a door or a window to exit quickly and safely.
- Find a neighbor, friend, or family member you can trust to help you and your children.
- Have a code word and pre-decided plan to warn children, or others of what is going on.

If you decide to leave your partner, plan for safety

- Every situation is different! Talk to an advocate about safety planning. Leaving may be risky for you and your children if not planned well.
- Put away some money. Even if you only save a little bit every week, you need to have some money of your own.
- Make copies of keys, leases, and important papers and leave them with someone you trust.

Ways to stay safe on your own

- Change the locks on your doors and/or install a security system.
- Ask your advocate about your legal rights. If you have legal papers to protect you, have them with you at all times.
- Inform neighbors, friends, coworkers, landlords, and family about TPO/CPOs and give them copies.
- Teach your children about safety planning and practice your safety plan with your children.
- Show pictures of your former partner to those around you. Ask that they call 911 if he/she comes around.

Ways to protect your finances and identity

- Password protect your email, bank, phone, utility and all other accounts with a random password and change the password often
- Get your credit report to make sure accounts haven't been opened in your name
- Report any suspicious activity to the company and police
- Don't post any personal or identifying information or photos on social networking sites like Myspace and make sure your children are not posting such information. This is particularly important if you are relocating, as your abuser might try to use that information to find you.

Family Court Self-Help Center JM 570

The Family Court Self-Help Center is a free walk-in service that provides unrepresented people with general legal information on divorce, custody, visitation and child support cases. The family Court Self-Help Center does not provide legal advice or represent anyone in court.

The Center can:

- Provide you with information about DC family law matters
- Inform you of your legal rights and obligations
- Describe your legal options
- Help you determine which forms are most appropriate for you and how to complete them
- Explain how to navigate the court process and what to expect
- Refer you to other helpful clinics and programs

Family Court Self-Help Center
Superior Court Building, room JM-570.
Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm

*no one will be helped after 4:30

Crime Victims Compensation Program

The Crime Victims Compensation Program (CVCP) assists victims of violent crimes and their families. The CVCP provides reimbursement for services necessary as a result of the crime.

Some types of crime related expenses that the CVCP covers are:

- Medical treatment and medications
- Mental health counseling
- Loss of wages
- Temporary emergency shelter (usually up to 30 days)
- Moving expenses (usually up to \$1,500)
- Windows, doors, and lock changes for safety

You may discuss CVC with your advocate, request a referral and begin filling out applications for compensation. Certain information will be requested, including a copy of your Offense police report or TPO/CPO for you to be eligible.

Crime Victims Compensation Program
DC Court Building A
515 5th Street NW, Room 109
Washington DC 20001
202-879-4216 (Monday—Friday 9am-5pm)

Service

For your civil case to continue, the person you are filing against (the “respondent”) must get official notice that there is a case against them and that they have to come to court on the date of the CPO hearing.

This is called “service”. The court papers must be “served” on the respondent. **An advocate will discuss service and available options with you when you meet with them at one of the Domestic Violence Intake Centers.**

CPOs and TPOs are not enforceable until served on the respondent!

Who can serve your Respondent?

- A person who is not a witness, not part of the petition and who must be over 18*
- A police officer
- A private process server

*The Return of Service form must be filled out and signed by the person who served the respondent, and brought to the CPO hearing.

Who can accept the service?

- The person you filed against
- Any person 18 or older living with the person you filed against
- The employer of the person you filed against

What is not allowed?

- Mailing the notice
- Posting where you think the person may see it
- Giving it to a friend, coworker or family member that does not live in the same household as the person

Service applies even if the person does not:

1. Take the notice
2. Read the notice
3. Sign the notice

Service applies even if the person:

1. Throws it away
2. Rips the notice up

As long as you have the Return of Service form with you properly filled out and signed on your CPO hearing date.

If the procedures are not followed you might not get a protection order!

Violations of a Protection Order

Violating your TPO or CPO after having been served with it is a crime!

Your abuser can face up to 6 months in jail or a fine of \$1,000 each time they violate the order.

You should carry a copy of the CPO everywhere with you . It is also a good idea to give copies of the order to friends, family, coworkers, landlord, security personal and your children's school.

- If the respondent violates the CPO, he/she will be in "contempt" for disobeying a court order.
- The police can also arrest the respondent for violating the CPO just like any other criminal act.
- If the respondent is causing you to be afraid, putting you in danger, threatening you, or harming you, call 911 immediately!
- Go to the DVIC and file a contempt motion to enforce your CPO
- Go to court for the contempt hearing or follow up with police about the violation report.

**Remember,
a TPO or CPO cannot make the
abuse stop, but it is an important
step to take. Make sure you think
about other steps you can
take to plan for your safety!**

Time	Civil	Criminal
3-6 months after	Nothing is required of you	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Trial • 3-6 months after the offense you will need to testify at the criminal trial. It is recommended that you contact the U.S. Attorney's Office victim advocate periodically to get information about the upcoming trial.
Anytime after trial (if the Abuser is found guilty)	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit a victim impact statement before sentencing • Sentencing Hearing occurs
If there is a repeat offense after the first one and you have a pending case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call the police • Go to the Intake Center • File a contempt motion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call the police to get the violation documented/abuser arrested if they have not fled • Go to the Intake Center • Call your victim advocate, and/or call your prosecutor and tell them what happened • You may be asked to testify at a hearing to get the abuser held.
Two Weeks after the Second offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to Contempt Hearing 	None

