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## Abusive Relationships: Hidden Crimes

Neidra V. Banton

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**Abusive Relationships:**

**Hidden Crime**

**Neidra V. Banton, B.S.**

An Abstract Presented to the Faculty of the  
Graduate School of Lindenwood University  
as Final Fulfillment of the Requirements for the  
Degree of Master of Science of Communication

2000

## ABSTRACT

Domestic violence is a crime, and the first step toward addressing the problem is through communication. Making society aware that there is a problem starts the process. Once communication of the problem is known then education is the next step. Educating society and all individuals affected by domestic violence whether as a victim or as a community helper is crucial toward stopping the crime.

Research of this social problem comprises the first three chapters of the graduate paper. Chapter one addresses the thoughts and reasons behind the belief that domestic violence is criminal through the research gathered from the social scientists, legal scientists, medical scientists as well as from the victims and supporters of the victims. Information discussed gives insight to a social problem that has affected family life in this country. Historical attitudes supporting the abusive actions are addressed and compared to the changes in attitudes and thinking that has occurred in the United States within the last thirty years as behavioral scientists collect and analyze data, results and outcomes of lives affected by domestic violence. The thesis shows that domestic violence affects society and that victims affected by this problem should rely on community help to escape or change the situation.

Information presented in this thesis is drawn from books, news articles, online sources and personal testimonies delivered by victims and professionals working to stop domestic violence. Chapter Two reviews these sources. Additional information outlining online addresses of shelter groups, legal procedures necessary to protect victims at the national level, and locally in Missouri are provided in the Appendix portion of this paper.

Chapter three reviews poetry and prose that addresses the issue of domestic violence. Two pieces are examined in detail describing the abuse and naming the abuse as criminal or wrong through the creative voices of poets and writers seeking to tell their stories before society accepted the voice of the social protesters who now lobby for changes and abolishment.

Chapter four is the creative expression of the writer of this thesis using the literary forms of poetry and prose. The poems and short story written parallel the fictional examples in that the pieces offer a creative voice of expression to describe a social problem that continues to victimize a sector of society despite the efforts that have been made by victims and advocates for victims of domestic abuse. Social awareness of domestic violence is affectively disclosed not only through the clinical writings of the social scientists studying the problem, but also through the media and literary arenas that provide information to the public.

Chapter five is a discussion of all information presented in the thesis including the resource information provided in the Appendix. The information is discussed based on the ability to offer assistance to victims of domestic violence. The resource information given allows readers to access information quickly online. The informational video provided gives readers answers to some of the prevalent questions asked by the public not affected personally or professionally by domestic violence.

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2000

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## Preface

*Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. (Ephesians 5:22-28)* Moreover, a couple committed to loving and sharing a life together is united to battle obstacles and problems that occur naturally in life. Yet, too often men do batter their mates. Domestic violence has become such a serious societal issue that it has begun to be investigated by behavioral scientists within the last twenty years in the United States. "It is the leading cause of injury to women in the United States, and a woman is more likely to be violently attacked in her own home than out in the street by a stranger." (Michael Groetsch, Forward)

"As we look at contemporary marriage, we still see massive inequality, especially in certain subcultures within the larger society." (Gottman, Jacobson, p.80) Men hold the power in a marriage. Physical strength and economic control keep many women in abusive relationships. Emotional involvement is the strongest entrapment. Men who abuse are careful to involve the women's emotions and attachments before the full scope of domestic violence is realized. A pattern of emotional entrapment, battery and apology can revolve within these relationships for years without any attempt on the women's part to escape. These relationships can exist before marriage and definitely during marriage.



The women are trapped with no discernible escape route. Society turns a deaf ear and enables the domestic violence to thrive. The women stay because abuse has become a way of life. Society continues to view relationships between men and women in terms of male domination and female submission. Politically it is said that men and women are equal, but culturally it is said that male dominance is the rule.

Women in abusive relationships experience a myriad of emotional responses. Fear, depression, anger, isolation, emotional numbness, a loss of self-esteem and self-confidence, deference, self-blame, suicidal thoughts and homicidal thoughts have surfaced at some time in the lives of abused women. Any one of these emotional conditions can cripple a person's ability to function normally. Compound these responses with society's reactions, and the entrapment becomes almost unbreakable. Isolated from the nonviolent these women find that seeking help is not easy to do. The perspective of marriage or a relationship becomes clouded as the emotional state continues to erode. Domestic violence cripples the women and men involved. The abuse becomes the catalyst for self destruction either physically, mentally or emotionally. It also perpetuates the cycle of violence to future generations. The emotional responses learned become the personality traits of the off-spring. A profile of an abused woman was offered in Donna Canfield's book, *Honeymoon Mania*.

- **Her thinking is altered** because she is not allowed to think.
- **She feel insecure** because he keeps telling her she is a failure.
- **She feels humiliated** because she cannot stand up to him and be a complete person; her fear of him holds her back.

- **She feels unattractive** because beauty comes from within.
- **She has lost her sense of humor.**
- **Her idea of reality is tainted.**
- **Her ambition to reach goals has diminished.**
- **Her ability to deal with life's normal ups and downs is diminished.**
- **She may become more fearful** of him and other people as her trust in people is diminished.
- **She may become an introvert** if she was an extrovert.
- **She may learn to dislike sex.**
- **She may become oversexed.**
- **She may become extremely depressed.** (Canfield, 61-63)

Women who stay in these relationships confront violence that can result in death. The death is not necessarily that of the victim. "Frightening statistic show that men are three times more likely than women to kill their mates" (Canfield, 33). Women who strike back are not looked upon by society as victims defending their lives. "Men who kill their mates serve an average of 6 years in prison, while women who kill their mates serve an average of 15 years in prison" (Canfield, 33). Laws need to reflect the crime. The victim often becomes a victim of the society's law when an act of self-defense results in death. Society must intervene before the domestic violence escalates to murder. Changing the law to to protect the abused victim prevents the possible outcome of death. Donna Canfield author of Honeymoon Mania, offers these suggestions:

- Punishment should increase for repeat assault offenses.
- Punishment should increase for repeated violations of protective orders.
- Women should be notified before their abuser is released from jail on bail.
- The time an abuser is held in custody should be increased.
- Police officers should be able to help an abused women move her property from her residence and protect her as she leaves.
- Victims should be required to testify against their abuser.

Early intervention by law enforcement before the violence becomes deadly to the victim stops the cycle. The victim must leave, but she cannot leave without help. Even the slightest assistance as a ride to the shelter or a nights stay in a neighbors home might make the difference between escape and captivity.

## Chapter I

### INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence is a crime, not an invasion of personal affairs or a violation of civil rights. It is violence made physically and verbally against who are victims related to the attacker either legally or by choice. Ironically it is this personal connection with the attacker that hinders support from law enforcement, social services and legal services found within the community. Crimes committed by strangers against strangers are pursued vigorously to the limits of the law. Domestic crimes are considered misdemeanors and of a private nature. "Police and the judicial system often share the belief that crimes involving family members or crimes that occur within the privacy of the home are less of a threat to the general public." (Felder and Victor, p.28)

Should the abuse culminate in murder the crime then becomes viable for the law and legal system to penetrate the walls of privacy and start proceedings that investigate and belatedly protect the victim posthumously. Abusers will batter again if not caught and will select another potential victim. Society has not made the abusers accountable for the actions of domestic violence. The idea that both parties contributed to the violence is firmly entrenched within the minds of the community. Society's response is if there is violence, the victim should leave. The provocation present in the relationship should cause legal action or a trip to the marriage counselor. The fallacy with this reasoning is that the victims are not able to coherently voice concerns and present a rational affectation to the legal system because long term abuse causes the cognitive abilities to become impaired.

