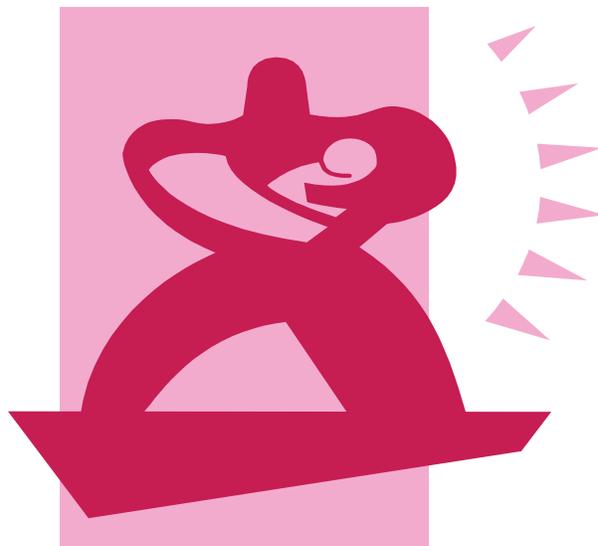




Resource Guide for Family Violence Victims



Solano County
Office of Family Violence
Prevention



Revised: June 11, 2008

Only YOU can decide the way it will be;

What kind of life—the quality.

A new life awaits -

Seek strength from within.

A new life awaits -

Let the healing begin.

Linda J.

Survivor of Domestic Violence





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WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

When you think of a batterer and victim, you typically think of a man as the batterer and the woman as the victim. This is true in approximately 85% of domestic violence cases. In families suffering from domestic violence, there are many victims. Children, young adults, and elderly persons are also victims of violence. Studies show the negative effects that violence has on all members in the home and on society. Because domestic violence doesn't just affect the direct victim, many communities refer to this dynamic as family violence rather than domestic violence.

A common misconception is that domestic violence is limited to poor or urban areas or certain ethnic groups. Victims of all cultures, races, occupations, income levels, and ages are battered—by spouses, dating partners, and/or lovers.¹

Young, old, single, married, professional, unemployed, rich or poor — all may be potential victims of domestic violence. The problem of domestic violence occurs throughout society and affects all socioeconomic, cultural and ethnic groups and should therefore be seen as a crime that affects everyone in the home.²

This manual will focus primarily on domestic violence that involves male/female intimate relationships, however it will also address less common forms of domestic violence such as financial abuse, children witnessing domestic violence, elder abuse, and issues faced by immigrant women who are victims.

HOW SERIOUS IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

About one in five persons murdered in 2002 was killed by a family member. Of all homicides reported that year, almost 9% were killed by a spouse, 6% were children killed by a parent, and 7% were murdered by another family member.³ Sadly, the batterer was someone close to the victim: a spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend, relative, parent, or child (in the case of elder abuse). Batterers are often someone we might not suspect, (i.e. a pastor, doctor, police officer, or other professional).

WHY DO VICTIMS STAY?

Why do women stay in abusive relationships? This is a frequently asked question. There are many reasons why women remain in abusive relationships. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence offers the following possible responses:

Lack of Resources: Many abused women are not employed outside the home and have one or more minor children. In many cases batterers have restricted or denied the victim's access to cash or bank accounts.

Shame: Many women are embarrassed that they are being abused by the person they love and who is supposed to love them.

Traditional Thinking: Many women believe they are responsible for making their marriage or relationship work (especially if there are children); they believe that if the relationship fails, its their fault.

The biggest reason is fear. Women who leave their batterers have a 75% greater risk of being killed by the batterers than those who stay (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 1988).

FACTS v. MYTHS

Myth: Family Violence is just a momentary loss of temper.

Fact: Battering is the establishment of control and fear in a relationship through violence and other forms of abuse. The batterer uses acts of violence and a series of behaviors including intimidation, threats, psychological abuse, and isolation to coerce and control the other person. Violent episodes may not happen often, but it is a hidden (and constant) terrorizing factor that controls the relationship. ⁴

Myth: Family Violence only happens in poor families.

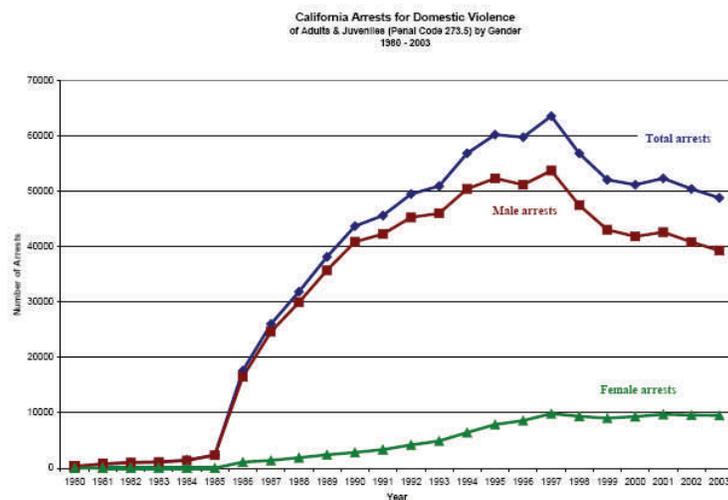
Fact: Approximately one-third of men counseled for battering are professionals who are well respected in their jobs and their communities. This includes doctors, psychologists, lawyers, ministers, and business executives.⁵

Myth: It is easy for abused women to leave their batterers.

Fact: Resources are limited. There are 3 times more animal shelters than battered women shelters in the United States.⁶

Myth: It's not a big problem.

Fact: In 2000, there were 197,000 domestic violence calls reported. There were 51, 225 arrests for spousal abuse in 2000 and only 12, 132 convictions.⁷



In California in 2004, 169 murders were committed as a result of intimate partner violence. (California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center.

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Every nine seconds, a woman is beaten in the United States, yet it is the most under reported crime in the country.⁸ Domestic Violence is “a pattern of behavior used to establish power and control over another person through fear and intimidation, often including the threat or use of violence” (The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence).



TYPES OF ABUSE

Physical Abuse: hitting, slapping, kicking, pushing, choking, punching, biting, burning, beating.

Sexual Abuse: unwanted touching, forcing sex on an unwilling partner, offensive statements of a sexual nature, rape.

Verbal and Emotional Abuse: Name-calling, yelling, swearing. Constant criticism, making demeaning comments, puts the victim down, attempts to convince the victim and others that the victim is just imagining things.

Financial Abuse: Attempts to keep victim from getting and/or keeping a job, restricts or denies access to bank accounts, requires victim to account for money spent, requires victim to relinquish pay check to batterer.

