



Domestic Violence Assistance

Overview

- Domestic violence is about **POWER** and **CONTROL**
- Victim's behavior does not justify acts of domestic violence
- Police intervention is vital in breaking the cycle of violence

Why Batterers Batter

- Society in the past has condoned it
- It works-batterer gets what they want
- It is a choice-they use violence to solve problems
- Learned behavior
- Their peer group behaves that way

Controlling Behaviors

Anger, verbal abuse, threats, intimidation, physical isolation, economic isolation, physical violence, pretending great remorsefulness

Abuse is **NOT** Caused By

Alcohol, illness, genetics, stress or the victim's behavior

Victim Behaviors

- Unable to make decisions
- Belief in the batterer's promises and threats
- May blame themselves for their batterer's behavior
- Reluctance to speak / testify against his/her batterer

Why Victims Stay

- Belief that violence is a normal part of relationships
- Belief that they deserve the abuse
- Belief that there is a good person behind every batterer
- No ability to leave



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL
Police, Security
& Outside Services

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LEADERS in SERVICE and PROTECTION



Domestic Violence Assistance

Impact on Children

- Imprinting-children copy their parent's behavior
- With no other standard for comparison, the parent's behavior becomes normal to the child
- "What made me leave, wasn't the fear of him holding a gun to my head every weekend, it was the fear that my child would grow up thinking that this was a normal expression of love"—anonymous victim
- 50% chance that a child is abused when their mother is
- 40% of all child fatalities are the result of domestic violence
- Juvenile delinquents are four times more likely to be from homes with domestic violence
- Children learn that violence solves problems
- Children become violent outside the home

Confidential Services Offered

- Individualized Safety and Security Planning
- Threat Assessment of Abuser
- Investigations into Criminal Activity
- Surveillance of Abuser
- Assistance in Obtaining "Abuse Prevention Orders"
- Workplace Security Surveys
- Home, School and Daycare Security Surveys
- Security System Installation and Modification
- Court Related Assistance
- Legal Assistance
- Liaison with EAP, HAVEN, and Local Police

Phone Numbers to Remember

- MGH Police and Security: 617-726-2121
- Employee Assistance Program: 617-726-6976
- HAVEN @ MGH: 617-724-0054
- National DV Hotline: 800-799-7233
- SAFELINK (Shelter Information): 877-785-2020