The victims often present irrational and emotional responses to the authorities while the abuser looks on with calm, rational reserve. The societal bias that permeates the community reads the situation as a minor domestic dispute that will mend with the proverbial kiss and "I'm sorry" statement.

Domestic violence has a culturally grounded bias that has influenced the legal system in the United States for over two hundred years. Man is king of his castle and chattel. This cultural bias is not limited to the United States, but is world wide. The implication of this reality is that the bias is reinforced throughout civilization and therefore makes the idea of revision difficult to accept. However, revision of laws and beliefs concerning domestic violence must be achieved.

If there is one long-term program that should be instituted in conjunction with these short-term changes across the board regarding the law, it is a total revision of the standards that have been applied in our criminal justice system and throughout society over the last two hundred years concerning men and women who are or have been in a relationship. If left unchanged, the roles remain defined as "victim and perpetrator". (30)

Not all relationships can be defined as violent. The nonviolent relationships will not be considered in terms of victim and perpetrator, but according to the U.S. FBI statistics a married women is beaten every thirty seconds in the United States (Thorne-Finch, 8) This figure is considered to be conservative in that not all relationships such as live-in or casual relationships were surveyed.

Also the accuracy for reporting would be questioned due to the nature of the questions and admission of possible guilt. However questionable, the statistical report does support that domestic violence is alive and thriving in the United States. Lenore Walker author of The Battered Woman, estimates that in the United States there is a fifty percent likelihood that any woman has been battered. (9) "One study revealed that at least ten percent of professional men beat their wives. The exact numbers are unknown since with financial status, the affluent can keep out of the public statistics." (9) Moreover, the reluctance to disclose a history of abuse to a mate is found among all economic levels.

The statistics include the number of deaths attributed to domestic violence after the crime has occurred. The batterer may or may not be arrested. The victim probably has a medical history of emergency room visits, but the explanations coupled with the doctors' medical jargon might hide the evidence of abuse. The lack of evidence obtained by law enforcement and the medical personnel is often prejudiced by the preconceived notion that to probe further would be an invasion of privacy into a personal affair. The victim is also known to recant statements of abuse once the case is brought to court. The community responds by turning a deaf ear to the real issue. The lack of knowledge and understanding about the victim and batterer's relationship leads to further isolation and possible death once the victim returns home.

This typical procedure in response to domestic violence need only be applied once. The victim knows that there are few choices available that will offer the protection and safety that is needed.

"Battered women are encouraged to come forward for medical treatment, criticized when they are less than truthful, assured that they can make their own decisions, legally and medically, when it comes to pressing charges against their assailant---but are given no guarantees that by taking those actions, they will be safe" (Felder and Victor, p. 43).

The battered woman must face many obstacles to escape abuse. The abuser waits in the home to attack and the community outside the home waits to vacillate between myth and reality. Many times the belief in myths about domestic violence wins out. The idea that men and women batter each other mutually within relationships is one myth that perpetuates the societal response that domestic violence is a private matter between couples. Those involved should be allowed to resolve their differences without the intrusion of the outside community. Statistically speaking this idea is erroneous.

The statistics support the conclusion that the problem of abuse is far greater than the idea of couples fight, reconcile and no one is really hurt.

- The incidence of domestic violence is estimated at 4 million cases annually, or one assault every 15 seconds.
- Over 50 percent of all women murdered are killed by male partners, and 12 percent of murdered men are killed by female partners (Nelson, 1).

In reality the myth is incorrect---partners do die as a result of domestic violence. The numbers are not easily explained away, and they do affect the community. Domestic violence is not a private affair between couples.

Social scientists have been studying domestic violence aggressively since the 1970's. As a result of the studies made, profiles of batterers have been established. The myth that all batterers are alike has been successfully challenged. One writer and researcher has placed characteristics and predictable behaviors into three categories. Michael Groetsch, author of He Promised He'd Stop, has made a detailed profile of the batterer covering a spectrum of treatable batterers to the serial batterer. Groetsch's profile is detailed with specific behavioral patterns. He speaks in specific behavioral terms that define the possibility of reform. Applying Groetsch's profile, battered women can easily spot the patterns of behavior of the abuser in their relationship and make decisions as to how to deal with the domestic abuse within the relationship. (see chart, next page)

Other authors have attempted to categorize the batterer's profile. Neil Jacobson and John Gottman have devised an analogy to the cobra and the pit bull in definitive terms to describe abusers who fall within two categories. "Cobras appear to be criminal types who have engaged in antisocial behavior since adolescence. They are hedonistic and impulsive" (Jacobson and Gottman, p. 36-37). " The Pit Bulls are more likely to confine their violence to family members especially their wives" (Gottman, 38). The Pit bulls appear to have a family history of abusing women and have learned this behavior. Historic criminal activity is not present.



The Batterer's Continuum

Category 1	Category 2	Category3
Least Dangerous	Moderately Dangerous	Very Dangerous
Normal male in abnormal circumstances	A male with several character defects	A male with a personality disorder
Abuse is situational, isolated	Abuse is neither isolated nor ongoing; it's sporadic	Abuse is ongoing systematic: shows a chronic pattern
Cause of aggression: 90% external 10% internal	Cause of aggression: 50% external 50% internal	Cause of aggression: 10% external 90% internal
Previous relationships with women were not violent	Some previous relationships with women were violent	All previous relationships with women were violent
No premarital abuse	Some premarital abuse	Frequent premarital abuse
Feels genuine remorse	Feels limited remorse	Feels no remorse; has no conscience
Very treatable	Might be treatable	Not treatable
(Source: <u>He Promised He'd Stop</u> . Groetsch, Michael, p. 9)		

The two profiles of the batterer can be related to one another. The Batterer's Continuum shows a spectrum or range of categorizing that can be applied in relative degrees to the abuser under study. The Pit Bull and Cobra theories can be applied in the same manner. The Cobra category by definition of behaviors closely resembles category three in the continuum. The Pit Bull behaviors can compare to category two. Both profiles picture the male as the dominant abuser.

Alcohol and substance abuse has been cited as probable causes in many domestic disputes. "None of the research proves that alcohol or drugs cause battering" (Jacobson, p. 39). Domestic abuse occurs when the abuser is sober or under the influence. The external issues that cause the abuse revolve around controlling the victim's behavior. "Too much focus on drug and alcohol abuse leads us away from the central issue: battering is fundamentally perpetuated by its success in controlling, intimidating and subjugating the battered women" (Gottman, p. 41). The fallacy with this myth is that the substance and alcohol abuse can be treated, but the treatment does not cause the abusive behavior in a relationship to go away. The batterer is still responsible for the behavior, not the drugs. All people who abuse alcohol and drugs are not abusers of their partners.

Social scientists have stated that abusive behavior can be controlled. The external and internal triggers that signal the abuse comes from the basic need of the abuser to control the partner in the relationship. The batterers who fall into categories two and three as well as those labeled cobras and pit bulls typically want absolute control. Cobras and category three batterers exhibit personality disorders that threaten any partner in close proximity. The ability to empathize with a partner is deficient. This batterer feels emotions, but only emotions that center around his own needs.

The need to feel powerful is strong. Self-esteem and self-confidence, despite all appearances is extremely low. The main focus of this batterer's existence is to feed the need to control and dominate the one partner who will allow it.

The possibility for emotional and physical abuse in the batterer's background is strong. Yet the responsibility for behavior does not exclude the batterer. These men do not batter everyone in their acquaintance, but rather a victim is sought and lured into a relationship for the sole purpose of providing the need to dominate and control another individual. Very seldom is remorse felt; therefore reform and rehabilitation is not an option.