Cycle of Violence

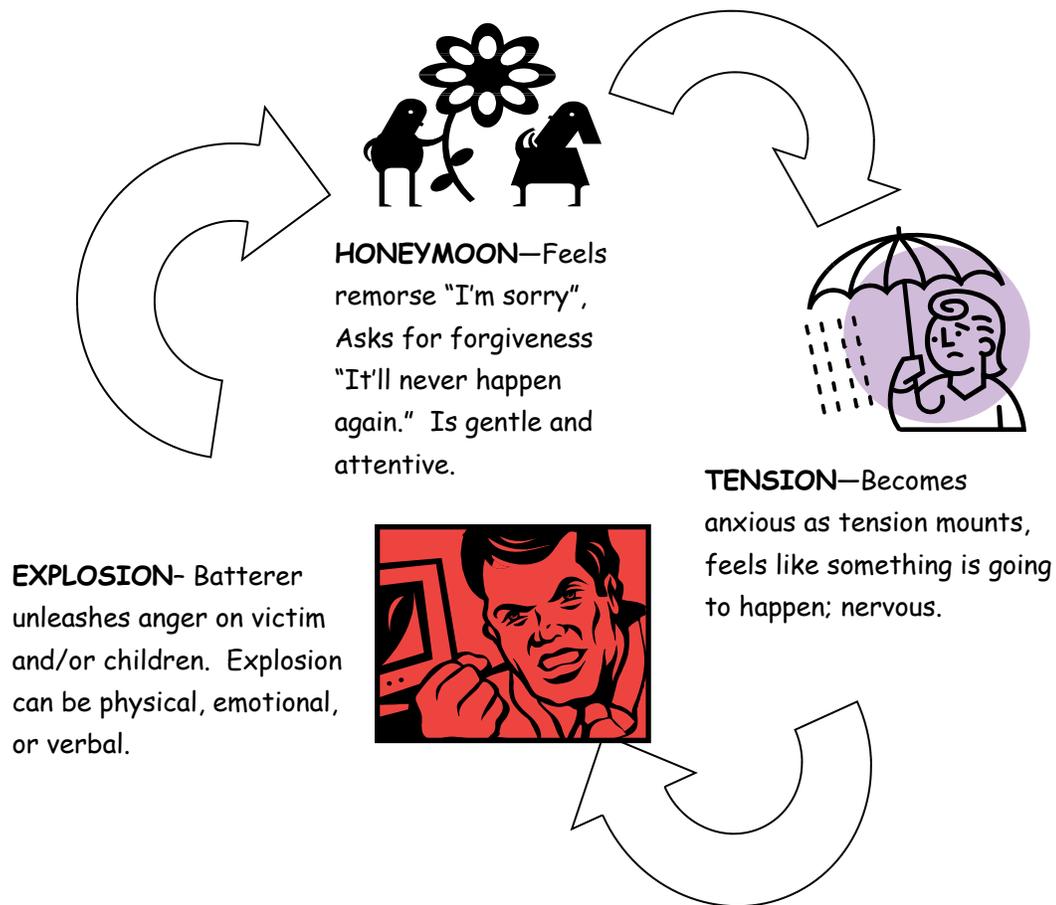
In her book *The Battered Woman*, Dr. Lenore Walker describes a cyclical theory of domestic violence which she described as a “cycle of violence”. The Cycle includes three different stages: The Tension phase, the Explosion phase, and the Honeymoon phase. She states that the severity of violence increases as the relationship matures.

The Tension phase precedes the explosion and victims often describe this period as “walking on eggshells.” There are minor incidents of abuse with some arguing and blaming, all leading up to the explosion phase.

The Explosion phase is when the batterer unleashes all his violence. The violence can last minutes, hours, or days and is usually severe. This phase leads to the honeymoon phase.

The Honeymoon phase is full of apologies and promises of “I’ll never do it again.” The batterer becomes attentive, expresses caring and demonstrates remorse in an effort to convince the victim he has changed and should be forgiven.

The honeymoon phase may last for a while until something triggers the tension and explosion phases again. The cycle continues until eventually the tension and honeymoon phases become shorter and the explosion phase is longer; often, the honeymoon phase is cut out altogether. The Cycle of Violence can be seen graphically below:



Advocates and victims soon found that the cyclical model did not thoroughly address the issues of why men batter and why women stay. Battered women expressed concern that only physical abuse was being addressed and that abusive relationships were being portrayed as a momentary loss of control by batterers versus a pattern of controlling behaviors employed by the batterer to control the victim.

In 1984, the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project in Duluth, Minnesota conducted focus group interviews with battered women and invited domestic violence advocates to generate a framework that would describe the behavior of men who abuse. The result was the creation of the Power and Control Wheel which depicts the primary abusive behaviors experienced by women and family members living with a batterer.⁹

POWER AND CONTROL WHEEL

The Power and Control Wheel depicts how the batterer uses different tactics and employs several types of abuse, in addition to physical violence, to exert control over his victim.

Intimidation: Uses looks and gestures to instill fear. Destroys property (punches walls, smashes things, etc.). Abuses pets or displays weapons.

Emotional Abuse: Uses insults, name calling, and humiliation to lower self-esteem.

Isolation: Controls the victim's activities and with whom they interact. Uses jealousy to justify actions, keeps victim away from family and friends or any outside support system.

Denying, Blaming, Minimizing: "I didn't hit you that hard," "It's your fault, you should have ____"; Attempts to shift responsibility or justify his actions, "Work has me stressed out."

Using Children: Makes victim feel guilty about the children; threatens to take the children away; uses victim's children to send messages, or uses visitation as excuse to harass the victim.

Using Male Privilege: "I am the boss of this household," makes all the big decisions.

Using Economic Abuse: Restricts victim's ability to get a job, or if the victim works, restricts access to paycheck; restricts access to bank accounts, makes victim account for all money spent.

Using Coercion and Threats: Makes threats against victim or other family members; threatens to commit suicide; forces victim to commit illegal acts, and then threatens to report the victim to law enforcement.

In a same sex relationship, may threaten to expose victim's sexual preference.

If the victim is an illegal immigrant, may make threats of deportation.





DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION PROJECT

202 East Superior Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802
218-722-2781
www.duluth-model.org

In addition to the Power and Control Wheel, the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project created an Equality Wheel to help teach batterers to employ new tactics that encompass a healthy relationship. The Equality Wheel promotes the success of a relationship based on the equality of both partners. The Equality Wheel promotes:

Non-Threatening Behavior: Talks and acts in ways that makes his partner feel safe and comfortable.

Respect: Values his partners opinions, listens rather than judges. Is emotionally affirming and understanding.

Trust and Support: Supports his partners goals and her right to have outside activities, friends, opinions, and feelings.

Honesty and Accountability: Accepts responsibility for his own actions and admits to past abuse. Accepts wrongdoing and communicates openly and honestly.

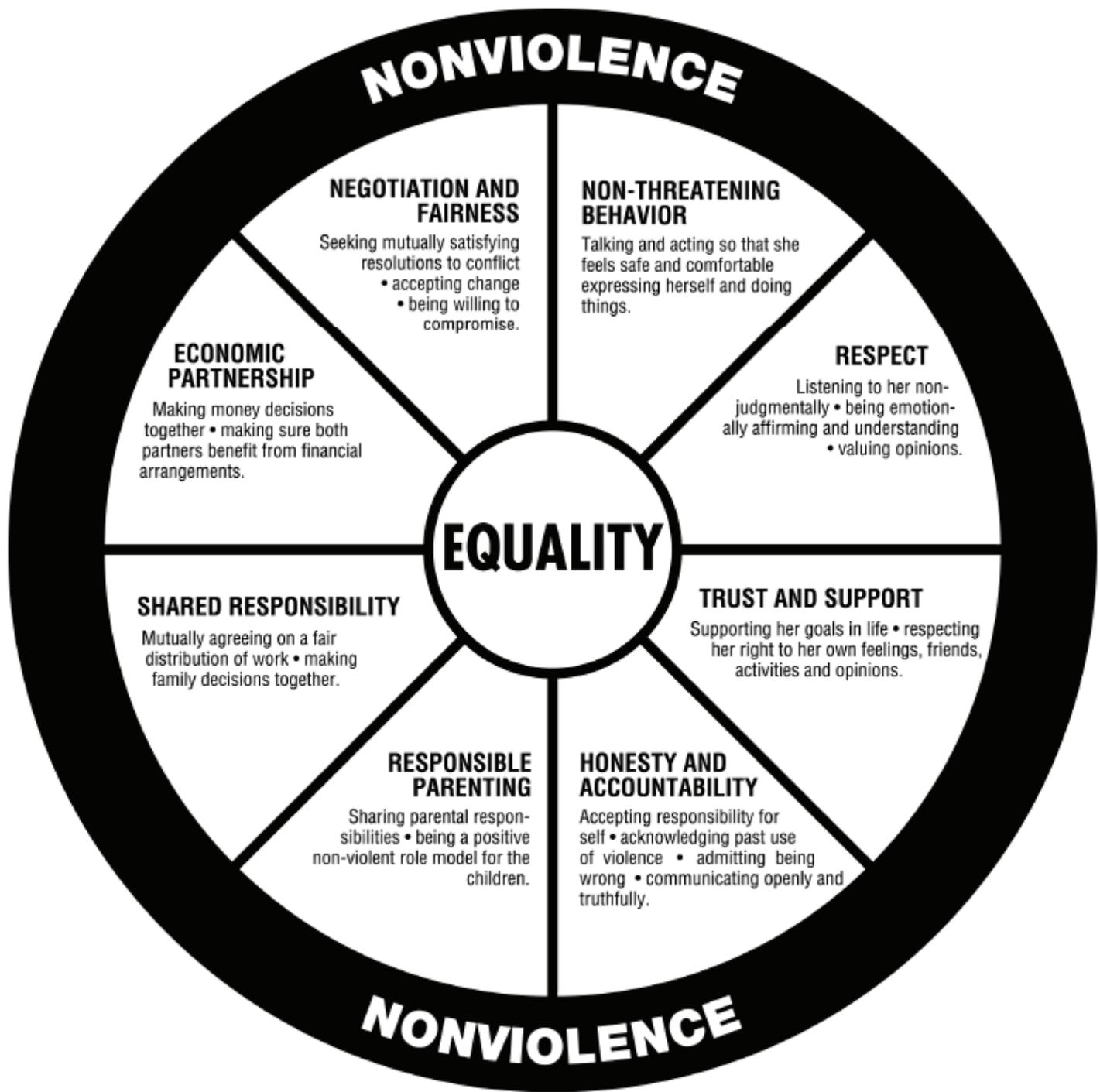
Responsible Parenting: Helps with the parenting and is a positive role model.

