

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 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/>

Calvert County - Center for Change (410) 535-5400 x 384
The Center provides crisis counseling, and access to shelter. Family counseling for adults and adolescents who have suffered domestic abuse.

Charles County - Center for Abused Persons (301) 645-3336
The Center provides counseling, safety planning, referrals to shelter. The Center offers counseling programs for persons using violence.

District of Columbia - DC Victim 24-Hour Hotline: 1 (844) 443-5732
Survivors and Advocates for Empowerment (SAFE) 1 (800) 407-5048 SAFE provides on-call help and advocacy 24 hours/day.
JCADA 1 (877) 885-2232 Free counseling, safety planning.

Montgomery County Trauma Services (240) 777-1355
Emergency shelter. Court advocates. Counseling for survivors and those who abuse. **Family Justice Center** - (240) 773-0444 The Center provides counseling, intakes, protective orders. **Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse** 1 (877) 885-2232 JCADA offers counseling, crisis services.

Prince George's County - Community Crisis Services (301) 731-1203
The Center provides crisis assessment, counseling, and shelter. **Family Justice Center** (301) 780-8008 protection orders, court advocates
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JCADA offers counseling, crisis services, safety planning, legal assistance.

St. Mary's County - Southern MD Ctr for Family Advocacy (301) 373-4141
The Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy provides domestic violence counseling, shelter, and advocates or free legal representation in court when possible.

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

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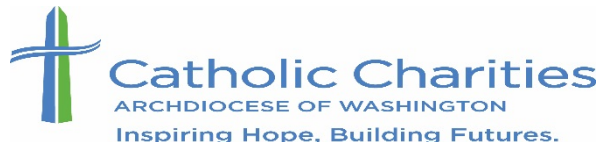
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<https://dccadv.org/2020/03/coronavirus-covid-19-response/>

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