The course of treatment for a convicted batterer is prison or counseling if the abuse results in murder. There have been some cases when a spouse has been acquitted of murdering a partner when that partner has been caught in the act of infidelity. However in the case of a batterer, a pattern of abuse in previous relationships as well as in the current relationship can be determined if the victim received medical attention or made reports to the police. The difficulty is the amount of awareness or training the police, judges and counselors have obtained in the area of domestic violence. The cultural bias that has transcended the generations continues to do so. The sanctity of the home as a castle for the lord of the manor remains a strong belief. Treatment for some batterers can be successful if the abuser has a sense of remorse for the behavior, and the behavior was caused externally by traumatic events in life such as a death of a child, loss of a job, severe financial problems, etc. This batterer can be reformed because guilt for the behavior can be assumed by the abuser. There is empathy for the victim. A history of abuse is not found in the background. "There is motivation to change and not repeat a destructive behavior." (Groetsch, p. 15)

The concept of prison as a punishment for domestic violence might deter some batterers. But because domestic violence is not viewed as a crime by many in the community, the legal punishment and protection of potential victims is difficult to manage and determine. The statistics remain high for domestic abuse to occur and the roles of victim and abuser are easily assigned. Education concerning the issue is a must. The medical and legal agencies that receive the first signs of domestic abuse must become more aware of the problems associated with this type of violence. The police must become educated toward detection so that protection of the victim can be better achieved. After education, these community resources must communicate for effective resolution of the problems and the saving of lives.

Educating the community about domestic violence is a start, but educating women about the signs of a potentially abusive mate arms potential victims with the ability to protect. Unfortunately the skills necessary for discerning potentially dangerous behavior are not taught in school or in the home. Battered women are sometimes part of a human cycle that is perpetuated by true ignorance. The idea of leaving and starting over is a step that many women are afraid to attempt. The abusive relationship does not make the victim want to flee but rather stay because of the fear of the unknown. Abuse is the known entity; hopelessness and dependence upon the community is the unknown. Walking away from an abusive home takes tremendous courage. The support and encouragement must come from within and many times the ability to rise during the midst of adversity has been beaten away by the batterer. Education about domestic violence can affect the problems.

Counseling women about the dangers an abusive relationship incurs prepares and protects in ways the community cannot after the fact.

Education and counseling women about the tactics of abusive men is not an easy task. The role of women traditionally places them as potential victims. Men rule the relationships; women traditionally give their power to the men in their lives. Historically this transference has been respected and reinforced because marriage has offered protection and security. The fact is, however, that many relationships do not always supply protection and security. Nevertheless, the belief remains in tact. "Our society, with its long history of male domination, gives all men power over women. Despite our individual strengths, women are collectively at a disadvantage" (Jones and Schechter, p. 15). Domestic violence will continue, but through education and communication battered partners will receive help. Education given to women about signs of the abusive personality will prevent domestic violence before the relationship can begin. Education and communication about domestic violence prevents further abuse. This paper attempts to inform the community and victims about the issues associated with domestic violence. The creative portion of the project is directed toward victims who might relate to the messages found in the short story, poetry and photographs. The research information is directed toward the community searching for information on the topic. The short documentary is directed toward all people with concerns on domestic violence.

## Response

Education for victims trapped in abusive relationships can be found in various resources. Books written by authors closely involved with domestic violence are available at the local libraries and bookstores. Hot lines are available on the Internet and phones lines at local shelters. The creation of shelters and counseling services formed throughout the country has increased as the public begins to take notice of the problems. The various articles, books and news programs depicting the problems associated with domestic violence have accelerated society's initial stages of education and communication concerning the issues. Highly televised court cases such as "The O J Simpson Trial" have helped put the problems of domestic violence on the minds of many people. Communication and education for victims and abusers have made an impact on the occurrence of domestic violence. A small step of simply reporting the violence to the local police, as reported by the National Crime Victimization Survey, "appears to reduce the risk of a husband attacking his wife again by as much as 62 percent". (Betancourt, p. 67)

Legislation resulting from the lobbying of women's groups has resulted in the passage of "The 1994 Violence Against Women Act" (Betancourt, p. 4). Society's response to domestic violence on a national level has led to the creation of a national domestic violence hot line which was established in 1996 (5). The federal response to the issues of domestic violence has filtered down to the state and local levels.

Efforts to educate police in the area of domestic violence and provide liaisons for social and human services have been funded by the Federal government. Developing legislation and procedures for handling cases of domestic violence is a step toward treating the abuse as a crime. Giving the police the right to press charges when the victim is too afraid to cite charges is another step toward making the abuser responsible for the actions.

Domestic violence occurs in heterosexual, homosexual and platonic friendship relationships. Victims in these relationships are predominately female. "According to the U. S. Attorney General's office at least 94 percent of all cases of partner violence involve a man beating a women." (Murphy-Milano, p. 34) Protocol and procedures drafted by legislature place emphasis on women as victims, but the procedures can be applied to anyone placed in an abusive situation. Drugs and alcohol abuse is believed by some to be a cause of domestic violence. Holidays, weekends and unemployment are all associated with drug and alcohol usage. But experts working with domestic violence do not support substance abuse as a cause of the violence. Studies show that men who abuse their partners abuse them while sober as well. Many believe that abusive behavior is learned and occurs generational as a family legacy that passes from father to son or daughter to partner ( Murphy-Milano 34-35).

The key to maintaining a happy abuse-free relationship is to research your partner.

When the Department of Justice reports that “nearly half of all women murdered in this country are killed by their partners”, knowing the family and behavioral background of a future spouse is crucial. Taking time to know your partner before becoming intimate could save a woman's life. Susan Murphy-Milano, author of Defending Our lives, suggests the following questions when seeking to research a prospective partner.

- How well do you know him?
- How long have you known him?
- What does he do for a living?
- Do you know his family?
- Do you know where he grew up?
- Does he like to drink or do drugs?
- What are his hobbies? (Milano, p. 49)

Questions asked on the first date allow couples to gain knowledge of each other before becoming emotionally involved. Murphy-Milano suggests other questions that can naturally occur on subsequent dates.

- Where did he go to school?
- Where do his parents live?
- Are they still married?
- Was there violence in his home while he was growing up?
- If his parents are divorced, ask for a general reason.
- Did he have a happy, loving childhood?
- What type of relationship does he have with his parents?
- What kind of environment was he raised in?
- Has he ever been in trouble with the law? If so, for what?
- Has ever been married?



- If he is divorced, why did the marriage end?

(50)

Getting to know a partner before intimacy and emotional involvement can protect potential victims from entering into possible abusive relationships.

The historical belief that partner abuse is an accepted practice of control over a family is eroding. Today domestic abuse is a crime and will be prosecuted by the law. But before that prosecution can take place, education about their civil rights must be given to the victims. When the police are called in on a domestic abuse complaint, a written report complete with photographs must be made. The police are responsible for the safety of the victims in the home. Education and communication become crucial steps toward stopping a domestically violent situation either before it can start or ending the violence after a recent episode.

However, the longstanding cultural dominance of male leadership in a domestic relationship often hamper the procedure of arrest through the police officer's ignorance of the crime and internalized prejudice concerning society's responsibility toward domestic violence.

Nevertheless, the rules are changing slowly. Domestic violence is a federal crime; therefore local police agencies must or should arrest the abusing partner. The interpretation of the law is left to the individual state governments and local municipalities. Rights and responsibilities of abused victims, law enforcers and the abusers can become overlooked during a domestic call. Victims should insist calmly that all proceedings followed should be consistent with those conducted when the assault is between strangers.

