

CHILD, Inc.'s Domestic Violence Advocacy Program (DVAP) was established to ensure that victims of domestic violence receive the support and assistance needed to help free them from a violent relationship.

Family Court processes can be complicated and difficult. Understanding this, the Domestic Violence Advocacy Staff are trained and available to provide each client with a supportive environment in which to explore options to their current life situation.

Important Numbers/Websites

Emergency 911

Family Court

New Castle County	255-0300
Kent County	672-1000
Sussex County	855-7400

Domestic Violence Hotline

New Castle County	762-6110
Northern Kent County	678-3886
Kent & Sussex Counties	422-8058

National DV Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

Police-Based Victim Services (Statewide)

1-800-VICTIM-1 (1-800-842-8461)

Legal Services

New Castle County	478-8850
Kent County	674-8500
Sussex County	856-0038

Rape Crisis/Suicide Hotline 761-9100

Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-292-9582

Family Visitation Center 283-7518

Domestic Violence Treatment 762-8989

If you are interested in learning more about domestic violence and ways to keep safe or help others, you may visit these local sites:

www.courts.delaware.gov/courts/family
www.dvcc.delaware.gov
www.dcadv.org
www.cjc.delaware.gov

Safety Tips

- Safety planning is not one-size-fits-all. Discuss your risks and plans with a professional advocate who can help you identify your priorities and options, as well as resources.
- Think about how you can effectively hide from your partner. After leaving, the single most protective thing you can do for yourself and your children is to go to a place where your partner cannot find you. Victims who access battered women's shelters are much less likely to be killed than those who don't, and victims who stay with family are at very high risk. Make a list of phone numbers of people who could offer you assistance (transportation or financial) when you leave. Give the list to someone for safekeeping.
- Never keep a bag packed, money hidden, a written safety plan or emergency phone numbers where your partner could find them. Doing so could place you in danger. Give important papers and emergency items to a friend for safekeeping.
- Plan how you might escape during a violent incident and where you would go to call 911.
- Discuss safety and your escape plan with your children. Consider using a code word.
- Do not use your computer to research or communicate about a safety plan, divorce, etc.
- Tell neighbors, day care, co-workers, and friends about your PFA and criminal charges so they can call the police immediately if you need help.
- Change your daily routine and scheduled appointments.
- Call a friend or a hotline when you need support and/or guidance. Don't hesitate to ask for help.

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Domestic Violence Advocacy Program

New Castle County

500 King Street, Suite 700
 Wilmington, DE 19801
(302) 255-0420

Kent County

400 Court Street
 Dover, DE 19901
(302) 672-1075

Sussex County

22 The Circle, Suite A
 Georgetown, DE 19947
(302) 856-5843

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What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is when one person in an intimate relationship engages in a pattern of coercive control over the other person. It happens in relationships to people of all ages, in all racial, ethnic, socio-economic and religious groups. Abuse in intimate relationships can take many forms:

Verbal: Threats, criticism, humiliation, name calling, cruelty.

Emotional: Isolation, jealousy, control, blaming violence on victim or others, cruelty to animals.

Economic: Controlling money and finances, forcing victim to lose his/her job.

Sexual: Unwanted touching and forced sexual activity, even if it was consensual in the past.

Physical: Hitting, punching, slapping, kicking, pinching, biting, shaking, shoving, choking/strangling, or using any type of weapon.

What can I do if I am being abused?

What has happened to you *is a crime*. You have the right to file a report and/or criminal charges with the police. Having your partner arrested can be a very protective step. Sometimes filing charges can be more protective than having a Protection From Abuse Order (PFA). You may decide to do both.

If you want a PFA, come to Family Court and file a petition for one. You can request that your partner have no contact (email, phone, etc.) with you, stay 100 yards away from you, that you be awarded temporary custody, possession of the home, financial support, and court-ordered counseling.

With or without a PFA, you should consider a safety plan for you and your children. Learn about domestic violence and your options. Ask the advocates to help you with a safety plan, explain your options, and discuss whether shelter is something you should consider. Many women who desperately need the safety of a shelter are reluctant to go because they worry about what it will be like. For more information, ask the advocates or call the Domestic Violence Hotline.

What is a Protection From Abuse Order (PFA)?

An official order from Family Court ordering someone to stop abusing another person. It may include other relief that will help protect the victim of the violence.

Who can file a Protection From Abuse petition?

Spouses, ex-spouses, persons who lived together when the abuse occurred, unmarried persons who have children together, and persons who are or were involved in a substantive dating relationship.

How does someone file for an Order of Protection From Abuse?

You do not have to have an attorney to get an Order of Protection. The Domestic Violence Advocacy Program has trained staff and volunteers in each county to assist with filing a Protection From Abuse Order.

How can I find out more information on how to file a Protection From Abuse Order?

For additional information you can contact the Domestic Violence Advocacy Program in New Castle, Kent, or Sussex County. Family Court sites in each county have an advocacy program to help you review your options. Legal referrals can also be provided.

*As a victim, you have rights. Please know that someone is here for you.
Call the Domestic Violence Advocacy Program*