

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

Acushnet Police.....	508-998-0260
Dartmouth Police.....	508-910-1700
Fairhaven Police.....	508-997-7421
New Bedford Police.....	508-991-6300
Emergency.....	911

Court Services

New Bedford District Court.....	508-999-9700
New Bedford Dist. Court Probation.....	508-999-9700
New Bedford Dist. Ct. Restraining Order Dept.....	508-999-9700
New Bedford Probate Court.....	508-999-5249
New Bedford Juvenile Court.....	508-999-9700
New Bedford Juvenile Court Probation.....	508-999-9700
Southeast Housing Court – New Bedford.....	508-994-0156

Elder / Disabled Services

Acushnet Council on Aging.....	508-998-0280
Dartmouth Council on Aging.....	508-999-4717
Fairhaven Council on Aging.....	508-979-4029
New Bedford Council on Aging.....	508-991-6250
Coastline Elderly Service, Inc.....	800-242-0246
Disabled Persons Protection Commission 24 hr hotline.....	800-426-9009

Other Local Services

Southeastern Mass Legal Assistance.....	508-586-2110
Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project.....	800-832-1901
State & National Hotlines	
SafeLink-statewide Domestic Violence Hotline..	877-785-2020
National Domestic Violence Hotline	800-799-7233
National Sexual Assault Hotline	800-656-HOPE
The Network - Gay & Lesbian	
Domestic Violence Hotline.....	617-742-4911
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.bristolda.com



OFFICE OF THE BRISTOL COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

THOMAS M. QUINN III

Guide To GREATER NEW BEDFORD Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resources



*Prepared in collaboration with
participating New Bedford High at Risk
Team members.*

888 Purchase St., New Bedford, MA 02740
(508) 997-0711

www.bristolda.com

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Resources

The Women's Center

The Women's Center provides free, confidential, 24-hour, easily accessible services for those in need. We have domestic violence, sexual assault and child trauma programs, legal and medical advocacy, residential services, emergency safe home, and community outreach and education. Our mission is to empower and support positive choices for all and to educate and take action in the community for the prevention of oppression and violence. **Main Office in New Bedford: (508) 996-3343. Or call our 24 hr hotline: (508) 999-6636 or (888) 839-6636; TTY: (508) 996-1177**

Department of Transitional Assistance

Department of Transitional Assistance has staff members who are experienced in the field of domestic violence who can help you in many ways including: helping to find a safe place to stay for you and your children, helping you create and follow a plan to support your family and live independently, and helping you request time to comply with TAFDC rules.

New Bedford: (508) 961-2013

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. **New Bedford: 99 No. Front St. (508) 910-1000**

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 prosecute 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 New Bedford District Court (508) 997-6333**

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New Bedford Police Department

The New Bedford Police Department Domestic Violence Unit has a Civilian Advocate available daily to assist victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. The Advocates can assist with Restraining Orders (209 A's) and Harassment Orders (258E's) as well as assist victims in obtaining Emergency Restraining Orders at night or on weekends. **508-991-6300 ext. 308**

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. **SAFEPLAN New Bedford District Court: (508) 999-7000 Ask for the Civil Clerk's Office and then Safeplan**

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 provided include but are not limited to: assisting victims of crime obtain certification for notifications, providing information regarding the parole process, submission of victim input, notification of parole hearings where victims are allowed to attend and participate, crisis intervention, safety planning, and referrals to community agencies. **508-999-4820**

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 provides information and assistance to victims of all crimes with services including: referrals and support services, answering questions and concerns related to an offender's incarceration, assistance to better understand the corrections process, phone blocks to prevent the offender from calling, safety planning, and becoming certified to receive pertinent information regarding the offender. **(508) 995-6400 James Flannery - Coordinator of Victim Services ext. 2612; Roger Martin - Victim Advocate ext. 2318**

Shelter

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

Children's Advocacy Center

The Child Advocacy Center (C.A.C.) is an interagency, multi-disciplinary partnership dedicated to minimizing trauma to children and families when concerns of abuse arise. Children in Bristol County between the ages of 3 and 18 who are the victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse or severe neglect receive coordinated services from a 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. The center provides specialized counseling referrals and outreach services as needed per each case. All services are customized to meet each family's cultural needs. **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. The following hospitals are SANE sites in Bristol County: 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**

High Point Treatment Center's 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 cultural and social influences that contribute to violence. Female and male co-facilitators encourage batterers to adopt respectful and non-abusive behaviors toward their intimate partners and children, in part by modeling equal relationships. 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 2 hours, once a week for 40 consecutive weeks. *Also available in Spanish. **774-628-1091**

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**