Ignorance of the law exacerbates the violence. Marian Betancourt, author of What to Do When Love Turns Violent, lists some good reasons for arresting the abuser.

- Assault is a crime in all fifty states. If you were assaulted by a stranger on the street, you would expect an arrest.
- Abusive men get violent because they get away with it, and they get what they want. It is time they learned some other way.
- If a man is abusive and there are no serious consequences for his use of violence, his violent behavior is reinforced.
- That courts can place controls on a violent man that friends and family members cannot. they can send him to jail, levy heavy fines, restrict bail, serve protective orders, and send batterers to counseling programs for domestic violence. (38)

Once the abuser is arrested, the victim must then decide the next course of action. Staying on the premises is not recommended because arrest times are typically very short, varying from three hours to twelve hours depending upon the municipalities.

The batterer should be arrested and charges filed with the understanding that the relationship is over. This is rarely done since the abused victim has an emotional attachment to the abuser. In such cases the mandatory arrest law is ineffective. The abuser will serve his time and upon release will find the victim and start the violent cycle all over again. Opponents of the mandatory arrest law, like the Crime Control Institute, believe that: "Policy makers and criminologists should therefore consider the possibility that a little jail time can be worse than none" (Violence Against Women, p. 114).

Mandatory arrest laws work when the victim is determined to end the relationship. Victims who choose to remain in the relationship cannot be adequately protected. The batterer will continue to abuse the victim until death. Many abusers will even stalk their victims even after the relationship has been ended. Offspring born to the relationship can be used as blackmail for reconciliation even when the victim does not want to return to the abuser. Domestic violence can be as entangling as a spider's web. Escaping is not easy and often requires careful preparation. Placing the abuser in jail even for an hour or two can allow the victim to escape the violent situation if there is an escape plan in place. The plan can be as simple as asking to be taken to the nearest shelter for abused women. Once there, counseling can begin and protection can be given while the victim begins to sort through the predicament. A more complex escape plan can be executed even without an arresting incident occurring once the decision to leave is made. Basic information and papers should be gathered and placed either with a friend or in a safe place. Information suggested:

- Birth certificates for the victim and her children
- Insurance policies
- Marriage Certificate
- Medical records
- Children's vaccination records
- Dental records for the victim and her children
- Passports for the victim and her children
- Prescriptions for any medications for the victim and her children
- Eyeglasses and other health aides

- School records for children
- Social security cards for the victim and her children
- Spare keys to the house
- Title to the car
- Credit bureau report
- Copy of any personal phone book
- computerized information on the home computer

(Murphy-Milano, p 81-82)

The list supplied by Susan Murphy-Milano, Defending our Lives, is quite extensive. Not all documents are absolutely necessary, but the list gives a complete picture of what might be helpful as the victim plans a new life. Contacting a local shelter for abused women benefits the victim and family. These shelters have a list of helpful people to contact for protection, financial advice, legal advice and medical advice. Within the last twenty years professionals working in human resources have become knowledgeable of domestic violence and its repercussions. Battered women are encouraged to seek help from organizations that specialize in helping abused partners. This aid is not restricted to women only, but to anyone who might fall into the category of an abused partner.

Information on receiving help for abuse can be found on the Internet. Many agencies that help battered partners have web sites that can be accessed online at the local library. Using online services at the local library is free. The information given by most agencies will be a number where a counselor can be reached. Many agencies provide a 24 hour hot line. Personal testimonies abound online.

Victims needing to read web sites or chat with survivors of domestic abuse need only search online.

This is the age of Information. Education and communication are as close as fingertips on a keyboard. Domestic violence is not a private family matter anymore. The battered partner must make a decision to seek help outside the home and protection from the batterer. Partners entering into relationships must be educated as well to the warning signs of a potentially abusive mate. Society can stop abuse only if the abused partner makes the commitment to leave or seek help. Some abusers are beyond help, but help for the victim is available and waiting.

Domestic violence is a crime that affects families, communities and society. The moral values associated with living in a civilized culture have indirectly supported the right of a husband to chastise his wife. The type of punishment given to a woman has been considered abusive when a husband is given full control and power over her in marriage or in a relationship.

The legal system, the medical community and uninformed public often do not possess a perspective into the lives of victims who are abused. Society will say that the woman does not have to stay; she should leave. Leaving an abusive relationship is not as simple as it is believed by the public. Domestic violence is a crime that affects the civil rights of women in relationships with abusive men. These women can die and do die at the hands of their abusive partners. Abuse in any form is harmful to the spirit, mind and body of human beings.

Communication and education about abusive relationships are preventive measures that can be used by the community, the legal system and society. Changing the indifferent perspective toward abuse can be achieved through non-fictional and fictional literature. Understanding and compassion come from attitudes changed by supportive laws and beliefs founded on experiences and observations. The crime of domestic violence must be exposed and removed from the comfort and safety of the home. Relationships are private and personal, but violence is not.

## Chapter II

### Review of Literature

Domestic violence has become the issue of study for social scientists, legal representatives and medical professionals. The issues became sources for books in the 1970's and continue to the present. Ten books were used as research material for the research portion of this project. Eight of these books were published during the years of 1996-1998. Two books were published earlier in 1993 and 1994. About twenty-five books were available on the shelves of the local library on domestic abuse. Information on domestic violence is online as well. This information must be evaluated for validity. Anyone with a web site can write information online. The information found can vary from personal testimonies of survivors of abuse to actual online addresses for shelters and agencies providing protection and help for abused individuals. For battered women isolated from family and friends, access to any online information provides help.

Magazine articles and newspapers provide timely information on domestic violence. Current issues surrounding the topic provide the victim with information that others have experienced this trauma and survived. Knowledge that domestic violence is a crime echoes throughout the testimonies and interviews of people involved with domestic violence. Again for a battered women isolated from family and friends, news and magazine articles telling the story of domestic violence can reach and inform.

Information on domestic violence is the first step toward educating and communicating the horrors of abuse and the triumphs of escaping abuse. The Age of Information allows the public to access knowledge of domestic violence in whatever form is available.

The O.J. Syndrome Confessions Of An Abuser, addresses the personal opinions of a man who admits to being a reformed abuser. The author writes his story and reveals his pattern of thinking as a man not able to control his abusive manner directed toward his wife. Rich Bean, the author discloses some personal information about his life with his wife. Photos are presented in some of the chapters. Bean suggests that domestic violence can stop if the abuser wants to reform and stay with his partner. His method of reform was more of a realization of what he was doing to his wife and family. Counseling and assistance from outside sources were not discussed. The story was told from the remorseful abuser's point of view and considered sympathetic to his needs to remain with his wife. I would not recommend this book as a source for women caught in an abusive relationship and seeking advice as to how to escape or survive.

The Domestic Violence Sourcebook by Dawn Bradley Berry provides in depth information on abuse for professionals working with clients who are in need of help and resources. Definitions, syndromes and profiles are given within the book as well as sources for assistance and an appendix full of addresses and numbers of hotlines. Berry covers all possible relationships in her source book.



Heterosexual and homosexual relationships are addressed with regards to domestic violence. the resource information given can be specified to a specific type of relationship.

Marian Betancourt, author of What to do When Love Turns Violent, has written a book that is easy to read and follows a step-by-step approach to tackling the problems associated with living with a batterer and leaving a batterer. Her authority on the subject is established in the preface where it is candidly revealed that her mother was battered and so was she as an adult in marriage. Information concerning the current public views substantiated by federal laws are revealed as she writes about legal procedures in understandable terms.

