



Domestic Violence: Impact, Resources & Advocacy

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What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic Violence is defined as;

A pattern of behavior in any relationship used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. Abuse is physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological actions or threats of action that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that frighten, intimidate, terrorize, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure or wound someone.

1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men have been the victim of severe intimate partner violence

1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experience some form of physical violence by an intimate partner.



Signs of Domestic Violence

Here are some examples of what you may expect to see in survivors:

- Anxiety and Depression
- Chronic health issues
- Substance abuse
- Fear
- Isolation
- Sense of hopelessness
- Perfectionism
- Overachievement

In addition to physical and emotional health symptoms, you may also notice:

- Frequent moves
- Sudden or repeated loss of jobs
- Children missing days at school
- Distancing from relatives and friends
- Never letting the partner be alone with other people
- Absence from social events including family gatherings
- The partner showing up unexpectedly
- The survivor receiving repeated calls or texts from their partner to check in
- The survivor giving up hopes and dreams
- The survivor's partner handling all the communications with others

Asking and Responding to Domestic Violence

Avoid naming and blaming

- Many don't see themselves as a "victim"
- Many don't label their situation as abusive

Starting the conversation

- How is your stress level?
- How are things at home?

How to respond if abuse is disclosed

- Be non-judgmental
- Be supportive

Words that help

- I'm here for you
- What is this like for you?
- You don't deserve this
- You are not crazy to want to be safe

Don't say things like:

- "What did you do to provoke them?"
- "Men are just like that"
- "You're smarter than that, just leave"
- "At least they're not hitting you"
- "It's your fault for staying with them"
- "I told you so!"

RISK FACTOR	RED FLAGS	
Past Violence	Abuser has seriously injured their partner in the past Abuser has injured other people in the past Survivor was physically abused while pregnant Abuser has sexually assaulted their partner	
Current Violence	Violence has recently escalated Abuser is stalking, monitoring or harassing the victim Abuser is violent outside of the home, either to survivor or others Abuser is violent towards pets	
Children	Abuser is violent toward children Abuser is sexually abusive toward children Abuser is not the father of the children Abuser believes that he is not the biological father of the children	
Threats	Abuser has threatened to kill the victim Abuser threatens or has threatened to kill himself Abuser threatens the victim's friends or family members Abuser has access to weapons, especially firearms Has recently acquired a firearm	
Substance Abuse	Abuser uses drugs or abuses prescription medications Abuser uses alcohol heavily	
Leaving	Abuser suspects the victim is planning to leave The victim has already left	

Assessing Danger and Safety Planning

There are risks attached to every decision an abused person makes. Safety planning is the process of evaluating the risks and benefits of different options and identifying ways to reduce the risks

Leaving is often the most dangerous point in an abusive relationship

Safety Planning Continued...

Use what they already know

- They probably know more about safety planning and risk assessment than you (or they) even realize
- Ask them what they are currently doing during an abusive episode and build on that

Safety planning for every situation

- Can be made for a variety of different situations: for dealing with an emergency, for continuing to live with or date a partner who has been abusive, or for protecting the victim after they have ended a relationship with an abusive partner

Help identify their options

- Identify options that are meaningful and workable for each individual

Plan ahead

- They don't need to wait for an emergency to ask for help

Local/State/National Resources:

Family Shelter Service 24/7 Hotline – 630-469-5650

Mutual Ground (Kane County) - 630-897-0080

IL Domestic Violence – 877-863-6338

National Domestic Violence Hotline – 800-799-7233

Text SUPPORT to 741-741 (24/7 Text Hotline)

www.metrofamily.org/FSSofMFSD

www.thehotline.org

www.womenslaw.org

Family Shelter Service offers:

- Emergency shelter
- Orders of Protection/Court & Victim Advocacy
- Adult and Children's Crisis Counseling Services/Support Groups
- Community Advocacy, Presentations & Trainings
- School-based Prevention Education

