

WARNING SIGNS

Domestic violence can happen to anyone in all segments of a community regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race, culture, ethnicity, age, physical ability, education, politics, socio-economic class, and religion.

- Do you live in fear of your partner?
- Are you called names that are inappropriate?
- Are you blamed for everything that goes wrong?
- Do you have to ask your partner's permission to do things, such as see family and friends, or spend money?
- Do you feel isolated from your family and friends?
- Are you constantly accused of being unfaithful to your partner?
- Are you sometimes punished for "misbehaving?"
- Do you make excuses for the behavior of your partner?
- Has your partner promised to change but hasn't?

**IF YOU ANSWERED "YES"
TO ANY OF THE ABOVE,
YOU ARE NOT ALONE.**

THERE IS HELP...

AREA AGENCIES

Legal/ Crisis Information

LAAW 314-664-6699
1-800-527-1460

Shelters

COMTREA 877-266-8732*
St. Martha's Hall 314-533-1313*
Weinman Shelter 314-423-1117*
Turning Point 888-873-7233*
Women's Center 877-946-6854*
Women's Safe House 314-772-4535*

Counseling

ALIVE 314-993-2777*
Safe Connections 314-531-2003*
Woman's Place 314-645-4848
YWCA-Sexual Assault Response Team 314-531-7273*

Education & Support Services

Woman's Place 314-645-4848
ROW 314-588-8300
(Redevelopment Opportunities for Women)

Victim Services

Victim Service Division 314-615-4872
St. Louis County
Victim Services 314-622-4373
St. Louis City
St. Charles Victim Assistance Program 636-949-7370

** 24-hour hotline*

**Contact LAAW for additional
resources:**

**314-664-7780
1-800-527-1460**



Domestic Violence Information Everyone Needs to Know

***Legal Advocates for
Abused Women***

*Dedicated to helping
victims of abuse in
times of crisis*

**314-664-6699
1-800-527-1460**

Forms of Abuse

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behaviors which keeps one partner in a position of power over the other partner through the use of fear, intimidation & control.

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is easier to recognize than other types of abuse:

- Grabbing, pinching, shoving, hair pulling shaking, kicking, slapping, hitting, biting, throwing, strangling/choking, burning
- Denying access to medical care or medication
- Destruction of personal property
- Use of weapons to threaten or injure
- Denying access to food, water, sleep

You do not have to be beaten to be abused.

Emotional Abuse

Causing fear by intimidation and/or threats in order to maintain control:

- Threats of physical harm to partner, children, family, friends or self
- Destruction of property and pets
- Forced isolation from family, friends, school and/or work
- Verbal attacks, criticizes and humiliates partner in public
- Possessive jealousy

Nearly one-third of women report being abused by a partner at some point in their lives.

Sexual Abuse

Coercing, attempting to coerce, or forcing without consent, another to participate unwillingly in any sexual act or behavior:

- Rape
- Forced sex after physical beatings
- Treating partner in a sexually demeaning manner
- Coercing partner into sexual acts he/she is uncomfortable with, such as sex with others, physically painful sex
- Denying partner contraception or protection against sexually transmitted diseases
- Forcing partner to dress in a certain way

Economic Abuse

Making or attempting to make a person financially dependent:

- Using money to control, intimidate and/or isolate a partner
- Controlling and denying access to all money and financial resources
- Forbidding or sabotaging attendance at school or employment
- Refusing to work and forcing partner to support the family
- Ruining victim's credit rating

Harassment & Stalking

Purposely or knowingly engaging in a series of actions targeted at another with the intent to cause emotional distress:

- Frequent, uninvited visits to victim's home or work, or any other place he/she regularly frequents
- Repeated, unwanted contact by any means
- Following or observing someone's actions for an extended period of time

Domestic Violence and Children

An estimated 3.3 -10 million children witness domestic violence each year, most often against their mothers. Children who grow up in homes where domestic violence occurs are at high risk of:

- Physical, emotional and sexual abuse and neglect of basic needs
- Homelessness
- Psychological and emotional problems such as aggression, anxiety, hostility, social withdrawal, depression
- Long-term problems such as alcohol and drug abuse, low self-esteem, health issues, difficulty in school
- Becoming victims or perpetrators of domestic violence as adults

Children from violent homes are 1500% more likely to be abused or neglected.