This book was very helpful in detailing the legal procedures that must be followed when an abused victim calls the police and files charges against the batterer. The information is presented with all possible police reactions paired with laws that must be obeyed regardless of the level of sensitivity. The information is presented in a well organized and accessible way that any reader can look at the table of contents and easily find the information sought. Sections of the book discussed procedures for victims who are noncitizens and victims who are elderly or housebound. Issues concerning harassment, stalking and general safety are discussed. National abuse hot lines, shelter addresses and web sites are provided in a format organized by states.

Betancourt has written a comprehensive book detailing all possible scenarios associated with domestic violence. Her insight into the legalities associated with fighting the batterer in court for custody of children and equitable division of property is useful information.

This information is very important for partners married to abusive men of wealth or political connection. Many abused partners have protection orders issued from the local municipalities. However, there are problems associated with the enforcement of the orders. Betancourt gives detailed steps for working with the legal system with regards to protective orders. This book was a very good source of information on domestic violence and all the repercussions that ensue when the victim attempts to leave and start a new life.

Honeymoon Mania is a book that details the cycle of abuse that victims and abusers experience in relationships. The author, Donna Canfield, Ph.D., details in a systematic approach that begins with the definition of abuse and covers leaving the relationship as well as avoiding another abusive relationship when the victim starts life over. Information is presented in easy to read wording. Boldfaced print allows the reader to peruse the book in quick fashion--skimming for information.

Without Conscience written by Dr. Robert D. Hare gives the reader a detailed description of the psychopathic personality. This book could be an initial source of information for a woman whose suspicions about the abuser in her life are just surfacing. This book gives a detailed account of psychopathic behavior in a style that is easy to read and understand. Examples and interviews are examined as the author recounts his experiences working and testing people suspected of psychopathic tendencies. This book is not intended as an aide for victims of domestic violence.

Next Time She'll Be Dead by Ann Jones is a brutally frank book written to educate the public on just how extensive domestic violence is and how the law does not effectively protect women who are abused. This book would be an informative resource for law enforcers, judges, doctors and counselors who work with women escaping from abusive relationships. The author goes into detail about cases that could have been handled differently without losing the life of the abused victim. Wording in the book is easy to understand. Women trapped in an abusive situation could read this book and gain knowledge about the preconceived bias society has concerning domestic violence. Knowing what hardships the community can impose because of cultural bias could be helpful when a victim is seeking protection from an abusive partner.

Violence Against Women, a book on domestic violence, provides detailed reports from various writers who specialized in law, medicine, psychology, sociology and activism for women's rights. All aspects of violence toward women are addressed. The table of contents provides a brief overview of each paper compiled and organized under chapter headings. This is a Current Controversies series book.

The information given in each paper could be used as a separate source of information or in conjunction with other sources. The book is an excellent source for a scholarly paper on violence directed toward women. The terminology and wording might be too involved for abused women researching for immediate help. An extensive bibliography including books and periodicals is given at the end of the book. A detailed section of organizations to contact for assistance is also provided.

When Violence Begins at Home, is a book written by K.L. Wilson, Ed.D. This is a book for counselors and workers who provide guidance for women and partners in abusive relationships. The book provides understanding of the issues involved with domestic abuse as well as procedures for ending the abuse.

The book is written by a woman who has experienced domestic abuse firsthand, and who started one of the first shelters for abused women in Austin, Texas. The information is presented in a comprehensible manner that is easy for counselors in the community to grasp as well as the women seeking help and answers to their questions.

In addition to answers to the issues that plague domestic abuse, Dr. Wilson has also given intervention models and prevention models for batterers. Counseling techniques for women and children involved in domestic abuse are described in detail. A Brief historical view of domestic violence as passed down through the ages is presented. Concise safety steps are given for violent episodes that might occur at home or at the work place. A national hot line list of numbers along with a detailed listing of selected readings is provided. This book is a valuable guide for any shelter.

Getting Away With Murder written by Raoul Felder and Barbara Victor, gives the reader an inside view of domestic abuse by recreating documented cases of abuse and their outcomes. Felder is a divorce lawyer who is familiar with domestic abuse through his clients. Victor is a journalist who is familiar with the cases studied. The writers emphasis is to explain why women are trapped in these relationships and cannot "just leave" as much of the uninformed public appears to think.

Using particular cases Felder and Victor describe how legal and medical procedures evolved and how those procedures can be manipulated either way for a victory for the abused victim or for the batterer. Discussion on the historical viewpoint toward domestic violence is given in detail. Prejudices within law enforcement and the medical fields are revealed. Changes that occurred as a result of lawsuits are documented and explained as they relate to the changed protocol designed for law enforcement and the medical field. Felder and Victor become advocates for reform of domestic abuse through education and communication.

This book speaks to abused victims and to the first line of defense to the violence-- the law enforcement agencies and the medical agencies that treat the victims routinely. The book explains in detail with compelling stories as to why the battered victim cannot just leave the situation. It also speaks to the pattern of lies and rationalizing established by the victim and abuser used to hide the crime.

The participants interviewed by the writers give points of view that reflect those of the American society at large. The views are reported and coupled with commentary offering insight into domestic abuse as gained by professionals working directly with the issues and victims. All socioeconomic groups are examined and discussed. The book presents a contemporary look at abuse and the resulting legal responses to the problems.

Michael Groetsch writes about abusive men and their psychological profiles in his book, He Promised He'd Stop.

Groetsch's "The Batterer's Continuum" as a chart that lists characteristics of batterers placed into three categories. The chart is very helpful in that the behaviors listed are arranged across a continuum that corresponds to the ranking categories. A detailed profile including possible personality traits is given as outlined over the course of two chapters. The writing is easy to understand and not bogged down with the psychological terms found in medical and legal journals. A women searching for answers can use Groetsch's profile to easily identify the abuser in the relationship. Groetsch uses his experience as Senior Probation Officer and founder of the first court-based program in Louisiana specializing in domestic violence to write a comprehensive guide for abused women. Groetsch presents case stories and outlines to the readers to give insight into the batterer's psychology.

Part II of the book addresses ways to stop the battering and to leave the situation. Groetsch strongly urges women who are in a relationship with a serial batterer or sporadic batterer to leave. He presents compelling information based upon psychological studies supporting that the men in these two categories do not change and eventually will murder their mates. Escape plans and ways to make the legal system work favorably for the abused victim are outlined in the subsequent chapters. Groetsch recommends that victims seek the help of professionals who understand the issues of domestic violence. Legal terms are explained in detail as well as what certain legal protection orders will do for the victim. An appendix containing hot lines and addresses of shelters for abused women are given.

The numbers are national network numbers linked to state agencies throughout the country.

Groetsch does profile a third category batterer who is remorseful and considered rehabilitative. Women who plan to stay in these relationships are given options and reassured that it is never too late to leave abuse.

Neil Jacobson, Ph.D. and John Gottman, Ph.D. wrote the book, When Men Batter Women. These two psychologists have conducted research for ten years to discover insights into the understanding of men who are batterers. Their research is presented in readable form for anyone wishing to use the information. They have categorized men who batter their mates into two descriptions---Pit Bulls and Cobras. These two categories can be paralleled with the serial batterer and the sporadic batterer in Groetsch's book.

Pit Bulls are men who are quick tempered and extremely dependent upon their mates to provide the emotional stimulation that is missing from their personalities. These men do not release their mates without a difficult fight. They are tenacious and are prone to stalk their mates. These men will also kill their mates if they are left.

