

When a person discloses domestic violence

Remember:

- Never counsel a victim and abuser together.
- Never go to the scene of an incident in progress.
- Assist the person to get medical, legal or social services.

- Listen. She/he needs the affirmation of listening.
- Allow the person to make their own decisions.
- Be cautious about giving advice.
- Be patient: the first disclosure may be confused or partial.
- Look for and appreciate the inner strength of each person.

What you can say:

I believe you.
You are not alone.
You have good reason to be afraid.
What do you see as the next step?
What can we do to help you right now?

Do not say:

This is God's will.
We all have burdens.
You must forgive and
take your partner back.

If there is an immediate threat of violence call 9-1-1!

If the violence occurred in the past, ask the individual if the police have been called, if she/he would like to contact police or file for a protective order. If the person doesn't want to contact the police or obtain a protective order, respect that choice. Survivors know their situation best.

Assess safety

Many people suffer psychological, emotional, and economic abuse and need counseling and support. Individuals living with intimate partner abuse may not realize that some situations are very dangerous. Guns, threats of murder or suicide, a recent or planned separation indicate high risk for lethal violence. Connect her/him to:

The National Domestic Violence hotline:
1 (800) 799-SAFE (7233)



District of Columbia
Domestic Violence Prevention Resources
in the Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.
National Domestic Violence Hotline 1 (800) 799-7233
1 (800) 787-3224 (TTY for Hearing Impaired)
Website: <http://www.thehotline.org/>

The DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence maintains an up-to-date website with emergency resources open during COVID 19.
<https://dccadv.org/2020/03/coronavirus-covid-19-response/>

DC Victim 24-Hour Hotline: 1 (844) 443-5732
General hotline for all victims is operating during COVID 19. You may call or text 1-844-4HELPDC (1-844-443-5732)

Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse 1 (877) 885-2232
JCADA offers a ministry of free counseling, safety planning, and legal assistance to people of all faiths. Ideal for people considering options. High quality care by professional social workers and counselors focused on domestic abuse issues. Remote services available during COVID 19. Serves residents of DC., Rockville, and N. Virginia.

District Alliance for Safe Housing (202) 290-2356
For questions about transitional housing, emergency housing or other housing resources. <https://www.dashdc.org/housing-resource-center/>

Domestic Violence Intake Centers Both DC centers are temporarily closed due to COVID-19. Call (800) 407-5048 to be connected to DC SAFE and remote intake, crisis intervention, legal services, referrals to counseling services, assistance with filing a police report, assistance with filing to child support, assistance with housing.

For life threatening emergencies – Encourage the family to call 911.

AWARE – JCADAs teen education and outreach (877) 885-2232
Adult Protective Services, elder abuse (202) 541-3950
Child Protective Services, child abuse (202) 671-7233

For more information: www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/familypeace
Contact Catholic Charities: Laura.Yeomans@CC-DC.org

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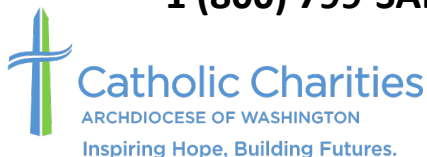
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