

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.

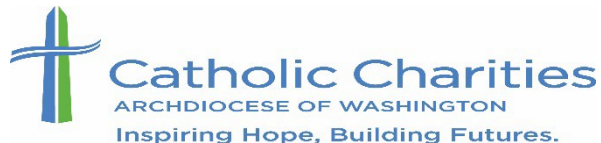
If there is an immediate threat of violence call 9-1-1!

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)**



Domestic Violence Prevention Resources (Montgomery) 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/>

Abused Persons Program (240) 777-4195, (240) 777-4673
1301 Piccard Drive, 1st floor, Rockville. Counseling, emergency shelter. Program has advocates who accompany persons seeking protection orders to court. Counseling for survivors, children and those who abuse.

Family Justice Center (240) 773-0444
The Center provides counseling, help getting protective orders, access to shelters. Office hours 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. M-F 600 E. Jefferson Suite 500, Rockville, MD. Ideal for people facing emergency need to escape, facing imminent danger. Sheriff's office backs up call center. Email: safe@montgomerycountymd.gov

JCADA 1 (877) 885-2232
The Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse offers a ministry of counseling, crisis services, safety planning, and legal assistance to people of all faiths. Ideal for people considering options and for family, friends to call for advice. Serves entire Washington, DC. Area. Office located in Rockville.

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

Safe Start Kids Group , counseling for children	(240) 777-4195
Mindy Thiel, PhD, counseling for children	(301) 231-9001 x 1
AWARE – JCADAs teen education and outreach	(301) 315-8040 x 5
ElderSAFE shelter, advocacy for older adults	(301) 816-5099
Adult Protective Services , elder abuse	(240) 777-3000
Child Protective Services , child abuse	(240) 777-4417
National Dating Abuse Helpline (Love is Respect)	(866) 331-9474

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

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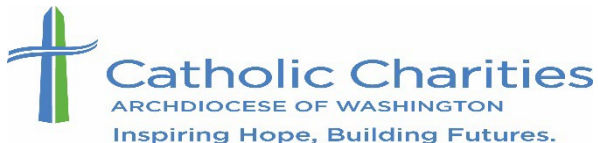
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