Cobras are the serial batterers-- men who are totally without remorse or emotion. They are able to inflict pain and suffering upon their mates without showing or feeling any physical response such as a rapid heart beat. These men have a childhood history of having been abused physically and/or sexually themselves. The dysfunctional result is an individual who believes that violence is an appropriate part of life.

Jacobson and Gottman used their research to refute known myths believed to be true of domestic violence. The myths associated with the cause of the abuse are demonstrated to be incorrect. The belief that all batterers are alike was refuted by the Pit Bulls and Cobras theories. The idea that batterers will stop on their own is also refuted by the insight given into the personalities of batterers.

Guidance as to how to leave an abusive relationship is given in the book. Information on the legal procedures and protection that might be offered is outlined as well as what types of therapy might be beneficial for the battered mate. The writers suggest a possible formula for stopping the abuse.

Defending Our Lives, was written by Susan Murphy-Milano who tells the story of domestic abuse from the eyes of a child growing up in a home where her father beat and later murdered her mother before he committed suicide. Her story is a compelling one in that her father was a police officer and his treatment of his wife was viewed by fellow officers as personal and private. The reader is taken into an intimate part of family life where a man systematically beats his wife while the community turned a deaf ear. Murphy-Milano gives the reader a perspective of a child growing up in that environment.

Once the writer's personal story has been told, the reader is taken step-by-step into recognizing domestic violence and learning what can be done to escape it. Short case studies that exemplify the issues being discussed are included with warning signs written at the close of each section. The format of the book allows the reader to quickly glance at the written items and make life choices.



An extensively organized appendix containing national hot lines and shelter listings is included. The readers are even encouraged to write the author concerning their particular problems.

Murphy-Milano provides a written guide for women dating men. She encourages women to ask questions and investigate the personal history of the men they are dating. The questions are provided in two stages such as the ones to be asked on a first date and questions to be asked on subsequent dates. Murphy-Milano warns that women should not be afraid to investigate the men they are dating. Abusive men display certain behaviors that are red flags for an abusive relationship. If those behaviors are present, women are urged to leave the relationship.

Murphy-Milano presents information that is typical in a survival guide for domestic violence. Added information on the effects of domestic violence on the children of these relationships is also presented.

Noelle Nelson, author of Dangerous Relationships, writes from the point of view of a counselor. Four couples are examined in their relationships through the eyes of the abused partner. Nelson shows the abusive relationship between a battering husband and his wife, a battering wife and her husband, a battering lover and his same sex partner and a battering friend and her roommate. Nelson provides counseling to the battered partners in these four relationships. Through their therapy, Nelson outlines steps of prevention and guides each victim through the task of discovery and recovery.

Warning signs are illuminated through the stories of her clients. The behaviors are uncovered in the natural setting of the relationship and laid bare for analysis by the therapist and the reader. The signs are systematically revealed as the victims discuss painful situations in their previous relationships. With each revelation, the victim comes to learn warning signs that signal an abusive personality and thus avoid that situation. The book exemplified a type of therapy that is successful with victims of abuse.

Ending The Silence compiles statistical information based on clinical research. Ron Thorne-Finch, the author, also reports on the emotional and physical damage domestic abuse places on the victim. Insights into male violence are examined from a scientific point of view. The effectiveness of treatment or punishment is examined and the therapies that are used for treating the victims. Medical professionals will find this book helpful and insightful into the damage resulting from domestic violence.

Thorne-Finch discusses the response of the society to the issues of abuse. The government is providing the bare minimum to protect and change the lives of battered women. As feminists rally for more intervention from the federal government, the states and local municipalities, the response given is barely enough and does little to prevent further domestic violence.

When Love Goes Wrong, written by Ann Jones and Susan Schechter, discusses the problems of domestic violence by outlining the strategies for identifying abusive and controlling men.

Jones and Schechter present detailed characteristics of behavior typical of these men. Women who are not sure of the problems in their situation can read this book and pinpoint the "uneasiness" of the relationship. Abusive, controlling men can be physically and sexually abusive as well as mentally and emotionally abusive. For the women caught in this web of mental and emotional abuse, the signs may not be as apparent but the warning signals are the same.

Insights into the psychology of the abusively controlling man is given. The writers present short episodes of cases that exemplify the strategies being discussed. The personal testimonies add validity and recognition to abusive scenarios teamed with therapy examples. The book presents understanding and insight into the abused woman's psychology. The responses given by the women are analyzed and found to be typical reactions to the violence. The reactions can be difficult, but abusive men abuse because they want to and society has always supported abusive behavior, until now.

To Be An Anchor In The Storm - A Guide for Families and Friends of Abused Women by Susan Brewster, M.S.S.W. is a comprehensive guide written for the victim of abuse and the people who want to help the victim namely a relative or close friend. Brewster gives good direction as to how to indirectly guide a victim of domestic abuse to eventually leave and come to safety as well as how to keep calm and helpful while interacting with the victim after she leaves the abusive situation. The book offers good advice for people who find themselves in the position of a being and "anchor" to the victim of domestic violence.

Paul T. Mason, M.S. and Randi Kreger give a comprehensive account of people who have a borderline personality disorder and the problems the people in their lives endure in the book, Stop Walking On Eggshells. Domestic violence is a trademark of the marital or close relationship that a possible victim will have with people who have this disorder. Understanding the characteristics and problems associated in maintaining a relationship with a partner who exhibits these behaviors. Readers searching for information can make decisions about remaining in these difficult relationships after reading the book.

Getting Free - A Handbook for Women in Abusive Relationships is a comprehensive manual for women who are breaking away from a relationship that was abusive. The author takes the victim through a step-by-step procedure covering all possible milestones of the journey by discussing the feelings and responses these women are likely to experience to offering suggestions that might help the victim start toward the rebuilding of her life. The author Ginny NiCarthy wrote this book in the 1980's when publishers were reluctant to produce the book due to the belief that there would be a small audience interested in the what the book would have to offer.

NiCarthy' s book in present time can provide information current with the recent books on the market in the 1990's. Information is commensurate with the standard of information written about presently. Getting Free remains a comprehensive guide written from the victim's perspective with emphasis on giving concrete steps for dealing with the emotional aftermath a victim endures once she leaves the domestically violent relationship.

Battered Women written as part of the Contemporary Issues Companion series is a compilation of articles and excerpts from books on domestic violence. The articles are written for readers who are looking for information on domestic violence. The legal, social and medical issues discussed provide information for counselors, doctors, and legal workers involved with victims of domestic abuse.

I Know You Really Love Me is a journal account of a psychiatrist's account of being stalked by an obsessive patient. Doreen Orion goes into detail about a mental illness known as Erotomania. She gives credible accounts of her encounters as a victim and her battles with the judicial system as she wrestles with restraining orders that provide loopholes for the stalker. Orion's accounts of the legal problems associated with the orders are examined in a step-by-step manner as she fights the legal system for justice.

The Battered Woman Syndrome written by Lenore E. Walker, Ed. D. is a definitive study conducted on domestic violence. The book was first published in 1984 and is considered to be a forerunner in clinical data on battered women. Most of the books surveyed quoted information from Walker's study. The book is written for the scholar with complete data and statistics provided. Walker's book provided quality and quantitative data on domestic abuse.

The professional community was given information that brought domestic violence from behind closed doors of the home. The book could be used as a textbook for explaining and revealing the societal occurrences and causes of domestic abuse of women.

One by one the myths or excuses associated with domestic violence have been analyzed and rejected. The responses in all the books researched told victims of abuse to leave the situation and know that the abuse is not brought on by them. The abuser is responsible for the domestic violence. Some abuser can change if motivated by remorse, but most abusers do not change and cannot be rehabilitated. Information on making an escape plan, filing legal charges, divorcing, and starting over with children is covered to some extent in every book used. Some books were easier to read due to style of writing while other books were written for the professionals who will come in contact with abused victims.