Civil action verses criminal action

- Civil action is brought by **you**
- Criminal action in a domestic violence case is **NOT** brought by you, it is brought by the government

Time	Civil	Criminal
Day 1: An Intrafamily offense occurs	Recommend calling the police. Even if you do not call the police you can still obtain a protection order.	Must call the police. Police must bring criminal charges against the abuser. Not calling the police immediately can reduce the likelihood of an arrest, as evidence can be lost.
Day 2: The next week-day or as soon as possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to one of the Domestic Violence Intake Centers • File for a CPO • Talk to a judge about issuing a TPO the same day • Speak to someone about child support and custody issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expect a call from USAO in the morning if the abuser has been arrested • Go to one of the Domestic Violence Intake Centers to speak to an advocate and get connected to MPD/USAO.
Two Weeks Later	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Protection Order Hearing • You must return on the date given on your petition (usually 2 weeks later) for a hearing in front of a judge. Once the judge issues the order, you do not need to return to court unless the abuser violates the order. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal status hearing • Possible plea bargain including the deferred sentencing option • Schedule trial date • Status hearings usually occur about 2 weeks after arraignment—you do not have to attend.

Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)

The police are required by law to

- prepare a report following any complaint or allegation of domestic violence
- give you the report number (CCN) before leaving the scene
- give you their name and badge number any time you talk to them

The District of Columbia has a mandatory arrest law which means that police have the responsibility of ensuring a victim is safe by making an arrest or by applying for an arrest warrant if the respondent has fled the scene. The police must investigate and determine whether or not there is probable cause to make an arrest.

If there is probable cause to make an arrest, officers are required by law to make the arrest regardless of the wishes of the parties.

MPD Officers may not ask anyone their immigration status, directly or indirectly.

Immigration Issues

Legal and social service organizations that provide direct legal services and social service referrals to immigrant women and girls.

Mil Mujeres	202-560-5237
AYUDA	202-387-4848
Tahirih Justice Center	703-575-0070
DVRP (Asian/Pacific Islander)	202-464-4477

Classifications of Police Reports!

Note that for police to take action to arrest your abuser, they must be taking an Offense report (like simple assault, destruction of property, etc) **NOT** a family disturbance report. A family disturbance report is not documentation that a domestic violence crime has occurred.

If the abuser **IS** arrested

If the abuser is arrested, he/she will be taken to the nearest police station. Persons arrested for domestic violence must be presented to a judge before being released. It is likely that the abuser will spend the night in jail and will appear in court the next morning. On weekends, the abuser may see a judge Saturday morning or may have to wait until Monday morning.

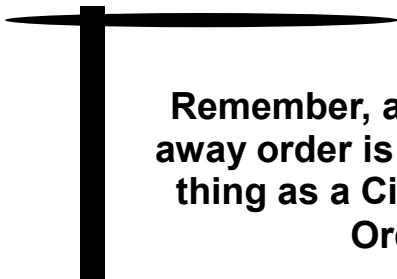
An arrest may only temporarily take the abuser out of your home or prevent him/her from coming near you.

The U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO) will decide whether or not to prosecute the case. In many cases, this decision is made independently of your wishes. If they decide **NOT** to prosecute, the respondent will be released without any conditions and there will be no charges or further criminal court dates against him/her.

If they decide to prosecute your abuser, the abuser may be released from jail before trial is held if they promise that they will come to court when they are told to do so. Unless your abuser is already facing charges, is on probation or parole ("on papers"), or is being arrested for felony domestic violence, they may not be held in jail. If the abuser is released while waiting for their trial, the court may put a criminal order of protection or criminal stay away order in place on your behalf.

If the abuser is found guilty, he/she may be required to attend batterer treatment, may be put on probation or may be imprisoned.

Your advocate can help you get a copy of the criminal case information, including a copy of the criminal stay away order for you to carry.



Remember, a criminal stay away order is NOT the same thing as a Civil Protection Order.

If the abuser is **NOT** arrested

Classifications of Police Reports!

Note that for police to take action to arrest your abuser, they must be taking an Offense report (like simple assault, destruction of property, etc) **NOT** a family disturbance report. A family disturbance report is not documentation that a domestic violence crime has occurred.

Warrants

If the police come to the scene and the respondent has fled:

- Police will file a police report and give you the police report number for reference
- The report will be referred to a Domestic Violence Investigator (Detective) at the police station in which the crime occurred
- The Investigator will look into the crime and determine whether or not a warrant for arrest of the defendant should be issued.
- If you see your abuser before your case has been assigned and/or before the Investigator has been able to get a warrant, you may call 911 to ask that a "second sighting arrest" made

To follow-up on a report:

- Within 2-3 days, your report should be assigned to a domestic violence investigator in the district where the report was taken.
- Contact that district and ask who the report was referred to and if you can speak with that person. Note that detectives sometimes work odd hours, such as midnight shifts and therefore may not be available during regular business hours.
- It is important that you make yourself available to the detective to answer questions about the case at all times so that he/she can obtain a warrant.
- If new domestic violence crimes (phone calls, threats) occur or more information becomes available, be sure to call your detective to give them the new police report numbers and information.

Second Sighting

If the defendant returns to your residence, call the police. He/she will be arrested on "second sighting".
When the police return, you should have the CCN# (police report number) of the report taken earlier.