Question Time



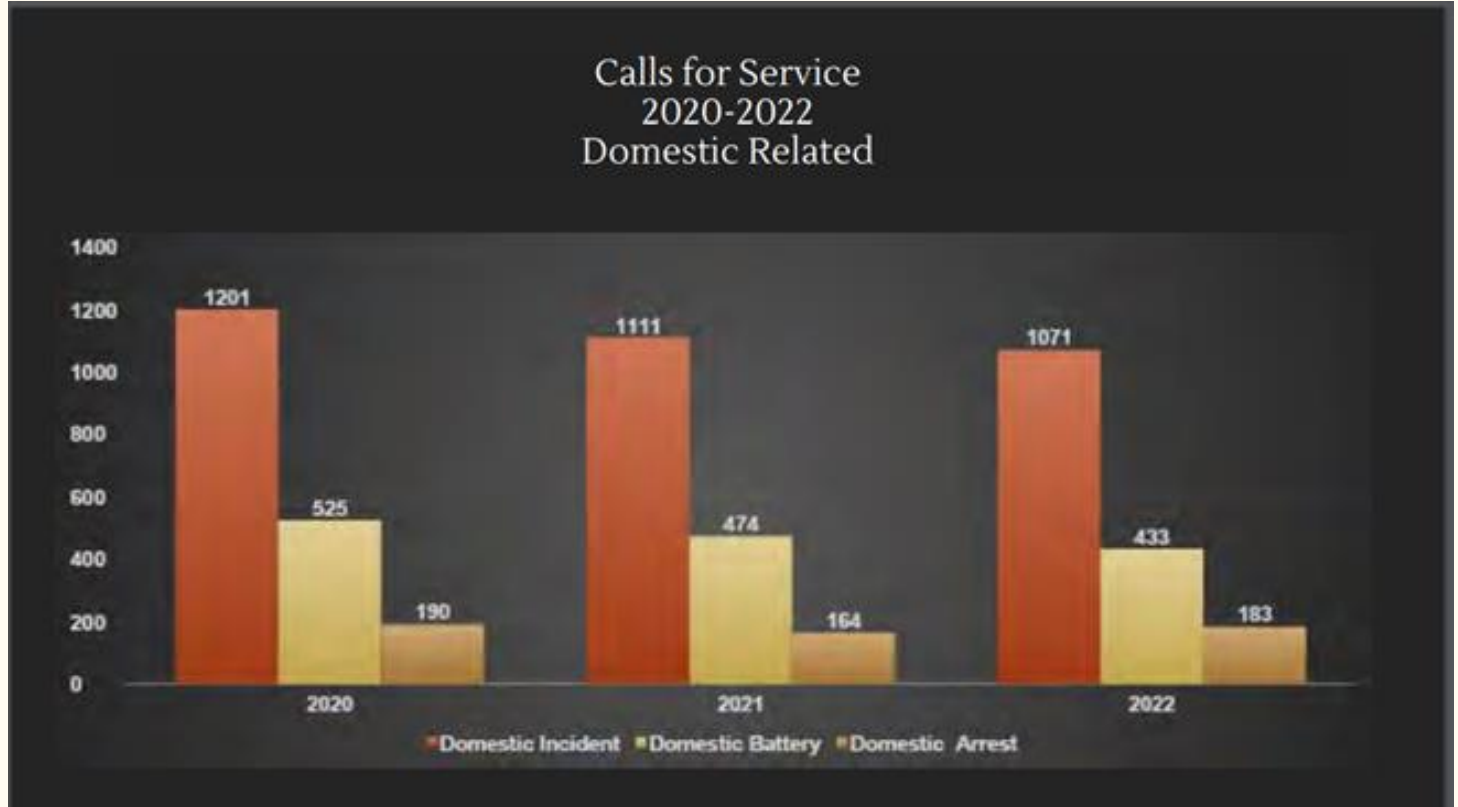
On a scale of 1-10, what is your knowledge level of police response to domestic violence?

Briefly and *without any identifying information*, what have you maybe heard about experiences with police responding to domestic violence?

What do you think prevents people from calling the police? What do you think they are looking for when they call the police following a domestic incident?

Naperville PD Domestic Calls for Service

Domestics are one of the most common if not the most common call any law enforcement department responds to. Victims may be hesitant to call the police for a variety of reasons



Victim Outreach to Law Enforcement

A 2015 survey conducted by the National Domestic Violence Hotline found that female identified victims of domestic violence who had NOT involved law enforcement cited

A desire for privacy (60%)

Fear of retaliation from the abuser (44%) and

wanting to protect children (22%) as their main reasons for not reporting the abuse.

Victims who DID call cited the following actions as the “most helpful things” police had done when responding to abuse in no particular order;

Provided information about my options including safety suggestions and referrals

Provided tangible help like helping me get an order of protection, transporting me to safety or connecting me with a victim advocate

Arrested or charged the abuser

Believed me or validated what had happened to me was a crime

Police Response to Domestic Violence

What if I call 911 and then change my mind hang up?"

•If there are previous concerns at that house such as violence, overdoses or suicidal ideation, dispatches likely will try to contact the caller again and in the event they are unsuccessful, send officers for a wellbeing check. If there are no prior calls, Dispatchers will try and make contact and if unsuccessful, they likely will dismiss the call. If someone calls and discloses violence or the Dispatcher hears signs of a commotion, an Officer will be sent.



•It is department policy to dispatch at least two Officers and a Sergeant to any physical domestic incident or incident involving a weapon.

•They generally do not go lights and sirens (code response) to a call unless there is a weapon involved or parties are actively physically fighting. Going code, while it might draw unwanted attention, is the fastest way for officers to arrive on scene and provide assistance.