Shared Responsibility: Family decisions concerning work or parenting are made together.

Economic Partnership: Decisions about money are made jointly and are for the benefit of both.

Negotiation and Fairness: Willing to compromise and change in order to resolve conflicts.





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HOW TO HELP SOMEONE

When talking with a victim about abuse, don't "push" the victim into making decisions they are not ready to make. Don't judge, but do emphasize your concern for their safety and encourage him or her to seek help from law enforcement, an attorney, or a counselor. Encourage him or her to create a Safety Plan for him or herself and their children . Most of all, let the person know that you believe them and offer your support. Just knowing there is someone supporting them can make a great difference to a victim.

SAMPLE SAFETY PLAN

A Safety Plan assists victims who are not yet ready or able to leave the batterer by providing a list of activities and resources to have on hand in the event of a next violent episode. The victim should:

- * Pack a suitcase or duffle bag and keep it in a secret place or at a friend or neighbor's home, that is inaccessible by the batterer. The bag should contain important phone numbers of relatives or friends, extra car keys, money, change of clothes, copies of birth certificates, school and medical records, health plan cards, social security cards, passports or immigration papers, Electronic Benefit Transfer card (for food stamp recipients), and emergency numbers for shelters or the police department.
- * Assure children know how to dial **911** in case of an emergency.
- * Develop signals or code words that could alert trusted neighbors or friends that the victim is in danger and needs help.
- * Rehearse her escape plan and tell those she feels safe in telling, details of her plan.

If the batterer has left the home, victim should:

- * Change the locks.
- * Install as many security features as possible (gates, alarms, lights, etc.).
- * Obtain a Restraining Order and keep a copy with her at all times; provide a copy to her employer, children's school, and family/friends so that everyone has a clear understanding of the terms of the order, (particularly if the batterer is not to be near the children.)
- * Let neighbors know the batterer is not welcome and ask that they call the police if they see that person near her home.



*Inform her employer so that she can take measures to change her extension number and let co-workers know so they can warn her if the batterer shows up.

*Attend a support group or counseling for herself and her children.

STALKING & CRIMINAL THREATS

Stalking

Penal Code Sec. 646.9(a) defines stalking as “Any person who willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows or harasses another person and who makes a credible threat with the intent to place that person in reasonable fear for his or her safety, or the safety of his or her immediate family...”

After leaving the batterer, victims often report they are being stalked or harassed by the batterer. Nearly 5% of women and 0.6% of men are stalked by a current or former intimate partner during their lifetime.¹⁰ In a 1998 National Violence Against Women Survey, battered women stalked by their current/former abusive partners reported being harmed, having mail stolen, being watched, receiving unwanted calls at home and/or work, being followed, and receiving unwanted visits as often as every day.¹¹

In order to make an arrest for stalking, the victim must be able to show that the harassment has caused substantial emotional distress, has been ongoing and occurred on more than one occasion, and that the threat has placed the victim in fear.

Victims of stalking should seek a restraining order, change daily routines, add security measures such as alarm systems, and have a safety plan in place. The threats received may be verbal, written, and/or electronic (fax, e-mail, pager).

Threats

Threats are designed to place the victim in fear. Often, threats will be made to convey harm or potential harm to the victim, victim’s children or family members, pets, coworkers, or subsequent intimate partners. Threats need not include threat of death or great bodily injury and can be conveyed through a third party, but the victim must be aware of the threat. Should the victim receive threats of death, these should be immediately reported to the police.

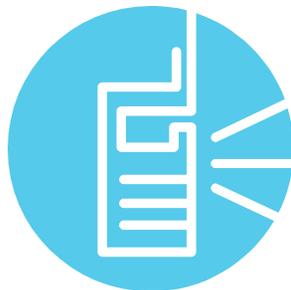
Under Penal Code Sec. 422, a person is guilty of purposefully committing a criminal threat if he or she is found to “willfully threaten to commit a crime which will result in death or great bodily injury to another person, with the intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat...and thereby causes that person reasonably to be in sustained fear...” Again, if the victim is in fear, call the police!

Stalking Safety Checklist

Victim should:

- ☑ Keep track of the dates, locations, and descriptions of when the threats/incidents occurred, including exact words used.
- ☑ Keep any physical evidence of the stalking or threats such as phone messages, letters, property damage, e-mail.
- ☑ File a police report. Explain the threat or stalking to the police. Let them know if the batterer has any **weapons** and if the batterer has made this sort of threat in the past, especially if they have followed through on it.
- ☑ Obtain a Domestic Violence Restraining Order. If victim already has one, report the violation to the police and/or probation officer.
- ☑ Add extra security to her home (alarm, gates, locks, etc...), alert co-workers and security at work so they can warn her if the batterer arrives at her place of work.
- ☑ If possible, she should change her phone numbers (home, work, cellular), e-mails and residence.

If the victim is in immediate danger, call **9-1-1!**





WHAT ARE PROTECTIVE ORDERS?

Protective orders are requested from the court to order batterers to stay away from victims and their children, residence, place of employment, and other public places. Below is a list of different types of protective orders that can be requested and how to request them.

CIVIL AND FAMILY LAW ORDERS

EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE ORDER (EPO)

A judicial officer may issue an EPO that is valid for 3 to 5 working days, where a law enforcement officer asserts reasonable grounds to believe any of the following:

- (a) That a person is in immediate and present danger of domestic violence, based on an allegation of a recent* incident of abuse or threat of abuse by the batterer.
**i.e. same day, within same week*
- (b) That a child is in immediate and present danger of abuse by a family or household member, based on an allegation of a recent incident of abuse or threat of abuse by family or household members.
- (c) That a child is in immediate and present danger of being abducted by a parent or relative, based on a reasonable belief that a person has an intent to abduct the child or flee with the child from the jurisdiction or based on an allegation of a recent threat to abduct the child or flee with the child from the jurisdiction.
- (d) That an elder or dependent adult is in immediate and present danger of abuse, based on an allegation of a recent incident of abuse or threat of abuse by that person. No order shall be issued solely on an allegation of financial abuse.

TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER (TRO)

A domestic violence temporary restraining order is requested from a Family Law Court. It is intended to restrain a person in an intimate relationship with a batterer (i.e. spouse, registered domestic partners, ex-spouse, dating/formerly dating or engaged, have children together, formerly/currently living together, relatives within the second degree such as a parent, sibling, son or daughter) from causing any harm or threats of harm.

A TRO packet can be obtained from the Superior Court Family Law Division. The TRO includes various orders such as: custody/visitation, move out order, stay away orders, personal conduct orders, spousal support, and property control to name a few. A domestic violence TRO will *not* be issued unless the parties are involved or recently involved in an intimate partner relationship.

