

## Resources

### What to do?

Create a safety plan to include:

- choosing a safe place to go;
- a trusted friend to confide in;
- a financial plan and money;
- clothes and other items including toys for children;
- securing important papers (including deeds, titles, social security cards, immunization records, etc.); and
- emergency phone numbers.

You can find help from local agencies like SisterCare, Sexual Trauma Services, and the Richland County Sheriff's Department Victim's Assistance Unit.

Call 911 if emergency services are needed.

### You are not alone.

Everyone deserves to be treated with respect. If someone you know is being abused, understand their fears and be there for them. Encourage them to seek help.

If you are being abused, there is help in the community.

You are not alone.

#### Local:

**RCSD Victim Assistance Unit**  
803.576.3115

**RCSD GLBT Liaison Officer**  
803.576.3462

**SisterCare**  
803.765.9428

**Sexual Trauma Services**  
803.771.RAPE (7273)

#### National:

**National Domestic Violence Hotline**  
800.799.SAFE (7233)

**The Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project**  
800.832.1901

**The Network for Battered Lesbians and Bisexual Women**  
617.423.SAFE (7233)

**Gay and Lesbian Help Center**  
888.843.4564

**Gay and Lesbian Victim Assistance**  
800.259.1538

**The AIDS/STD Hotline**  
800.322.AIDS (2437)

# Interpersonal Violence



**RICHLAND COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**  
WWW.RCSD.NET (803) 576-3000

LEON LOTT, SHERIFF



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LEON LOTT, SHERIFF





*As the sheriff of Richland County for all citizens, it is my job to provide you with information and support.*

*Please take a few minutes to look over the enclosed information and work with us to make you safer.*

*Call or email your Sheriff's Department if we can be of assistance to you or you have questions.*

## **What is Interpersonal Violence?**

Interpersonal Violence is any pattern of behavior within an intimate relationship used by one partner to coerce, dominate or isolate another person, or the exertion of any form of power that maintains control. Interpersonal violence may include, but is not limited to emotional, psychological, physical, economic, sexual abuse, and social isolation. This also includes stalking and harassment.

Interpersonal violence affects every community, regardless of age, race, gender, ethnicity, class, ability or disability, education level, and religion.

**An estimated 25%-33% of Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual and Transgender (GLBT) relationships are abusive. The same percentage as in heterosexual relationships.**

59% of female victims and 30% of male victims are stalked by an intimate partner.

## **Stalking**

A pattern of words, conduct, written or electronic that is intended to cause and does cause a targeted person and would cause a reasonable person in that position to fear:

- death of the person or family member.
- assault upon the person or family member.
- bodily injury to the person or family member.
- criminal sexual contact on person or family member.
- kidnapping of the person or family member.
- damage to property of person or family member.



## **Harassment**

A pattern of intentional, substantial and unreasonable intrusion into the private life of a person that would cause a reasonable person to suffer mental distress. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Following the person as he moves from location to location
- Visual, physical, verbal, written or electronic contact that is initiated, maintained or repeated after a person has been provided notice that the contact is unwanted
- Surveillance of the person's residence, place of work, school, place regularly occupied by person, vandalism and property damage.

## **Special Challenges for Same-Sex Violence**

- Many feel that once the abuse is reported, that it is not being taken seriously.
- Homophobic attitudes may range from "who cares?" to "their relationships are generally unstable or unhealthy anyway."
- Because the LGBT community is so interlaced, many victims fear losing friends and support within the community.
- Victims are often fearful of being "outed" by their partner.
- Shelters may not be sensitive to same-sex abuse and lesbian victims may fear their partner will be able to enter the shelter.
- Abused gay men have no shelters to turn to.

