

## 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. Assailants 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/Law Enforcement Services

Fall River District Court Clerks Office.....508-491-3200  
Fall River District Court Probation.....508-491-3240  
Fall River District Court Civil Dept.....508-491-3235  
Bristol County Juvenile Court - Fall River.....508-676-0090  
Fall River Probate and Family Court.....508-672-1751  
Southeast Housing Court - Fall River.....508-677-1505  
VINELINK Victim Notification-State prison [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com) 866-277-7477  
House of Correction-Victim Notification.....508-995-6400  
DCJIS Victim Notification/CORI Access.....617-660-4600  
Sex Offender Registry [www.mass.gov/sorb](http://www.mass.gov/sorb).....978-740-6400

### Elder/Disabled Persons 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  
Elder Abuse 24 hr Hotline.....800-922-2275

### Other Helpful Services/Hotlines

Victim Rights Law Center.....617-399-6720  
SafeLink-Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline.....877-785-2020  
National Domestic Violence Hotline.....800-799-7233  
National Sexual Assault Hotline.....800-656-4673  
The Network/La Red - LGBTQ 24/7Hotline.....800-832-1901  
Llamanos Lineadeayuda.....800-223-5001  
Ma Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA).....617-586-1340  
National Runaway 24 hr Hotline.....800-RUNAWAY  
Child At Risk 24 hr Hotline.....800-792-5200  
Substance Abuse 24 hr Hotline.....800-327-5050  
Parental Stress 24 hr Hotline.....800-632-8188  
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.....800-273-8255  
Suicide & Crisis Hotline 24/7.....988

**For additional information and re-  
sources, please contact your local police  
department's Civilian Police Advocate.**

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 (HART) members**

218 S. Main St., Fall River, MA 02721  
(508) 679-1911  
[www.bristollda.com](http://www.bristollda.com)

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# Resources

## SSTAR Women's Center

The Women's Center at SSTAR provides domestic violence services, including counseling, safety planning, risk assessment, and crisis intervention. It provides Civilian Police Advocacy at all police departments in the Greater Fall River Area, as well as SAFEPLAN advocacy in Fall River district and probate courts. The Women's Center at SSTAR works collaboratively with the police, the DA's Office and other community partners, to provide culturally-competent, empowerment-based services.

**Local business and 24-hr Hotline: (508) 675-0087**

## The Women's Center

We provide sexual and domestic violence services in Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, New Bedford, Mattapoisett, Marion and Rochester and rape crisis services in Fall River Somerset, Swansea, Wareham and Westport. Services include multi-lingual crisis intervention, medical and legal advocacy, group and individual counseling, specialized Child Trauma Therapy, and education and outreach.

**If you are in need of immediate assistance, call 911.**

**24 hr hotline (508) 999-6636**

**Business line (508) 996-3343**

## 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. **Regional Office 8 (New Bedford) (508) 999-4820**

## 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. **Fall River District Court: (508) 491-3200 Clerk's Office, Ask for the SAFEPLAN Advocate Bristol County Probate & Family (508) 672-1751 press #2 Ask for the SAFEPLAN 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.

**Communications: (508) 995-6400 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**

## Local Police Department

Your local Police Department has a Civilian Advocate available daily to assist victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. The advocate follows up on each case and offers confidential free services providing safety planning, referrals and resources.

**Please refer to the back cover for a  
Police Department in your area**

## 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 from specially trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners at designated SANE sites can be done 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. **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](http://www.mass.gov/dph/fch/sane/index.html)**

## SSTAR Intimate Partner Abuse Education 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](http://www.sccls.org) and [www.masslegalhelp.org](http://www.masslegalhelp.org)**

## Shelter

Call the statewide SAFELINK hotline at **1-877-785-2020** or visit **[www.domesticshelters.org](http://www.domesticshelters.org)**