

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic Violence is a pattern of physical, emotional, verbal, financial and/or sexual abuse to gain power and control within a relationship. A relationship can involve a partner, family member or caretaker.

Does Your Partner...

- Get jealous easily?
- Control every aspect of your life?
- Cut you off from friends and family?
- Blame others for their problems?
- Constantly criticize you?
- Threaten to hurt you, your loved ones, or pets?
- Physically, emotionally or verbally abuse you?

What is Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault is any unwanted sexual contact that includes rape, attempted rape, intentional sexual touching, incest or molestation. It is committed without consent and often through the use of force, intimidation or coercion. Assaultants can be strangers, spouses, acquaintances, friends, family members or anyone else. Sexual assault is not about sexual desire, it is about power and control.

You may experience...

Physical reactions: aches and pains, irritation, illness, stomach pains

Emotional reactions: shock and disbelief, fear, anger, powerlessness, and self blame

Mental reactions: difficulty making decisions, flashbacks, confusion

If this happens to you or a friend.....

Remember it is **NOT** your fault.

You Are Not Alone!

Quick Reference Additional local resources

Police

Fall River Police.....	508-676-8511
Freetown Police.....	508-763-4017
Somerset Police.....	508-679-2138
Swansea Police.....	508-674-8464
Westport Police.....	508-636-1122
Emergency.....	911

Court Services

Fall River District Court.....	508-491-3200
Fall River District Court Probation.....	508-491-3240
Fall River Dist. Ct Restraining Order Dept.....	508-491-3200
Bristol County Juvenile Court - Fall River.....	508-676-0090
Fall River Juvenile Court Probation.....	508-676-0090
Fall River Probate and Family Court.....	508-672-1751
Southeast Housing Court – Fall River.....	508-677-1505

Elder / Disabled Services

Fall River Council on Aging.....	508-324-2401
Freetown Council on Aging.....	508-763-9557
Somerset Council on Aging.....	508-646-2833
Swansea Council on Aging.....	508-676-1831
Westport Council on Aging.....	508-636-1026
Bristol County Elder Services.....	508-675-2101
Disabled Persons Protection Commission 24 hr hotline.....	800-426-9009

Additional Services

South Coastal Counties Legal Services.....1-800-244-9023
Assists victims of domestic/sexual violence with civil matters (housing, custody, benefits, divorce, immigration, etc.)

Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project.....	800-832-1901
SafeLink-statewide Domestic Violence Hotline..	877-785-2020
National Domestic Violence Hotline	800-799-7233
National Sexual Assault Hotline	800-656-HOPE
Llamanos Lineadeayuda.....	800-223-5001
National Runaway 24 hr Hotline.....	800-RUNAWAY
Child At Risk 24 hr Hotline.....	800-792-5200
Elder Abuse 24 hr Hotline.....	800-922-2275
Substance Abuse 24 hr Hotline.....	800-327-5050
Parental Stress 24 hr Hotline.....	800-632-8188

For additional information and resources, and to download this as a PDF, visit the District Attorney's Office on the web and connect with us via social media. Links are available on our website at www.bristollda.com



OFFICE OF THE BRISTOL COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

THOMAS M. QUINN III

Guide To GREATER FALL RIVER Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resources



*Prepared in collaboration with participating
Fall River High at Risk Team members.*

Main: 888 Purchase St., New Bedford, MA 02740 (508) 997-0711
Fall River: 218 S. Main St., Fall River, MA 02721 (508) 679-1911
www.bristollda.com

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Resources

SSTAR Women's Center

SSTAR Women's Center provides individual and group therapy, legal advocacy and assistance with documents, safety assessments, personalized safety plans and information regarding 209A's (restraining orders) as well as 258E (Harassment Orders). Our Legal Advocate is also able to assist with information and lawyer referrals, housing searches and advocacy with Department of Transitional Assistance and The Department of Children and Families. **Main Office: (508) 675-0087, Local 24-hr hotline: (508) 675-0087**

The Women's Center Rape Crisis Center

Serving as the rape crisis center for the Greater Fall River area, The Women's Center offers multilingual crisis intervention, individual and group counseling, and legal and medical advocacy and support services. If you are in need of immediate assistance, call 911.
**24 hr Hotline 508-999-6636,
Business line 508-672-1222**

Bristol County District Attorney's Office

The Bristol County District Attorney's Office is responsible for the enhanced prosecution of domestic violence and sexual assault offenders. The Assistant District Attorneys and Victim Witness Advocates are specially trained to prosecute these cases. Each case is prosecuted by a team (prosecutor/advocate) assigned to the case from arraignment through disposition. You can reach the Prosecutor or Advocate assigned to your case by contacting the office. They will be able to explain the criminal process to you, explain the status of the case, assist you with a victim witness impact statement and provide you with resources including contacting the partnering agencies.
**District Attorney's Office at Fall River District Court:
(508) 679-1911**