•If Officers are responding to a residence, they do have access to previous contacts at that address and potentially some information about involved parties. They also may be notified if there is an “alert” on a specific person or address. Alerts are entered by department employees based on previous conversations or information obtained about individuals or residences.

Police Response to Domestic Violence

“Can’t you just make him/her leave for the night?”

If that person is a resident in the home and Officers don’t have probable cause to make an arrest, they can not force somebody to leave their home. They may suggest or encourage that someone consider spending the night at a friend or family member’s house or a hotel but they can not require it. If a victim wants to leave but lacks immediate resources or a plan to do so, social services may be able to assist.

Once officers arrive on scene, they immediately work to separate parties both to de-escalate any ongoing conflict and to best obtain stories from involved parties. If children witnessed physical violence or were directly involved in the violence, DCFS is notified

If the conflict was verbal only, they will try to restore peace.

If there are physical injuries, Officers will ask if that person would like medical attention and call an ambulance if needed. Officers may also call an evidence technician, depending on the nature of the injury, to take photos and document the injury. If someone with injuries will be getting arrested, they can be transported to the hospital to be assessed and then usually cleared for incarceration from there. Officers will establish who will care for children in the event a parent will no longer be present, or, in some extenuating circumstances, arrests may be delayed to allow for childcare to be established.

Ultimately in cases of injury, an Officer’s objective is to determine the primary aggressor of the conflict. This is oftentimes not an easy task.

Police Response to Domestic Violence

Breaking that down:

“Reason to believe” may be established by

- 1) Assessing both sides of the story and any injuries
- 2) A statement from an independent witness
- 3) Some type of additional evidence (video recording)
- 4) An admission from the offender

“Shall” means that the victim does not get to decide whether or not the perpetrator will be arrested following a physical domestic; it’s required by law they be arrested.

“Where appropriate” may appear ambiguous but it is present in the language to allow for extenuating circumstances; for example, someone in a primary caregiver role needing to establish care for another person before an arrest

In the vast majority of cases, parties tell conflicting stories and there are no witnesses. Both individuals may have injuries.

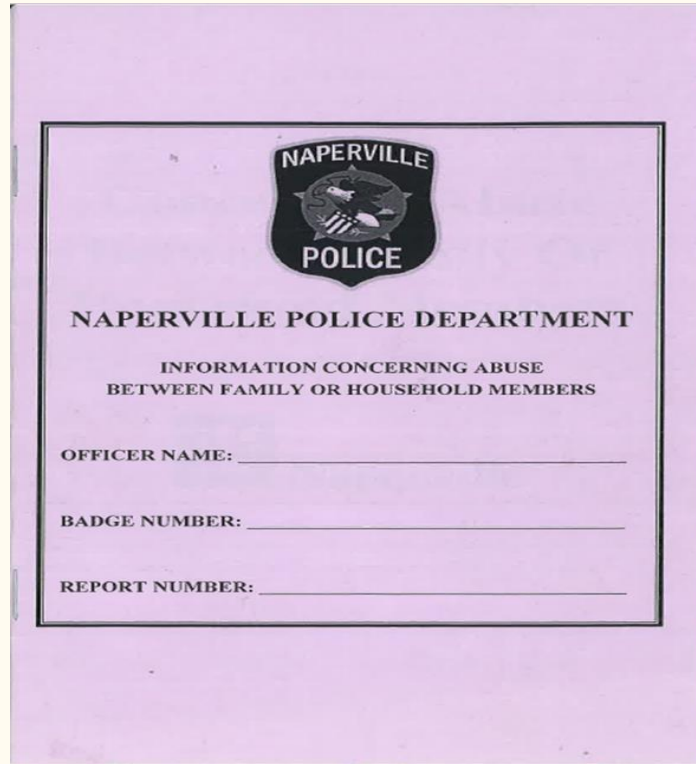
Illinois State Law (725 ILCS 5/112A-30) states that “Whenever a law enforcement officer has reason to believe that a person has been abused by a family or household member, the officer *shall* immediately use all reasonable means to prevent further abuse, including arresting the abusing party, where appropriate.”

Police Response to Domestic Violence

Following all domestic incidents and regardless of arrest, victims (or alleged victims) are offered a purple packet of information containing information on the cycle of violence, protective orders, victims rights, safety planning, PD and community resources and other relevant information. This information is also available on our website.

Domestic Violence Resources

Providing this information is in compliance with our local County Domestic Violence Protocol and is required through our General Orders.

A purple packet from the Naperville Police Department. At the top center is the Naperville Police Department badge, which is a shield with a scale of justice, a sword, and a banner. Below the badge, the text reads "NAPERVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT" in bold, followed by "INFORMATION CONCERNING ABUSE BETWEEN FAMILY OR HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS" in a smaller font. At the bottom, there are three lines for information: "OFFICER NAME: _____", "BADGE NUMBER: _____", and "REPORT NUMBER: _____".

