

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

Berkley Police.....	508-822-7040
Dighton Police.....	508-669-6711
Easton Police.....	508-230-3322
Raynham Police.....	508-824-2716
Rehoboth Police.....	508-252-3722
Seekonk Police.....	508-336-8123
Taunton Police.....	508-824-7522
Emergency.....	911

Court/Law Enforcement Services

Taunton District Court.....	508-977-6000
Taunton DC Restraining Order Dept.....	508-977-6124
Bristol Probate & Family Court/Taunton.....	508-977-6040
Southeast Housing Court/Taunton.....	508-977-4950
VINELINK Victim Notification-State prison 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	978-740-6400

Elder/Disabled Persons Services

Berkley COA.....	508-821-3105
Dighton COA.....	508-823-0095
Easton COA.....	508-230-0690
Raynham Senior Center.....	508-824-2740
Rehoboth Senior Center.....	508-252-3372
Seekonk COA.....	508-336-8772
Taunton COA.....	508-821-1425
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-for sexual assault.....	617-399-6720
SafeLink-statewide Domestic Violence Hotline.....	877-785-2020
National Domestic Violence Hotline.....	800-799-7233
National Sexual Assault Hotline.....	800-656-HOPE
The Network /La Red- LGTBQ DV Hotline.....	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 TAUNTON Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resources



**Prepared in collaboration with participating
Taunton High At Risk Team (HART) members**

40 Broadway, Taunton, MA 02780
(508) 823-8801
www.bristolda.com

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Resources

New Hope

New Hope provides free, confidential, 24-hour services for those affected by domestic and/or sexual violence. Services include crisis intervention, individual and group counseling for adults, adolescents, and children; emergency shelter services; housing stabilization; community-based advocacy, and supervised visitation support. SAFEPLAN advocates are available to assist victims with 209A's (Restraining Orders) and 258E's (Harassment Prevention Orders) in court. Medical advocates provide 24/7 support to sexual assault victims and their families who present at Morton or Sturdy Hospital ERs.

Attleboro: (508) 226-4015

24 hr hotline: (800) 323-HOPE (4673)

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.

(508) 884-5300

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). **Taunton: (508) 821-7000,**

**Mill River Place, Suite 21, One Washington St.,
Taunton, MA 02780**

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 Taunton District Court
(508) 823-8801**

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 Advocate, Taunton District Court:
(508) 824-5205 Ext. 219**

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. The services provided include but are not limited to the following: assist victims of crime in obtaining certification for notification, provide information regarding the parole process, submission of victim input, notification of upcoming parole hearings in cases where they are allowed to attend and participate, provide crisis intervention, safety planning, and referrals to community agencies. **(508) 999-4820**

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 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. The center provides specialized counseling referrals and outreach services as needed by each case. All CAC 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 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

Your Local Police Department

Your local police department has a Civilian Police 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**

Shelter

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

RESPECT Intimate Partner Abuse Education Program

RESPECT is New Hope's state-certified educational program for perpetrators of domestic violence. This program addresses the core belief systems of perpetrators, as well as the abuse they have used in their intimate partnerships. Perpetrators participate in a minimum of 40 weekly group sessions, designed to hold them accountable for their violent and controlling behaviors, and to prevent violence in their current and future relationships. The program focuses on root causes, accountability, and developing ways to maintain non-violent interaction, and refrain from all abusive behaviors in their relationships. To learn more about our RESPECT program or to inquire about joining a RESPECT group, please call our toll-free RESPECT line at **(877) 222-0083**.

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

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. **Communications
(508) 995-6400 x2318**