Massachusetts Parole Board Victim Services Unit

Parole is when an offender serves the remainder of the committed sentence in the community under supervision. This unit provides victims with information pertaining to an offender's post-conviction status. Services include assistance with certification for notification, information regarding the parole process, submission of victim input, notification of parole hearings in cases where they are allowed to attend and participate, crisis intervention, safety planning, and referrals to community agencies. **508-999-4820**

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SAFEPLAN

SAFEPLAN provides specially trained and certified advocates to offer in-court advocacy and support services to victims of domestic violence who are seeking intervention and protection through the court system. SAFEPLAN advocates can be located in the district and probate courts throughout Bristol County. The mission of SAFEPLAN is to provide a statewide system of court advocacy for victims of domestic violence considering a 209A restraining order. **SAFEPLAN, Fall River District Court: (508) 491-3200 ... Clerk's Office, Ask for the Safe-plan Advocate**

Department of Children & Families *formerly Department of Social Services*

Department of Children and Families is the Massachusetts state agency charged with the responsibility of protecting children from child abuse and neglect. Programs and services include foster care, adoption, adolescent/child services, domestic violence services and the collaborative assessment program (CAP). **Fall River: (508) 235-9800, 1561 N. Main St., Fall River, MA 02720**

Bristol County Sheriff's Department Victim Services Unit

Post-conviction services begin when an offender has been sentenced to a term of incarceration. The unit assists crime victims with services including: referrals and support services, answering questions and concerns related to an offender's incarceration, assistance understanding the corrections process, phone blocks to prevent the offender from calling, safety planning, and becoming certified to receive notifications regarding the offender. **(508) 995-6400 James Flannery - Coordinator of Victim Services ext. 2612; Roger Martin - Victim Advocate ext. 2318**

Department of Transitional Assistance

Department of Transitional Assistance has staff who are experienced in domestic violence and can help you in many ways including: finding a safe place to stay for you and your children, helping you create/follow a plan to support your family and live independently, and helping you request time to comply with TAFDC rules. **Fall River: 508-646-6200**

Fall River Police Department

The Fall River Police Department Domestic Violence Unit has a Civilian Advocate available daily to assist victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. The Advocate follows up on each case and assists with safety planning, referrals and resources. **508-740-7162**

Children's Advocacy Center of Bristol County

The Child Advocacy Center is an interagency, multi-disciplinary partnership dedicated to minimizing trauma to children and families when concerns of abuse arise. Children between the ages of 3 and 18, who are the victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse or severe neglect receive coordinated services from the multi-disciplinary team. The Center provides extensive services to children and their families, including linkage to mental health services, domestic violence centers, and rape crisis centers. Victim Support Advocates provide investigation updates, support, and court accompaniment. **58 Arch Street Fall River, (508) 674-6111**

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (S.A.N.E.)

Quality medical care and evidence collection for ages 12 and older is available from specially trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners at designated SANE sites within 120 hours of an assault. Hospitals with SANE sites in Bristol County are St. Luke's and Morton. You may receive medical care and evidence collection without being required to report the crime to police. The Bristol County CAC has a Pediatric SANE who is trained to conduct sexual abuse exams for children. **www.mass.gov/dph/fch/sane/index.html**

SSTAR Batterer Intervention Program

The program strives to end domestic violence by providing educational groups for batterers and resource information to partners and victims. The program curricula examines all forms of abusive behavior, the impact on intimate partners and children, and the diverse influences that contribute to violence. The female/male co-facilitators encourage batterers to adopt respectful and non-abusive behaviors toward their intimate partners and children. Abuse and control are viewed as the primary problems, unlike anger management programs, where anger is viewed as the primary problem. Groups are typically held for two hours, once a week for forty consecutive weeks. Also available in Spanish. **508-324-3597**

South Coastal Counties Legal Services, Inc. (SCCLS)

SCCLS is a private, non-profit law firm providing legal assistance to eligible low-income clients in civil (non-criminal) matters, without charge, including but not limited to, domestic and sexual violence, housing (tenants only), custody, benefits, divorce, immigration and elder matters. Intake Line M-Th 9:00 am -1:30 pm **800-244-9023** or **www.sccls.org** and **www.masslegalhelp.org**

Shelter

Call the statewide SAFELINK hotline at **1-877-785-2020** or visit **www.domesticshelters.org**