

New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women

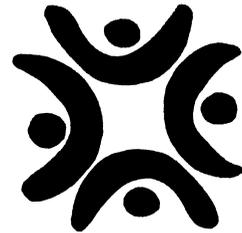
1670 Whitehorse-Hamilton Sq. Road
Trenton, NJ 08690-2718

Phone: 609-584-8107
TTY: 609-584-0027
Fax: 609-584-9750
E-mail: info@njcbw.org
Website: www.njcbw.org

NJ STATEWIDE
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
TOLL FREE HOTLINE
800-572-SAFE
(800-572-7233)

To find a domestic violence program near
you, please visit:
www.njcbw.org

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INFORMATION & RESOURCES



Statewide Hotline
1-800-572-7233

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WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

It is a pattern of intimidation, coercion and violence; the sum of all past acts and the promise of future acts that achieve power and control over a partner. This pattern often increases in frequency and severity over time. Battering can be verbal, physical, emotional, sexual or economic. An abused person can be of any age, race, class, culture, religion or occupation. She or he can be gay or straight.

- The FBI estimates that one out of two women will be physically abused at some point in their lives by men with whom they live.
- About 25-40 percent of all women who are battered are battered during pregnancy.
- Domestic Violence is a **CRIME**.
- For NJ statistics on the number of domestic violence offenses reported to police go to:
<http://www.njsp.org/front.html>
- For statistics on services provided by NJ domestic violence programs go to:
<http://www.njcbw.org/stats.htm>

SOME POSSIBLE SIGNS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

You may be a victim of domestic violence if:

- You are afraid to say what you think.
- You are fearful or nervous when your partner is due home.
- Your partner is very jealous and controlling.
- You are being forced to have sex against your will.
- Your partner hits, shoves and/or chokes you.
- You are being put down, controlled, or hit by any adult family member with whom you live.
- Your partner controls where you go, what you do, and who you see.
- Your partner throws things at you.
- Your partner threatens that you'll lose custody of your children.
- Your partner keeps you from seeing the people you care about the most.
- Your partner's outbursts of violence have become more frequent and severe.

Domestic violence can be found in most cultures around the world. This does not mean that domestic violence is accepted in these cultures.

You do not deserve to be abused. No one has the right to injure or degrade you.

LEGAL RIGHTS

Domestic violence tends to get worse with time. It usually does not go away on its own. It is important to remember that you are not responsible for the violence, but there are things you can do that may help break the cycle of violence.

- Domestic violence is a crime. If you are in immediate danger, call the police. They will inform you about legal protections and restraining orders.
- You have the right to ask a judge to issue a temporary restraining order (TRO) that may help protect you from more abuse by the person who abused you. A TRO can require that the attacker is temporarily forbidden from: (1) entering your home, (2) having contact with you or your relatives, or (3) bothering you at work. A TRO can say that you have temporary custody of your children, and may include other things the court can order. A TRO can also require the attacker to pay temporary support for your children or you, and to pay you back money spent for medical treatment and repairs because of the violence. You can get a TRO by contacting the police or Family Part of Superior Court in your county during business hours.
- The police are required to file a criminal complaint against the attacker in some cases. You have the right to file a criminal complaint if the police do not do so.

INFORMATION FOR IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE WOMEN

What are protective orders? What do they do? A protective order can exclude the batterer from your home and prohibit the abuser from contacting, attacking, sexually assaulting, or telephoning you and other family members. Along with this protective order, you can also ask for custody of your children and child support. If you dropped an order in the past, you can apply for another order if you are again in danger.

Can I get a protective order even if I am not a U.S. citizen? YES. You do not need to be a citizen or legal permanent resident to get a protective order. A lawyer may be helpful, but is not necessary to get a protective order. Help is generally available at courthouses, domestic violence programs, legal services offices, and police stations. Civil courts should not ask about a woman's immigration status when she asks for a protective order, a child custody order, or a divorce. You should know that there are special protections under the law for victims of domestic violence, regardless of status as a legal permanent resident or a citizen.

Should I contact an attorney if I have questions about my immigration status? YES. If you are not sure about your immigration status, do not go to the INS without a lawyer or without first consulting a lawyer about your immigration status. Your conversations with an attorney will be confidential, and he or she will not report you to the INS. If you cannot afford to pay for an attorney, contact the nearest legal services office or call an immigration organization.

My abusive husband is threatening to take my children away if I leave him. What can I do?

If your husband/partner is threatening to take your children away or take them to his home country, you should:

- Immediately get a custody order. The order can include an order to prohibit your husband/partner from removing the children from the country in which you live.
- If the children are U.S. citizens, send a copy of this order to the embassy of your husband's/partner's home country and a copy to the U.S. Department of State to prevent the issuance of passports and visas for the children.
- Give a copy of the order to the children's schools and tell the schools not to release the children to anyone but yourself.
- Make sure that you have recent photos, passports and birth certificates for the children. Keep a list of addresses and phone numbers of your husband's/partner's friends and relatives in his home country.
- **NO ONE DESERVES TO BE HURT OR INJURED.**
- **YOU ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S BEHAVIOR.**
- **WITNESSING VIOLENCE AFFECTS THE CHILDREN, TOO.**

CHOICES AND OPTIONS

Call your local domestic violence hotline or the statewide hotline. They can provide information regarding:

- legal rights
- legal protections
- safety planning
- protective shelter for you and your children
- referral for other services

ALL CALLS TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS ARE CONFIDENTIAL