The request for a restraining order is given to a judge for approval or denial. The judge may decide to approve all the orders as requested or may modify the order. The TRO must be signed by a judge and will usually last 15-20 days. Once the order is signed, victims are given a court date that requires their presence. An order lasting up to 3 to 5 years may be requested during the subsequent court hearing. It is very important that the victim is present for the court date or the restraining order will be vacated.

In order for a TRO to be enforced, it must be served on the restrained party by a third party or the Sheriff's office before the court date. If the victim is having difficulty serving the batterer, a re-issuance of the TRO can be requested from the court which will give the victim additional time to have him/her served. If the TRO is served by the Sheriff's Office, the deputy will file the Proof of Service with the court. If a third party has served the TRO, the victim is responsible for filing a Proof of Service with the court.

The victim should make multiple copies of the TRO to keep with them and to provide to their employer and/or children's school or daycare. By thoroughly distributing the TRO, everyone will be aware that the batterer is not to be near the victim or children. In Solano County, the court will ensure that a copy of the restraining order is entered into the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) so that all law enforcement officials are aware of the restraining order. **Victims must call the police to report any and all violations of the TRO by the batterer.**

RESTRAINING ORDER AFTER HEARING (ROAH)

At the court hearing the judge can issue a longer order for 3 to 5 years. This order, is issued after the court hearing and called a Restraining Order after Hearing (ROAH). This order includes the same types of orders/restrictions that were approved in the original TRO. If the batterer did not show up at the court hearing, he/she will need to be personally served by a third party or the Sheriff's Office as noted above. As with the TRO, a Proof of Service will need to be filed with the court. Multiple copies of the ROAH should be kept with the victim at all times.

CIVIL HARASSMENT ORDER (CHO)

A civil harassment order is an order that applies to persons who do not share an intimate relationship. Like the TRO, a CHO will include serving the other party and attending a court hearing to ask for a longer order if needed.

CRIMINAL ORDERS

CRIMINAL PROTECTIVE (CPO)

A victim can be issued a CPO through the criminal court while a criminal case is still pending in court. The CPO will include orders telling the batterer to remain a certain distance away from the victim and other protected parties.

The District Attorney's office will forward a copy to the victim to keep with them at all times.

NO CONTACT ORDER

A Probation Officer can recommend that the court issues a No Contact Order as part of the terms and condition of probation, as well as ordering the batterer to remain a certain distance from the victim, their home, employment, school, and/or other public places. Victims are still advised to pursue a civil restraining order because once probation is terminated, the No Contact Order is terminated as well. Juvenile Courts can also issue orders that prohibit the batterer from making any contact with the victim and the minor children.

Once the probation case is assigned to a domestic violence officer, a letter is mailed to the victim informing him/her of any "No Uninvited" or "No Contact Order". A victim is also given the Probation Officer's name and phone number and is encouraged to keep in contact with the officer. The victim is not routinely notified of the offender's status by probation. However, if the offender is ordered to participate in domestic violence counseling, per Penal Code 1203.097(c)(1)(D), the program is required to notify the victim of the requirements for a defendant's participation in the program and any available victim resources. Additionally victims are made aware that participation in a domestic violence counseling program does not guarantee the batterer will not become violent. Any threats or lack of participation by the batterer is reported to the Probation department for appropriate action.

If victims obtain more than one type of protective order, law enforcement officers will enforce the criminal protective order first as it is the controlling order.

VINE

After a batterer has been arrested, jail staff do not notify victims when offenders are released. It may be several days after release before the offender's probation officer is made aware of the release. Victims have an important tool in staying safe by knowing when the batterer is scheduled for release from custody. **VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday)** is a service of the Sheriff's Department that allows victims to access certain information about their batterer. This automated system is a victim's best bet for knowing when the offender is going to be released and can be accessed by calling 1-877-331-8463.

ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDER:

The process of obtaining a restraining order can seem scary and overwhelming to victims. Victims needing assistance filling out restraining order applications can attend a restraining order workshop provided by the Fairfield courthouse. The workshops are held daily at 11:00 a.m. For information contact SafeQuest Solano's Court Advocate at (707) 421-6881.

The Solano Legal Access Center (formerly known as Family Law Facilitator's office) offers free family law self-help assistance to persons representing themselves in court in the areas of child support, paternity (DNA parentage test), dissolutions (divorces), guardianship, preparing a Restraining Order After Hearing, or other family law issues. To request a domestic violence restraining order packet and/or receive assistance:

In Fairfield: The Hall of Justice is located at 600 Union Avenue. Go to the third floor at 11:00 a.m. and you will be taken to the workshop. The Solano Legal Access Center is on the second floor or call (707) 207-7343. The office is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 8:15a.m.—3:00p.m (closed Wednesdays).

In Vallejo: The court is located at 321 Tuolumne Street. Clients can receive assistance from the Solano County Restraining Order Clinic Monday through Friday from 8:30—3:30 p.m. Clients are seen on a first come, first served basis. Clients must be residents of Solano County and low-income. Restraining orders submitted by 10:00 a.m. will same day. Restraining orders after 10:00 a.m. will be ready the next business day.

VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM

Many times victims will require medical or counseling services as a result of the violence they have experienced and must bear the cost of these services. In 1965, California enacted the Victims of Violent Crime Act which allows victims who have suffered a monetary loss as a result of violent crime, to apply for reimbursement of losses. The offender does not have to be arrested in order for the victim or the victim's next of kin to apply for compensation.

HOW TO APPLY

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible a person must meet the following conditions:

- Suffer an injury or threat of injury as a result of a crime in California



- ☑ Be a California resident and suffer an injury or threat of injury as a result of a crime in a location other than California
- ☑ Be the next of kin to a victim (parents, siblings, spouses, children, grandparents and grandchildren) who suffered an injury or are threatened with injury during a crime or die as a result of a crime, and are residents of the United States
- ☑ A person living in the victim's household at the time of the crime or lived with the victim for at least 2 years in an intimate relationship or is a child, parent or sibling of the victim
- ☑ Any of these individuals who are not residents of the United States may be eligible for mental health counseling
- ☑ Anyone who has legal responsibility and/or pays for medical or burial expenses of a deceased victim
- ☑ Anyone who has legal responsibility and/or pays for certain crime scene cleanup expenses as a result of a homicide occurring in a residence

WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE

- ☑ Persons who commit the crime
- ☑ Persons who contribute to or were involved in the events leading up to the crime
- ☑ Persons who do not cooperate with law enforcement in the investigation of the crime and/or prosecution of any known suspects
- ☑ Persons who do not cooperate in the processing of a Victim of Crime application for compensation

Compensation is only for those losses that are not covered by another source (i.e. insurance or employment) and covers reimbursement for medical and hospital bills; loss of income; loss of support; funeral and burial expenses; crime scene cleanup; rehabilitation or retraining costs; and, in some instances, attorney's fees up to \$500 associated with representation of a victim on a victim-of-crime claim.

Applications must be filed within one year of the date of the crime or one year after the victim turns 18 years of age, whichever is later. To file a claim, call the Solano County Victim Witness Program. The Fairfield office can be reached at **(707) 784-6844** or for the Vallejo office, call **(707) 553-5052**. You can also call the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board, Victim's Compensation Program at **(800) 777-9229** or visit their website at www.boc.ca.gov.

WHEN TEENS ARE VICTIMS

As with domestic violence, abuse within teen relationships is increasing. Studies have shown that one in three teenagers experienced violence while in a dating relationship ¹¹ and 50 to 80% of teens reported knowing other teens involved in violent relationships.¹²

Teen violence can be just as deadly as adult domestic violence. The batterer's goal is to control the victim and keep them in the relationship using physical, emotional, sexual, and/or social patterns of abuse.

Teen violence differs from adult violence in that teens rely on their peer groups for approval and, in turn, often conform to whatever is designated as acceptable behavior by the group. Teens have less experience in intimate relationships and face greater confusion in deciphering abusive behavior, particularly if there is violence at home.