NAPERVILLE
POLICE

NAPERVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

INFORMATION CONCERNING ABUSE
BETWEEN FAMILY OR HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

OFFICER NAME: _____

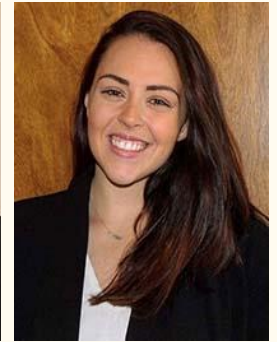
BADGE NUMBER: _____

REPORT NUMBER: _____

Police Response to Domestic Violence

What happens next?

- Offender is transported to the jail to attend bond court, if applicable
- Officers will make a call to Family Shelter to inform them of the incident; they will conduct outreach attempts to offer support and will not leave a message
- The incident is likely forwarded down to NPD Social Services for follow up.



What is Advocacy?

Advocacy is defined as any action that speaks in favor of, recommends, argues for a cause, supports or defends, or pleads on behalf of others.

We all become advocates for survivors simply by speaking out on the issue of violence against women



How can you help?

Get 40 Hour Domestic Violence Trained

Direct Service Volunteer Opportunities with Family Shelter

- **Hotline**
- **Shelter**
- **Court Advocacy**

Host a Donation Drive

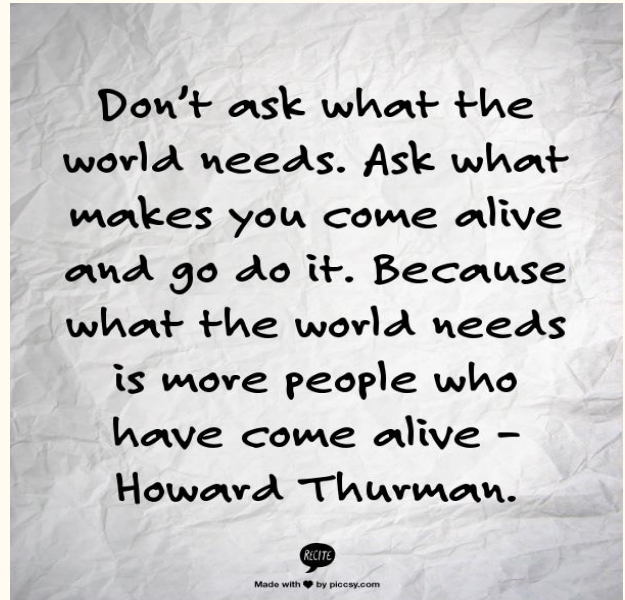
Host a Domestic Violence Training

Group/Corporate Volunteer Events

Use your unique skills to give back (teach a yoga or art class, garden at the shelter, etc.)

For more information contact Julia Forte, Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator

ForteJ@metrofamily.org



Gaps in Service/ Support

Individual Level

Systems Level

1) Legal representation

Income guidelines are oftentimes assessed by marital income

1) Mental Health Support

Limited providers/waitlists

Recent sexual assault law allows for victims to decline their insurance in ER if they are not the primary policy holder to maintain confidentiality and safety

1) Bond Conditions and LEADS, enforcement

1) Service of OOP summons

1) VOCA Funding

1) Specific Legislation such as....

HB 1404

Illinois Domestic Violence Act (IDVA) Firearm Remedy Clean Up HB 1404 HA1

What is HB 1404 HA1?

HB1404 HA1 is a technical cleanup bill which makes the following changes to the Illinois Domestic Violence Act:

- Clarifies *existing* judicial authority to issue the firearm remedy in an ex parte emergency order of protection hearing
- Streamlines the process for judges and law enforcement to issue and enforce orders to remove firearms from respondents to orders of protection
- Allows all survivors of abuse, as defined in the IDVA, to have the option to request the firearm remedy at the time of petition

Advocacy Efforts

The Network: Advocating Against Domestic

Violence: The Network works to improve the lives of those impacted by domestic violence using education, police and advocacy and through connecting community members with service providers.

<https://the-network.org/policy-action-center/>

Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence:

Statewide agency working to end Domestic Violence

<https://www.ilcadv.org/our-policy-work/>

Additional Resources for Better Understanding DV

Movies/TV Series/Documentaries:

- Maid (Netflix)
- Private Violence
- Tough Guise

Books:

- Lundy Bancroft (2002). *Why Does He Do That? Inside the Minds of Angry and Controlling Men*
- Elaine Weissman (2004). *Family and Friends' Guide to Domestic Violence*
- Rachel Snyder (2019). *No Visible Bruises*

Questions?

If you have additional questions, or would like to follow up with one of us directly, we can be reached at:

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