

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.

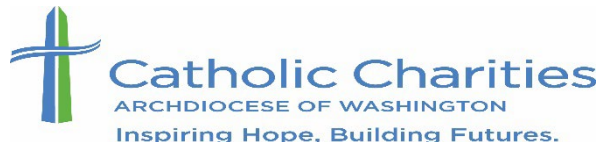
If there is an immediate threat of violence call 9-1-1!

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/>

Montgomery County Trauma Services (240) 777-1355

Trauma Services (formerly the Abused Persons Program) provides screening, risk assessments, safety planning, individual, couples, family and group counseling, victim advocacy, victim compensation (must meet eligibility criteria) and 24/7 outreach services to individuals who experienced intimate partner violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, criminal offenses and/or traumatic deaths.

Family Justice Center (240) 773-0444

Safety is the first priority at the Montgomery County Family Justice Center. The Center co-locates multiple agencies in a safe and secure facility to provide coordinated advocacy, civil legal services, and social services for victims of domestic violence and their children. The FJC is located at 600 E. Jefferson Suite 500, Rockville, MD and is open on Mondays - Fridays from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm. Email: safe@montgomerycountymd.gov

JCADA 1 (877) 885-2232

JCADA (Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse) offers counseling, victim advocacy, and legal assistance to survivors of intimate partner violence of all faiths in the Washington DC area. Please see <https://jcada.org/what-we-do>.

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

ElderSAFE shelter, advocacy for older adults (301) 816-5099

Adult Protective Services, elder abuse (240) 777-3333

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: Teresa.Villanueva@CC-DC.org

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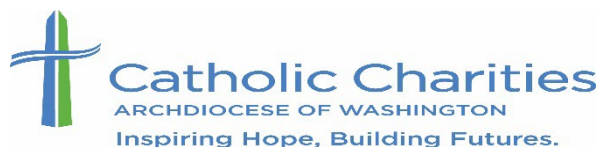
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