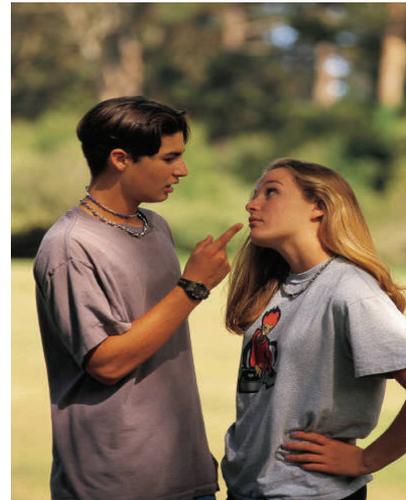
This confusion is often compounded when teens experience their first sexual relationship, especially if they have been forced to have sex. Teen batterers may threaten to spread rumors about the victim to peer groups to keep the victim in the relationship. Teens are less likely to confide in adults and fear seeking legal assistance such as a restraining order, because they fear disapproval from their parents.

WARNING SIGNS TO LOOK FOR:

- Mood swing; becoming withdrawn or having emotional outbursts
- Being secretive, ashamed, hostile or isolated from friends and family
- Apologizing for their partner's behavior
- Partner constantly checking up on teen or exhibiting excessive jealousy
- Bruises, damaged property, or injuries that are not consistent with the explanations the teen is giving
- Using drugs and alcohol
- For more information on teen dating violence go to:

www.safestate.org

For information on teen support groups in Vacaville call (707) 494-2497.



By 1994, there were over 1,500 shelters and safe houses for battered women, many of these shelters routinely deny services to victims of same-sex battering. (Murphy, Queer Justice: Equal Protection for Victims of Same-Sex Domestic Violence, 30 Val. U.L. Rev 335 [1995]).

SAME-SEX BATTERING

Each year between 50,000 and 100,000 Lesbian women and as many as 500,000 Gay men are battered (Murphy, Queer Justice: Equal Protection for Victims of Same-Sex Domestic Violence. 30 Val, U.L. Rev 335, 1995). Like domestic violence victims in heterosexual relationships, same-sex victims fall prey to the same abusive behavior of power and control that heterosexual victims face. Same-sex battering victims seldom report the abuse because of fear of reprisal by the batterers, feelings of self-blame, continued love and attachment to their batterers, and the additional fear of being “outed” by the batterer to family and friends. A lack of resources available for same-sex battering also contributes to under-reporting of same-sex battering.¹³

In certain states, same-sex victims have even fewer resources available compared to victims in heterosexual relationships. Traditional domestic violence services such as shelters or support groups, are unable or unwilling to accept males into their programs. Additionally, seven states define domestic violence in a way that excludes same-sex victims. Twenty one states have sodomy laws that may require same-sex victims to confess to a crime in order to prove they are in a domestic violence relationship.¹⁴ California’s restraining orders include “registered domestic partners” as a qualifying relationship in order to apply for a restraining order.

The following resources are available to same-sex partners in domestic violence relationships:

National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE / TDD 1-800-787-3224

WOMAN Inc. (415) 864-4722

Community United Against Violence (415) 333-HELP or their website www.cuav.org

Parents and Families of Lesbians and Gays (707) 745-1491 (Benicia & Vacaville)



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILDREN

When we think of domestic violence we sometimes tend to focus on the adults and often overlook the impact on children who witnessed the abuse or were physically, verbally or emotionally abused as well.

STATISTICS

*Each year, an estimated *minimum* of 3.3 million children witness domestic violence (American Psychological Association, Violence and the Family: Report of the APA Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family, 1996).

*62% of young men between the ages of 11 and 20 serving time for homicide, killed their mother's batterers (New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women, Spring Issue, May 1998).

* Children who are victims of or witnesses to violent crime are at an increased risk for delinquency, adult criminality and violent behavior. National studies show that neglected, abused and otherwise victimized children grow up to have an increased risk of criminal behavior, substance abuse, mental illness and suicide. (OVC Monograph: Breaking the Cycle of Violence: Recommendations to Improve the Criminal Justice Response to Child Victims and Witnesses, Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice, June 1999.)

Infants or toddlers who witness violence may experience:

- Increased fear
- Eating Disturbance
(lack of appetite or changes in eating)
- Difficulty sleeping/sleep problems
- Language Delays
- Failure to thrive
- Anxiety to loud noises
- More whining, crying, trembling, or tantrums than usual
- Often sick or fussy
- Lack of response to affection or cuddling, child/infant is withdrawn



Preschool-aged children may experience:

- * Feelings of being unsafe
- * Separation/stranger anxiety
- * Regressive behaviors
- * Bedwetting

School-aged children and adolescents may experience:

- * Self-blame
- * Illness, tummy aches, headaches
- * Aggressive or regressive behaviors
- * School truancy
- * Violent behaviors
- * Delinquency
- * Depression
- * Substance abuse
- * Running away from home
- * Early sexual activity
- * Thoughts of suicide



Children need to feel safe and know that the violence is not their fault. If you see these behaviors in children, refer the family to counseling, parenting support or education classes. If a parent or child discloses abuse or neglect, notify law enforcement or child welfare services immediately. Solano County Child Welfare Services can be reached 24-hours a day by calling 800-544-8696.

Much like the Power and Control wheel developed to explain domestic violence, the Child Abuse Wheel (next page) was developed to illustrate the dynamics involved in the abuse of children. Often, parents who abuse their children lack the tools necessary to properly discipline their children, or are themselves involved in a domestic violence relationship that often manifests itself in the abuse of children. Too often, substance abuse is a co-occurring factor in child abuse and neglect. Parents who are substance-abusing batterers fixate on their next “fix” or “high” and don’t have the ability to properly parent their children. Again, if child abuse or neglect is suspected, call local law enforcement or Solano County Child Welfare Services at 800-544-8696.

Refer to the Nurturing Children Wheel (subsequent page) for ideas on healthy parenting.



DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION PROJECT

202 East Superior Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802
218-722-2781
www.duluth-model.org



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SAFETY PLANNING FOR KIDS

Here are some examples of things that can be discussed with children so that they have a safety plan of their own:

- ✎ Practice dialing 9-1-1 and telling the operator their name (if old enough).
- ✎ Find a safe place in their home (in a closet, under a blanket, behind something) or a list of safe places (school, neighbor's or friend's home) other than their home they can go to or seek help from.
- ✎ Memorize their address or things around their home that will help them tell a police officer how to get there (next to bus stop, store, park).
- ✎ If someone asks them to keep a secret that makes them feel uncomfortable, they should not keep it a secret rather, let people who they feel safe with know what is going on so that others can help (teacher, police officer, doctor, relative). **Remember, a safe person will not ask them to keep a secret that makes them feel unsafe.**
- ✎ Make a list of important phone numbers of people they can call for help (9-1-1, police station, relative, neighbor).
- ✎ Remind the child that violence and abuse IS NOT THEIR FAULT! Children will often accept responsibility for violence and abuse, even very young children. It is important to provide children with positive role models who possess a strong moral compass and healthy boundaries. It often takes only one caring adult in the life of an abused or neglected child to guide that child toward a healthier, happier future.





BATTERED WOMEN AND IMMIGRATION

Nearly 25% of women report they have been the victim of physical or sexual abuse by an intimate partner¹⁵. Immigrant women often suffer higher rates of battering than U.S. citizens because they may come from cultures that accept domestic violence. Immigrant women have less access to legal and social services than U.S. citizens.¹⁶ Immigrant victims often experience language barriers that make it difficult to communicate or report abuse. Additionally, many batterers will threaten not to follow through on petitioning for residency for the victim and/or calling INS to have the victim deported. If there are children, immigrant women often face the threat that they must leave their children behind if they are deported.