**Selective Review  
&  
Evaluation of Research**

Domestic violence affects heterosexual and homosexual relationships. The statistics state that 88% of the relationships involving men and women involve domestic violence to some degree. The relationship studied in the project portion of this paper is between a man and a woman. Planning a project on domestic violence from a creative point of view involves study of fictional books on the same topic. Two books were read and reviewed for the creative portion of the thesis. These books are added to the research bibliography. They are fictional accounts of the topic, but the books do represent the voice of writers expressing feelings about abuse.

For Colored Girls who have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow is Enuf by Ntozake Shange is a choreopoem written for a performance on stage. The poetry describes graphic feelings of women involved in relationships with men who are less than the ideal mate. The tensions involved with sexuality, love, commitment and fulfillment are explored. The reader is able to travel into the souls of women through the lines of poetry. Shange gives an in depth interpretation of the problems minority women face when in relationships with men. Indirectly and perhaps somewhat purposely hidden, a range of domestic violence are revealed.

Shange's poetry takes a sharper look into the social problems that propel the abuse or misuse of minority women.

The poetry talks of heartache, sorrow and unrequited love. The characters hurt but possess some inner strength that prohibits sorrow from becoming fatal. The women are vulnerable, yet strong fighters. They hurt badly but maintain a dignity that allows survival to continue. Survival no matter how severe the hurt is the message in the poetry. The hardships are great; the strength of minority women to survive is stronger.

Women in The Trees is an anthology of short stories about women in battering relationships. The book is compiled of stories written in the United States between 1839 - 1994. The editor, Susan Koppelman is a literary historian who has compiled other anthologies in the field of Women Studies. The stories show women in different stages of abusive relationships and how they cope with the situations as influenced by the society in which they live. Each story presents an aspect of domestic violence that portrays a stage of existence. Some characters are triumphant while some are caught in a flux of survival with no end in sight. Death is not an uncommon occurrence in the stories. The readers hope for a happy ending, but one is not always forthcoming.

The writers portray characters who are culturally different, yet parallel a common human response. These responses can be compared to the horrors of slavery, of extreme poverty and of racial prejudice. The forum for many of the earlier stories written in the nineteenth century were featured in pamphlets on the temperance movement, the abolitionist movement and the suffrage movement. Writers of the twentieth century needed no forum but used forms of indirect portrayals to inform readers of the horrors of domestic violence.



The stories became more direct and revealing in describing the occurrences of abuse in stories written later within the twentieth century.

The public appears to remain unclear as to the cause of domestic violence. The question of blame continues to be placed on the victim. The idea that "she" must have caused the violence remains to be a common belief. Koppelman has shone light on one myth that only a certain kind of woman gets involved with an abusive man. The many writers' characters in the anthology have been portrayed from all backgrounds and economic conditions. The women have been well educated to uneducated, yet each has presented a means of coping with the situation in various realistic ways.

The creative portion of this project will involve a short story, a collection of poems, still photography depicting a creative response to domestic violence. The creative application will attempt to give voice to the victims of domestic abuse. The project cannot promise a solution, but it can provide an opportunity for victims to respond to the sometimes insensitive blame that is placed at the feet of battered women. Sometimes the only response a victim can submit is one laced with emotions so strong that clinical words will not express the pain.

Closure on an emotional trauma is not quickly obtained. Survival and coping with the issues associated with domestic violence continue long after the victim breaks free. Sometimes that freedom is not attained until death occurs. Victims need a forum to speak out, and society needs to listen. Domestic violence will not disappear behind closed doors. Victims are coming forth with their experiences.

This crime will have to be addressed by society. Justice and safety is required, not legal rhetoric.

Shange and Koppelman's books have been read and accepted by society. Domestic violence presented in the art forms of prose and poetry are graphically yet artfully displayed for readers. Society's sensibilities are affected as readers become emotionally involved with the characters in each poem or story. Understanding of another human being's suffering has been presented photographically and in writing for most of the past century. Social changes in attitudes, acceptance and reform have been affected through the creative arts. Shange and Koppelman's books represent a genre in Women's Studies that effectively portray domestic violence from the battered women's point of view. Their books relate considerably to the project portion of this thesis. The attempt to tell the story of the battered woman from her point of view will be the emphasis of the short story and poetry sections. The photographs and poetry will attempt to let victims speak out in response to society's harsh response of "just leave".

Shange's poetry is written in the language of the streets. The tone and emotion comes through the poems written in dialect. The message is clear even for readers who are unfamiliar with the language of the streets.

**lady in red**

without any assistance or guidance from you  
i have loved you assiduously for 8 months 2 wks & a day  
i have been stood up four times  
i've left 7 packages on yr doorstep  
forty poems 2 plants & 3 handmade notecards i left  
town so i cd send to you have been no help to me  
on my job  
you call at 3:00 in the morning on weekdays  
so i cd drive 27 1/2 miles cross the bay before i go to work  
charmin charmin  
but you are of no assistance  
i want you to know  
this waz an experiment  
to see how selfish i cd be  
if i waz capable of dabassin my self for the love of another  
if i cd stand not being wanted  
& i cannot  
so  
with no further assistance & no guidance from you  
i am endin this affair  
this note is attached to a plant  
i've been waterin since the i met you  
you may water it  
yr damn self  
Shange 14-15

The language is clear even with the changes in grammar and spelling. The poetry speaks to readers a message all can understand, rejection. Shange has in clear broken English given the readers a look into the heart of a woman who has expressed her story on a level that is streetwise, yet universal to the human spirit.

**lady in blue**

tubes tables white washed windows  
 grime from age wiped over once  
 legs spread  
 anxious  
 eyes crawling up on me  
 eyes rollin in my thighs  
 metal horses gnawin my womb  
 dead mice fall from my mouth  
 i really didnt mean to  
 i really didnt think i cd  
 just one day off ...  
 get offa me alla this blood  
 bones shattered like soft ice-cream cones

Shange 22

This portion of the poem describes in graphic metaphor and simile the emotional pain and suffering that afflicts a woman during an abortion. The simple words and images give the female reader a clear picture of what abortion is like. The message is vivid and at once revealing in the possibility that Shange has lived through this.

i cdnt have people  
lookin at me  
pregnant  
i cdnt have my friends see this  
dyin danglin tween my legs  
& i didnt say a thing  
not a sigh  
or a fast scream  
to get  
those eyes offa me  
get them steel rods otta me  
this hurts  
this hurt me  
& nobody came  
cuz nobody knew  
once i was pregnant & shamed of myself.

Shange 22-23

Abortion, rejection, shame, abandonment are possibilities that are explored in Shange's poetry. These possibilities are circumstances that can occur in relationships that experience domestic violence. The abuse is displayed as emotional, mental, physical and sexual. Shange's poetry is about relationships. The women described in the poems are participants in relationships with partners who are caught within the social problems of being poor and in the minority group. The women are not considered to be victims, but survivors who understand the score while at the same time hate the situations.

Both men and women depicted in the poems are victims of social injustice, yet the hardships encountered are accepted and handled as tools of survival.

