

**Abuse is NEVER acceptable.**

**The abuse is NOT YOUR FAULT.  
It is the choice of the abuser.  
Abuse is not CAUSED by  
alcohol or drug abuse, stress,  
financial pressures, depression  
or jealousy.**

***THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR  
ABUSE!***

Domestic Violence is a CRIME! – You have legal choices. You can file criminal charges against your abuser. You may also get the court to order your abuser to stop hurting you and your children. This is called a “Protection From Abuse Order” (PFA). A judge may give you a protection from abuse order to:

- Keep your abuser out of your home, away from you and your family, and away from where you work.
- Give you temporary custody of your children; and/or make your abuser pay support.

**Protections from Abuse Orders  
are available seven days a week.  
*KNOW YOUR OPTIONS!***

The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County can help. The center has advocates available to help you understand these procedures and help you to make the best decision for your circumstances. We can accompany you to court and support you during the legal proceedings.

**Domestic Violence Center  
of Chester County**

**Agency Services:**  
24-Hour Hotlines  
Emergency Shelter  
Bridge Transitional Housing  
Phase III & IV: Independent Living  
Program  
Legal Center & Court Accompaniment  
Counseling/ Support Groups  
Case Management  
Drug and Alcohol Education  
Rapid Response Medical Advocacy  
Children’s Programs  
Bilingual (Spanish/English) Services  
Community Education and Training  
Information and Referrals  
Speakers’ Bureau

The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County works to assure safety and justice for victims of domestic violence regardless of sex, race, age, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or political affiliation.

**SATELLITE OFFICES**

Southern Chester County Offices  
Kennett Square, PA  
610-444-6797  
Oxford, PA  
610-932-8557, ext. 209

Northwestern Chester County Office  
Caln Township, PA  
610-384-2774

Member agency  
United Way of Chester County  
United Way of Southern Chester County  
The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County, Inc. is a tax-exempt 501©(3) charitable organization. A copy of the official registration may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling, toll-free in Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999.  
Registration does not imply endorsement.



**DVCCC**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CENTER**  
of Chester County  
*Freedom Through Empowerment*

**Domestic Violence  
Information**

[www.dvccc.com](http://www.dvccc.com)

24-Hour Toll-Free Hotline  
1-888-711-6270  
610-431-1430

610-431-7262 (TTY)  
PO Box 832

West Chester, PA 19381-0832  
Office: 610-431-3546  
Fax: 610-431-2462

**All services are FREE and  
confidential.**

### **SAFETY FIRST!**

Living with a violent person can be life-threatening. It's hard to make decisions when you are afraid. **Call our hotline. Advocates and counselors are available to help to get you to a safe place.** Sometimes family and friends can be helpful, but if you are afraid to tell them about what happened, call us, we are here to listen. We are a safe haven where you will find protection, understanding and support.

**During the violence** (if possible), call the police or have someone call 9-1-1

**After the violence** – Seek medical help as soon as possible and tell them what really happened. Have the doctor, nurse or a friend take pictures; save any torn or bloody clothes. Talk to someone there about what you can do next.

**Have a Plan:** Call the DVCCC and they will help you develop a plan for your safety.

### **SERVICES ARE FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE!**

*Anyone can be a victim of domestic violence. Victims come from ALL backgrounds and neighborhoods.*

**PLEASE CALL!**

***Don't wait until it happens again.***

**24 Hour Toll-Free Hotlines:  
1-888-711-7270 ~ 610-431-1430  
610-431-7262 (TTY)**

### **WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?**

Domestic violence is a specific and deliberate pattern of behavior for the sole purpose of establishing and maintaining power and control over another person in an intimate relationship.

***Domestic Abuse can be any or all of the following:***

#### **PHYSICAL ABUSE**

Hitting, slapping, shoving, kicking, punching, burning, choking, being restrained from getting away, use of objects to cause injury, sleep deprivation.

#### **EMOTIONAL & VERBAL ABUSE**

Words that are degrading, or hurtful; threats to hurt you, himself/herself or your children; telling you what you can and cannot do; isolation from family & friends; hurting pets; ongoing use of manipulation, guilt, and intimidation.

#### **SEXUAL ABUSE**

Rape, unwanted touching, forcing sexual acts against your will.

#### **ECONOMIC ABUSE**

Stealing or destroying your personal belongings; putting all your money or assets in abuser's name; keeping you from getting basic needs such as food, clothing, medical care; withholding money, keys to car, or keeping you from working or an getting education.

#### **USING CITIZENSHIP OR RESIDENCY PRIVILEGE**

Failing to file papers to legalize the immigration status; withdrawing or threatening to withdraw papers filed for residency.

### **HOW IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP?**

#### **Does Your Partner:**

- Embarrass you with put-downs?
- Look at you or act in ways that scare you?
- Control what you do, who you see or talk to, or where you go?
- Stop you from seeing your friends or family members?
- Take your money, make you ask for money, or refuse to give you money?
- Make all of the decisions?
- Tell you that you're a bad parent or threaten to take away or hurt your children?
- Prevent you from working or attending school?
- Act like the abuse is no big deal, it's your fault, or even deny doing it?
- Destroy your property or threaten to kill your pets?
- Intimidate you with guns, knives, or other weapons?
- Shove you, slap you, strangle you, or hit you?
- Force you to try and drop charges?
- Threaten to commit suicide?
- Threaten to kill you?

***If you answered "yes" to even one of these questions, you may be in an abusive relationship.***