Advocates for domestic violence victims lobbied for legislation that provides remedies for immigrant women and their children who are victims of domestic violence and who feel trapped by their immigration status. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was passed in 1995 and allowed battered immigrant women to file their own applications for legal status on behalf of themselves and their children. In 2000, VAWA was reenacted with changes that improved already existing programs that address domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, and established new programs which provide additional relief to immigrant women (VAWA, Office of DOJ). Two of the new changes are the U & T Visas.

The **U Visa** allows immigrant women and children who are victims of a crime (child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking and other crimes) to apply for status regardless of the batterer's legal status or relationship to the victim. The **T Visa** is specifically for immigrants trafficked into the U.S. for commercial sex or labor. Both visas require that the victim cooperate with the criminal justice system in order to be eligible for the visa.

In addition to the remedies under VAWA, immigrant women can also seek asylum or refugee status. Immigrants must show an inability to return to his or her country of origin because of past persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution based on the person's race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. This is not easy and many victims have been waiting years to have their asylum cases granted.

For additional information on VAWA programs, battered immigrant woman can contact **Catholic Social Services** in Vallejo at **(707) 649-1615**.



ELDER ABUSE

It is estimated that one in every 20 elderly people is the victim of neglect or physical, psychological or financial abuse. (House Select Committee on Aging, 1994) The abuse is often committed by a family member or primary caretaker. Elder abuse is difficult to detect and is estimated to be vastly underreported. Unlike children, elderly people are expected to die and when they do, their death is usually attributed to their age. Unless there are obvious signs of abuse or neglect, law enforcement has little reason to investigate. Many senior citizens are living in terror, in their own homes, and are isolated from services and support that might otherwise protect them. It is vitally important that anyone who suspects abuse, neglect, or maltreatment of the elderly call law enforcement with their suspicions. Financial institution staff; utility meter readers; and meal delivery, medical, and mail personnel, are in particularly good positions to detect suspected abuse or neglect and should receive additional training in this area. The most common types of elder abuse include:

Physical abuse: Includes physical assault, and inappropriate use of physical or chemical force to constrain an elderly person.

Neglect: Includes failing to assist or provide adequate clothing, shelter, or medical care.

Emotional abuse: Includes threats or verbal attacks used to intimidate and isolating the person from an outside support system.

Financial abuse: Taking money from their savings or property without the person's consent or intentionally misleading them in order to get their consent. This includes telemarketing scams and identity theft.

Some warning signs of elder abuse/neglect may include:

- Uncombed or matted hair
- Poor skin condition or hygiene
- Malnourished or dehydrated
- Bruises, welts or burns that can't be explained away
- Withdrawn or depressed
- Hesitant to talk /scared

- Unusual bank account activity (high or frequent withdrawals)
- Unpaid bills or unable to buy clothing/food/grooming items, due to change in spending

RESOURCES

If you suspect abuse of an elderly person, call local law enforcement or Adult Protective Services at 800-850-0012 or (707) 784-8259. Additional resources for the elderly include:

Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse (800) 722-0432 or visit their website at www.ag.ca.gov/bmfea

Solano County Long-Term Care Ombudsman (707) 644-4194

AARP www.aarp.org

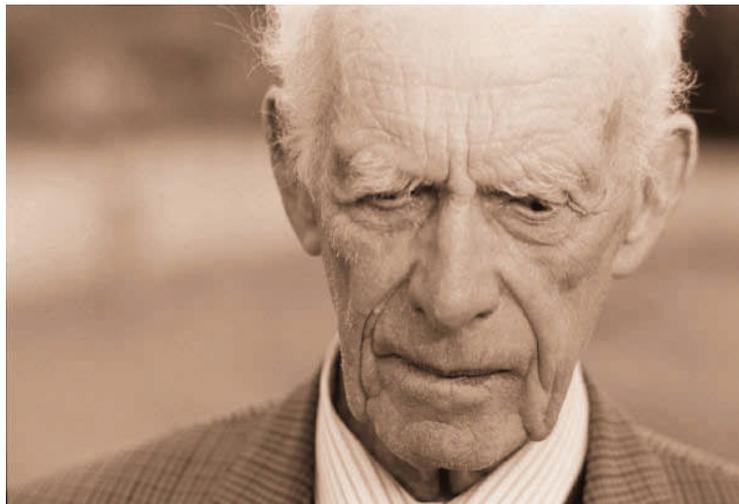
Nationwide organization that provides advocacy and information for people 50 and older.

California State Adult Protective Services www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb

Investigates reports of elder abuse.

National Senior Citizens' Law Center website www.nsclc.org

Provides information for elder and dependent adults.



Solano County Resource Directory

CHILDREN SERVICES

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING

- * **Child Protective Services** (800) 544-8696 — To report Child Abuse and/or neglect in Solano County area.
- * **Child Abuse Hotline** (800) 422-4453 — National hotline providing information regarding Child Abuse prevention and reporting.
- * **Center for Missing Children** (800) 843-5678 — To report missing or exploited children.

EDUCATIONAL/RECREATION PROGRAMS

- * **Child Start** (707) 427-7300 or (866) 573-4274 — Operates the Head Start programs for Napa and Solano counties. Offers education, health, nutrition, special education, social services, and parent involvement services. Services offered in English and Spanish.
- * **Solano Family and Children Services** (707) 863-3950 — Child care referral listing of providers and subsidized childcare for low-income families. Services offered in English and Spanish. M-F 8:30-5pm / Tues. 12-5 pm.
- * **Vacaville Neighborhood Boys & Girls Clubs** (707) 333-3560 — A safe place for children to participate in positive activities. Offers six-eight week summer programs for a fee.
- * **Children's Network** (707) 421-7229 — Resources and referrals for services and support on children's issues, parenting, and children's services. Agencies of the Network include Child Abuse Prevention Council, Children's Alliance, Local Child Care Planning Council. Visit their resource web site at www.childnet.org.
- * **City of Fairfield– Youth Services** (707) 428-7435 — Programs include Pre-school, After school for elementary and middle school, Sports activities, and other recreational programs for children six to twelve years old. Please call to inquire about fees.

THERAPY/COUNSELING SERVICES

- * **Child Haven** Fairfield (707) 425-5744 — Offers counseling services for children, 2 different parenting classes, child developmental groups and parent– child therapy. Services offered in English and Spanish.
- * **Solano County Mental Health Children's Services** (800) 547-0495 — Referrals to outpatient counseling services. Medi-Cal accepted. Services offered in English and Spanish.
- * **ALDEA** (707) 425-9670 ext 10 — Offers out- patient counseling for children with Medi-Cal. Individual, group, and family services. Offices in Fairfield and Vallejo.
- * **Nueva Vida** Dixon (707) 693-2985 / (866) 862-8432 **Warm-line** — Offers counseling clinic, self-help center, and a warm-line telephone service for anyone that needs to talk.

HEALTH SERVICES

- * **Solano County Children’s Medical Services CCS** (707) 784-8650 / CHDP (707) 784-8670 — Offers financial assistance and treatment for Solano County residents age 21 or under with serious health conditions through the California Children’s Services (CCS) and Child Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP). M-F 8-5pm.
- * **Solano County Family Health Clinic** Fairfield (707) 784-2010 /Vallejo (707) 553-5509—Offers primary care to uninsured, low-income, or underinsured patients in a clinic setting.
- * **Solano Coalition for Better Health** Fairfield (707) 863-4431—Community agency certified to assist low-income families complete insurance applications for Medi-Cal and Healthy Families.

