



Questions to Ask Yourself

Are you afraid to go home?

Yes No

Does a member of your family threaten to do bodily harm to you?

Yes No

Are you being physically assaulted by a family member?

Yes No

If you answered "YES" to the above questions, you might be a victim of domestic violence.

According to South Carolina law, Title 16, Chapter 25, Section 20, Criminal Domestic Violence is defined as follows:

"It is unlawful to:

1. Cause physical harm or injury to his or her family or household member
2. Offer of attempt to cause physical harm or injury to his or her family or household member

With apparent present ability under circumstances reasonably creating fear of imminent peril."

CHECKLIST

WHAT YOU NEED TO TAKE WITH YOU WHEN YOU LEAVE:

- DRIVER'S LICENSE AND OTHER IDENTIFICATION
- BIRTH CERTIFICATES FOR FAMILY
- MONEY
- LEASE, RENTAL AGREEMENT, DEED TO HOUSE
- BANK BOOKS AND CHECK BOOKS
- INSURANCE PAPERS
- HOUSE AND CAR KEYS
- MEDICATIONS
- ADDRESS BOOK
- PICTURES AND JEWELRY
- MEDICAL RECORDS FOR ALL FAMILY MEMBERS
- SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS FOR FAMILY
- WELFARE ID
- SCHOOL RECORDS
- WORK PERMITS
- GREEN CARD OR PASSPORT
- DIVORCE PAPERS AND CUSTODY PAPERS
- CHILDREN'S SMALL TOYS
- OTHER

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

Richland County Sheriff's Department
803.576.3000 or 911 in case of emergency

Victim Assistance Unit
803.576.3115

Sistercare
803.765.9428

Women's Shelter
803.779.4706

Sexual Trauma Services
803.252.8393

Department of Social Services
803.735.7000

Family Court
803.748.4862

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PLAN



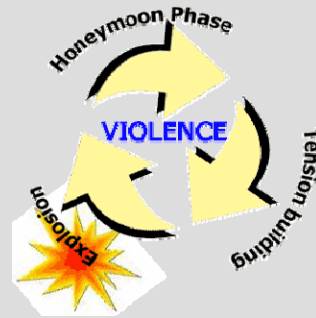


Domestic Violence is a problem that plagues all levels of our society. For every victim who leaves on the first occurrence of violence, there are innumerable others who endure years of abuse. We take these incidences seriously, and we offer you every affordable means of assistance.

It is important for you to remember that you are indeed the victim, not the source of the abuse. Like every problem, domestic violence is an issue that won't go away if it is simply ignored. We must face it together to help you deal with these traumatic experiences.

Whether you choose to leave an abusive relationship or to stay and try to remedy the issue of violence through treatment and counseling, we want to be here to help you. Whatever you decide, we have included in this brochure practical information that should assist you in making decisions that tend to escape us during times of severe emotional distress. Please use it to your advantage or contact us for assistance.

What the law doesn't say is that Criminal Domestic Violence is also a cycle of violence.



There are three stages of Domestic Violence:

1. TENSION BUILDING

In this phase, abuse may consist of name calling, threats or an occasional push or slap. You feel you must work hard not to anger your spouse and try to maintain control of the situation. This continues until control is lost.

2. EXPLOSION (Acute Battering)

In this phase, the abuser actually become violent. These assaults are more extreme and severe than in the first stage. This stage is the shortest, leaving the victim in shock and denial after the attack.

3. HONEYMOON

Once the shock has worn off, there is a calm period whereby the abuser becomes lovingly kind toward the victim. The abuser promises it will not happen again in hopes of not losing the victim.

Once the third phase has passed, the cycle begins again until it is broken. As a victim of criminal domestic violence, there are methods to break this cycle.

According to S.C. Code, Title 20, Section 4, Chapter 100:

1. The abused has the right to initiate criminal proceedings.
2. The abused also has the right to request law enforcement assistance for transportation to a safe haven.
3. The abused has the right to file an Order of Protection.

An Order of Protection is "A petition for relief made by a family or household member in need of protection or by any family or household members on behalf of minor family or household members." When obtaining an Order of Protection, ensure that one of the conditions stated in the Order is an Arrest Clause. Under this clause, the abuser will be arrested if he/she violates the condition of the Order.

In an emergency, it is possible to petition the court for a

24-hour hearing. Otherwise, it is a 15-day hearing. At this hearing, the judge will determine the severity of the situation and decide whether or not to keep the abuser out of the residence. The length of time that the Order is good for is at the discretion of the judge. At the end of this time, other action must be taken to make the separation permanent.

In this State, all Orders of Protection are filed with Family Court.

If you find yourself in a domestic violence situation, please know the following:

- If an argument seems unavoidable, try to have it in a room or an area that has access to an exit.
- Have a packed bag ready and keep it in an undisclosed, but accessible, place.
- Devise a code word to use with your children, family, friends, and neighbors when you need the police.
- Use your own instincts and judgment.
- Discuss a safety plan with your children.
- Inform your children's school, day care, etc. about who has permission to pick up your children.
- Inform neighbors and landlord that your partner no longer lives with you and that they should call the police if they see him near your home.
- If you are in possession of an ORDER OF PROTECTION, keep it with you at all times. (When you change purses or wallets, that should be the first thing that goes with it.)
- Call the police if your partner breaks the protective order.
- Inform family and friends that the protective order is in effect.
- If you feel you are in danger at work, notify someone in the office of your situation.
- Screen calls if possible and devise a safety plan for when you leave work.

ALWAYS REMEMBER....

YOU DON'T DESERVE TO BE HIT OR THREATENED!!!

LISTED ON THE BACK OF THIS BROCHURE ARE A CHECKLIST AND SOME PHONE NUMBERS YOU MAY NEED.