COUNSELING SERVICES

GENERAL/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNSELING

- * **Solano County Crisis Line** (707) 428-1131 — 24-hour referrals to counseling services
- * **Fairfield Counseling Center** (707) 426-0763 — Individual therapy and family therapy. Please call to inquire about fees.
- * **Catholic/Social Services New Pathways** Vacaville (707) 455-7614/Vallejo (707) 556-9137 — Offers individual, family, and children (depending on age group) therapy as well as a family assistance program. Provides services to immigrant women.
- * **Family Investigative Response Services Team (F.I.R.S.T.)** Vacaville (707) 469-6600 — Counseling for domestic violence victims and their children. Services offered in English and Spanish.
- * **SafeQuest Solano** Fairfield (707) 422-7345 Office/1-866-4-URSAFE Crisis — Counseling/support groups for domestic violence victims. Services offered in English and Spanish.
- * **Healing in Progress** (707) 644-5421 — Individual, couples, adolescent, and family counseling in Fairfield, Vallejo, and Napa. Please call to inquire about fees.
- * **Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Center** Yolo County (530) 662-1133 — Group and individual counseling for victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. Services offered in English and Spanish.
- * **Fairfield Police Department Domestic Violence Unit** (707) 428-7600 — Provides free counseling services to victims of domestic violence, assists with restraining orders, case follow-up and court accompaniment. Services offered to residents of Fairfield only.

PARENTING PROGRAMS

- * **BabyFirst Solano** Fairfield (800) 680-2229—Collaboration of various providers offering free case management and support services to pregnant and parenting women and teens in Solano County. Callers will be referral to one or all providers for support services.
- * **Child Haven** Fairfield (707) 425-5744 — Offers counseling services for children, two different parenting classes, child developmental groups, and parent– child therapy. Services offered in English and Spanish. Accepts Medi-Cal.
- * **Catholic Social Services Parenting Classes** Vallejo (707) 556-9137 — Offers a 52-week court mandated parenting program for men and women. **Must be court mandated to attend.** \$30 per session. *Classes offered in Spanish depending on demand.*

- * **Children’s Network—Solano Parenting Partnership** - (707) 421-7229 www.childnet.org — A tool created to help families find parenting resources, classes and support groups in Solano County.
- * **Children’s Nurturing Project** Suisun (707) 422-0464—Offers parenting education, support groups, home visiting programs, infant development education, and early childhood mental health and behavioral assessment services for infants and children age 0-5.
- * **Parent Project Sr.** Fairfield (707) 428-7327/ Vacaville (707) 469-6608 — Offers parenting education class for parents with children who are strong-willed or out of control. Call to inquire about fees.
- * **Adult Education School** Fairfield www.fsusd.k12.ca.us/schools/adult — Offers information on different parenting courses offered for adults in Solano County.
- * **Family Learning Center** Benicia (707) 319-9447 — Offers private and small group-tutoring, parent education classes, discussion groups, seminars, retreats, a family library and a parent project which provides strategies for raising today’s tough kids.

ANGER MANAGEMENT/ OFFENDER PROGRAMS

- * **Catholic Social Services New Pathways** Vacaville (707) 455-7614/ Vallejo (707) 556-9137 — Offers 52-week court- mandated program for domestic violence offenders (men and women). Also offers 16- hour Anger Management program in Vallejo only.
- * **STAND Against Domestic Violence** Contra Costa County (925) 676-2968 — Offers a batterer treatment program (men & women) in Contra Costa County but accepts out-of-county participants as well. Fee for service. Appropriate victim support services are also offered.
- * **Pacific Educational Services (PES) DV Program** (800) 346-5891 — Offers a 52- week domestic violence program for men and women. Offender education—anger control, Spanish speaking courses offered (in Woodland office only), and parenting classes (8 weeks, or 16-52 weeks) also. Sliding fee scale. Must show proof of income. Services in Fairfield, Vacaville, Sacramento and Vallejo. **Must be ordered by court or probation to attend.**
- * **Changing Courses** Sacramento (916) 332-5056 — Offers certificated classes for domestic violence offenders on a sliding fee scale based on participant’s gross monthly income. Sign Language and Russian speaking interpreters available.
- * **DVERT (DV Education, Rehabilitation & Treatment)** (707) 249-3405 — Offers both anger management court- ordered (8-24 hours) and 52- week programs as well as family or individual counseling. Court- mandated programs for domestic violence offenders (men and women) offered in both in English & Spanish. Sliding fee scale.
- * **Healing in Progress** (707) 644-5421 — Offers a 52- week offender program for women and men, and anger management group or individual. Fee for service. Fairfield, Vallejo, and Napa.
- * **Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Center (SADVC)** Yolo County (530) 661-6336 — Offers anger management classes on a sliding scale.
- * **SafeQuest** (707) 422-7345 — Offers a 52 week domestic violence offender group. Sliding fee scale.

DRUG / ALCOHOL PROGRAMS

- * **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)** Vacaville (707) 446-2244 — Support group for men and women. No charge. 24- hour phone line.
- * **Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services of Solano County** Fairfield (707) 428-1131 Crisis Line — Offers referrals to recovery support services including residential / non-residential recovery, detoxification, and prevention.
- * **Substance Abuse Referral Hotline (Solano County Mental Health)** (800) 547-0495 — Offers support, referral, and crisis intervention.
- * **Healthy Partnerships** Vacaville (707) 447-8982/Fairfield (707) 425-1799/Dixon (707) 693-1799 — Counseling services for any individual, couple, or family to address their substance abuse issues. DUI programs, parenting, domestic violence, mental health, state parolee and drug court programs. Fees charged on a sliding scale / Medi-Cal accepted.
- * **Keys to Recovery through Youth & Family Services, Inc.** (707) 427-6640 — Men's drug and alcohol-abuse treatment program, counseling, anger management, and case-management. Services offered in Fairfield and Vallejo.
- * **It's About My Baby / Hand in Hand** (707) 455-8775 — Provides support services to parents with children 0-5, who are battling substance abuse.

SENIOR SERVICES/ELDER ABUSE

- * **Adult Protective Services** (707) 784-8259 / (800) 850-0012 — To report Elder Abuse
- * **Legal Services for Seniors** (800) 222-1753 — Free legal advice and counsel (by phone) for seniors 60 and older on any legal matters (except criminal charges). English and Spanish assistance.
- * **McBride Senior Center** Vacaville (707) 469-6660 — Offers various business and social club activities including senior club pancake breakfast, senior roundtable, legal consultants, health care, arts & crafts group, ESL and Spanish classes, and financial counseling to name a few. Call for times and days or visit website at www.ci.vacaville.ca.us located under Community Services.
- * **Fairfield Senior Center** (707) 428-7421 — Offers various activities and meeting times throughout the month. Call for times and days. Some fees for activities may apply.
- * **Dixon Senior Center** (707) 678-7022 — Offers various activities and meeting times throughout the month. Call for times and days. Some fees for activities may apply.
- * **Benicia Senior Center** (707) 745-1202 — Offers various activities and meeting times throughout the month. Must live in Benicia. Monthly membership of \$5.00. Call for times and days.
- * **Suisun Senior Center** (707) 421-7203 — Offers various activities and meeting times throughout the month. Call for times and days. Some fees for activities may apply.
- * **Vallejo RunAbout** Vallejo (707) 649-1999 — Offers curb-side transportation services to seniors and persons with disabilities. For Vallejo residents only. Call for an application.
- * **City Coach** Vacaville (707) 449-6000 — Offers door- to- door transportation (within city limits only) services to seniors and persons with disabilities. For Vacaville residents only. Call for more information.

- * **Meals on Wheels** (707) 425-0638 — Serves all Solano County residents by providing meals to homebound seniors. No fee but will accept contributions. *For Benicia must call **426-3079** or **(800) 788-5114**.
- * **Solano Employment Connection** Suisun (707) 864-3370/Vallejo (707) 649-3604 — Provides job-search assistance for mature workers. Must be able to provide SSN.
- * **Elder Care Locator** (800) 677-1116 — Offers a nationwide service to help find information about community services for seniors. Calls are answered 9am-6pm. Or go to www.eldercare.org

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS

- * **Benicia** 707) 746-4352 — Services include: information and referral, assistance with employment, social services and health issues, parent-education classes, crisis intervention, home visits, case management and community-building activities.
- * **Benicia CAC** (707) 745-0900 — Programs include: information and referral, employment program, food program, counseling, limited transportation, clothing program, homeless assistance program, as well as certain county services like: WIC, Senior services, youth services, holiday program, and REACH (a utility assistance program). Services in English and Spanish.
- * **Dixon** (707) 678-0442 — Provides therapy (individual, group, child, parenting classes, and crisis support), self-sufficiency programs, food programs, senior services, and citizenship programs.
- * **Fairfield** (707) 421-3224 — Provides families with information and referrals to churches, food pantries, clothing, assistance programs and housing listings. Some programs require proof of SSN.
- * **Fairfield/Suisun CAC** (707) 427-1148 — Provides emergency food assistance, accepts applications for Heat Electricity Assistance Program (HEAP), clothing assistance, employment assistance program, and youth services.
- * **Rio Vista** (707) 374-5243 — Assists families in accessing community and county services. Offers parenting support groups, parent resource library, home visits, and counseling.
M-Thurs 8-3:30p.m. / Fridays 8-4p.m.
- * **Vacaville** (707) 469-6608 — Provides resources and referrals for developing job skills, job listings, parent education, rental assistance (Vacaville residents only), information on child care, housing, and emergency aid. Monday-Thursday 8:30—1:30 p.m.
- * **Vallejo** (707) 648-5230 — Offers home visitation, parenting education and support and community involvement. Provides information and referrals to local services to families with children 0—18 in three different Vallejo Family Resource Centers.
- * **Healthy Start Suisun** (707) 421-4398 — Provides families with information and referrals to local services.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS

- * **SafeQuest Solano** Fairfield (707) 1-866-4-URSAFE — Provides 24-hour crisis intervention, medical accompaniments, legal accompaniments and advocacy, community education, ongoing support groups and shelter for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, and their children. Services offered in English and Spanish.
- * **Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Center** Yolo County (530) 662-1133 — Provides 24 hour crisis intervention, shelter, restraining order assistance, and individual and group counseling for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence and their children. Services offered in English and Spanish.
- * **STAND Against Domestic Violence** Contra Costa County (888) 215-5555 — Emergency shelter, transitional housing, support groups and counseling for victims and children, and 24-hr crisis lines.
- * **Napa Emergency Women’s Services (NEWS)** Napa (707) 255-6397 — Emergency shelter, counseling and support groups for victims of domestic violence and their children. Provides assistance with transitional housing, legal advocacy (TRO), outreach, education, and prevention services. Services in English and Spanish.
- * **WEAVE** Sacramento (916) 920-2952 — Counseling, legal advocacy (TRO), and shelter for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, and their children. Services in English and Spanish.

LEGAL

- * **Solano County Dept. of Child Support Services** (707) 784-7210 — Assists with establishing and enforcing child support orders, locating absent parent, paternity testing, and modifying existing orders.
- * **District Attorney** Fairfield (707) 784-6800/Vallejo (707) 553-5321 — Prosecution of criminal cases. Clients in need of a assistance with a domestic violence or civil harassment restraining order can contact staff from the **Crime Victims Unit** at (707) 784-3339 for an appointment.
- * **Solano Legal Access Center** Fairfield (707) 207-7343 — Offers free family law services to self-represented persons. Located within the Hall of Justice, at 600 Union Avenue.
- * **Restraining Orders /Contact SafeQuest court advocate** (707) 421-6881 — Assists with restraining order paperwork. Must go to Fairfield courthouse, 600 Union Avenue Fairfield. Monday—Friday at 11:00 a.m.
- * **Legal Services of Northern California** (800) 270-7252 — Offers assistance to low-income Solano County residents in the areas of housing, and senior issues. Services offered in English and Spanish. M-Tues-Thurs-F 8-3 p.m. No intakes on Wednesday.
- * **Solano County Restraining Order Clinic** for low-income Solano County residents. Clinic is located in the Vallejo courthouse, 321 Tuolumne St. M-Tues-Thurs-F 8:30-3:30 p.m. First come, first served.
- * **Lawyer in the Library** (866) 572-7587 — Offers free consultation with an attorney on a first come, first served basis. Service provided every 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month from 6-8 p.m. at John F. Kennedy Library. Vacaville Cultural Center 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month from 6-8 p.m. **Must register in person at 4 p.m.** Services in English only.
- * **Catholic Social Services** Vallejo (707)) 649-1615 — Assistance with citizenship/immigration issues for a minimal charge.

- * **Solano County VINE Service** (877) 331-8463 — Free 24-hr telephone service that allows victims to check on status of an inmate and sign up to be notified of when the inmate is released.
- * **Victim-Witness Assistance (Solano)** Fairfield (707) 784-6844/Vallejo (707) 553-5052 — Provides assistance to victims of crime.
- * **Divorcios en Espanol** Fairfield (800) 579-7941 — Assistance with family law matters. Please call to inquire about fees. Services offered in Fairfield both in English and Spanish.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

- * **WIC (Women, Infants and Children)** Solano County residents (707) 784-8130/ General number (888) 942-9675 — Provides education on healthy eating, nutritious food, and referrals to health care for low-income women with infants and children (Birth to 5 years of age).
- * **CalWORKs (TANF)** Solano County residents (707) 421-4782 — CalWORKs is a welfare program that gives cash aid and services to eligible California families.

STATE & NATIONAL RESOURCES

- * **National Domestic Violence Hotline** (800) 799-SAFE / TDD (800) 787-3224
- * **California Partnership to End Domestic Violence** (800) 524-4765 or website www.cpedv.org
- * **California Coalition Against Sexual Assault** (916) 446-2520 or website www.calcasa.org
- * **Family Violence Prevention Fund** (415) 252-8900 or website www.endabuse.org
- * **Crime Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board**
Victims of Crime Resource Center (800) VICTIMS (842-8467)
- * **Safe At Home Confidential Address Program** (877) 322-5227 — Provides a safe forwarding address to receive mail and keep your address confidential or visit website: www.ss.ca.gov/safeathome
- * **Domestic Abuse Intervention Project , Duluth MN** (218) 722-2781 or www.duluth-model.org
- * **Crime and Violence Prevention Center** www.safestate.org

IMMIGRATION

- * **Centro De Servicios** (530) 662-8683 — Immigration information, citizenship, documentation. Monday-Friday 2p.m.—8p.m.
- * **Catholic Social Services Immigration** Vallejo (707) 649-1615 — Assistance with citizenship/immigration issues for a minimal charge.
- * **US Citizenship and Immigration Service** (800) 375-5283 — Provides 24-hour assistance in English and Spanish or visit website at www.uscis.gov and do a search for how to petition as a battered spouse or child.

Other Resources

- * **Hope Haven** (707) 554-9781—Offers transitional housing to homeless women and their children. Please call to inquiry as to fees and current availability.
- * **HELPLINK** Solano County dial 211 / Outside Solano County dial (800) 273-6222 — Information and referral line that can assist you in locating the appropriate referral for your situation. Can assist you in English, Spanish and Chinese languages. Monday—Friday 8:30 a.m.— 5:30 p.m.
- * **Information Resource Line** dial 211 — Provides referrals for various programs and businesses in Solano county area, as well as information on applying for public assistance (Medi-cal, food stamps, GA, etc.). Services offered in English, Spanish as well as other languages.
- * **Rio Vista Food Ministry** (707) 374-5658—Provides emergency food to low-income and needy families in the Rio Vista area.
- * **Solano Food Bank** (707) 421-9777—Provides emergency food to low-income and needy families in Solano County.
- * **Solano Family & Children’s Services** (707) 863-3950—Provides information and referral services on childcare providers and centers to parents in Solano County. Also offers a subsidized childcare and child care food program.

This directory contains information on county specific family violence resources. A listing in this directory does not constitute an endorsement or certification of program services by the Office of Family Violence Prevention, nor is any exclusion intentional.

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It is not the intent of the Office of Family Violence Prevention or Solano County to offer recommendations or referrals to any of the agencies listed in this document. Any deletions or omissions of agencies or services is unintentional.

Carolyn Thomas-Weld

Family Violence Prevention Officer

Solano County Office of Family Violence Prevention

475 Union Avenue

Fairfield, CA 94533

www.solanocounty.com

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