**lady in blue**

we deal wit emotion too much  
 so why dont we go on ahead & be white then /  
 & make everythin dry & abstract wit no rhythm & no  
 reelin for sheer sensual pleasure / yes let's go on  
 & be white / we're in the middle of it / no use  
 holdin out / holdin onto ourselves / lets think our  
 way otta feelin / lets abstract ourselves some families  
 & maybe maybe tonite / i'll find a way to make myself  
 come witout you / no fingers or other objects just that  
 which isnt spiritual evolution cuz its empty & godliness  
 is plenty is ripe & fertile / thinkin wont do me a bit of  
 good tonite / i need to be loved / & havent the audacity  
 to say  
 where are you / & dont know who to say it to

Shange 44-45

Shange presents poetry that speaks to the hardship of life and its repercussions. Yet, her poetry is not morose or without hope. The last line of the choreopoem speaks to that hope of survival.

**lady in brown**

& this is for colored girls who have considered  
 suicide / but are movin to the ends of their own  
 rainbows

Shange 64

The short stories in Women in the Trees are arranged in chronological order. Laws of the land governing the conduct of a man in marriage gives that husband absolute control of the wife's conduct. Whipping the wife for disobedience was not uncommon. The wife did not have control over her body. The husband could dictate a desired number of children. The short story "A Dorlesky-Burpy Family Story" by Marietta Holley demonstrates this attitude.

You see, the way ont was, what made him whip her at all wuz, she was cross to him. They had nine little children. She always thought that two or three children would be about all one woman could bring up well "by hand," when that one hand wuz so awful full of work, as will be told more ensuin'ly. But he felt that big families wuz a protection to the Government; and "he wanted fourteen boys, "he said, so they could all foller their father's footsteps, and be noble, law-abiding citizens, jest as he was (Koppelman 12).

Alcohol has been attributed to domestic violence in many of the stories written in the anthology. The women written about in the short stories believed that the "drink" affected their spouses' behavior and caused the violence that would ensue.

This attitude was found in characters written about early within the historical timeframe as well as later. Reformation was always the "hope" and therefore the reason to pursue the relationship further. "Jack the Fisherman" written by Elizabeth Stuart Phelps illustrates this belief.

Mother Mary's husband married them the next day at the Mission meeting.....It was his wedding march. He was very sober and gentle, ----almost like a better man.....

"Oh, I say, Teen," he nodded to her, as they walked, "one thing I forgot to tell you, ----I'm reformed."

"Are you, Jack?"

"If I ever drink a drop again, so help me"----But he stopped.

"So help you, Rock of Ages?" asked the new-made wife.

But Jack winced; he was honest enough to hesitate at this (Koppelman 26).

This story began with hope that soon turned sour as the husband, Jack returned to his old ways of drunkardness. The wife, Teen began to experience abuse at the hands of her husband. The income was meager, the household existing on little. Children were born, never lived past infancy. The characters felt that this was their lot in life. Jack was sorry about the abuse when sober, but he was not sober often. Teen, his wife, accepted her fate as God's will because her prematrimonial life was not pure, and her father had been an abusive drunk.

Reformation is hoped for through religion or personal fortitude. The male characters begin reformation only to succumb to their inner weaknesses and habits. The women then must make a decision as to the permanence of the relationship.



Some female characters endure until the end, usually theirs.

"I was drunk and killed somebody?"

"Lord help you, yes."

"Tell me who it was, I say!"

"You killed your wife! You murdered her. She's dead. Teen ain't to home. She's dead." (Koppelman 38)

Reformation is illusive. Moving toward the twentieth century, the female characters in the short stories began to resist the established matrimonial laws. Male characters appeared that were sympathetic to female rights. The female characters start to fight back in little ways to ensure survival. Slowly, attitudes begin to change. Alcohol as an excuse for domestic violence begins to wear thin for the victims in the stories. Through literature women were encouraged to resist the abuse.

The resistance took many forms as there were short stories. Some characters were presented as strong and silent while others were extremely weak and vulnerable. The injustice of the relationships were not diminished by characters who did not fight back. Mary Heaton Vorse wrote the "Quiet Woman" where the main character does not go against her partner, but rather she waits quietly for the man to do the "right" act by marrying her in the church. He never does and when his brother appears at his death bed to take possession of the man's property, the woman is tossed out in the cold with nothing. This story may not appeal to the assertive female, but it does send a message to women who are impassive in their plight.

As the stories become contemporary, so do the solutions and realities for the male characters.

The women become more assertive in their resistance against domestic violence. Characters fight physical battles with their mates; characters resist battles by leaving the men who abuse them. Some women are successful in their escape while others returned only to regret the move. The stories parallel reality and show the pain and tragedy that women face. The message is clear in all the stories---domestic violence must be stopped. The resistance is growing stronger; women will fight back.

Susan Koppelman selected the title of one short story as the title of the anthology. "Women in The Trees" is a classic story of abuse. The woman is portrayed as frail and submissive while the husband is demanding and controlling. The community in which they live is indifferent to obvious signs of abuse. Only the oak trees outside the farmhouse answer the woman's silent pleas for help. Only the trees offer solace and protection from the wrath of the man. The metaphor is clear that society must be supportive and helpful to victims of domestic violence and strong as oak trees in the endeavors to protect the abused. Victims need a sanctuary that is as shielding as the tall oak trees sheltering victims from the storm of abuse.

## Project

"Room of Experience"

(short story)

Poems

"Chattel"

"Us"

"Wife"

"The Cycle"

"Rain"

"Sand"

"Saving My Life"

## Room of Experience

The pain was excruciating in my head. A continuous throbbing pounded into my consciousness as cold dampness seeped into tired flesh like water seeps into the earth. Unprotected. That's how I felt. Vulnerable and alone with only my tormentor for company.

The throbbing became a flow of dull aching as my mind began to clear and my eyes focused on the floral designs that patterned the walls of the room. The cold dampness that had overflowed my body became a heated stream that surged through my muscles as I began to move across the soft cushioned floor. Not again, the ritual of obedience, the dance of pain and hurt that cannot be stopped. Slowly I made my way to a chair by a window that promised freedom from pain and confusion.

Seated by the window I gazed upon the maple tree that glazed the panes of my prison. The wind quietly and quickly took the branches across the glass as a painter glides his brush across a canvass. A work of art was my window of escape; vibrant and alive calling me to look and see, imagining what could be. I sat huddled in the chair trying to will my mind and body to stop the hurt while turning my gaze to the room. Slowly my head looked away from the window. My eyes begin to adjust to the dim light as shapes and lines of furniture begin to crystallize before me. The sun outside the window gave the room a shadowy effect as nightstand, bed, lamp and dresser greeted my vision. A motion was detected. I slowly lifted my eyes to the darkest corner of the room. There he was, the creator of my world of torment, my husband.

Immediately upon seeing his face, my head began to throb with a force of a gigantic wave that crashes upon the shore. The shoreline of my mind began to dissolve into images of my life before the pain.

Father's letter arrived just before the cab honked telling me of its presence. I looked out the window and waved my acknowledgement. Grabbing bags and letter I rushed down the steps to greet the doorman as he came forward to help me load my bags into the back seat of the cab. Finally pigeonholed between luggage, I began opening father's letter once the driver knew of my destination. Brief and to the point father outlined his best greetings for me and his apologies for missing our usual phone conversation during the previous holiday. His reason for missing the routine call was typical and appreciated until he mentioned his where about during that time. Kaiser Medical was not some impromptu hiatus, but it was the best hospital in Del Ora Springs, California for treatment of cancer. Father's letter made me afraid and panicky all at once. My destination to the airport continued as planned, but my flight and destination were changed just as soon as I reached the ticket counter.

Father's look of surprise was all that was necessary when I reached home late that night. His look was welcoming and loving; it gave me a feeling of slight guilt as to why I hadn't hopped a plane on a whim before now. His letter had reached me. It had made me realize how fragile family really was. Father was all I had left in the world. My mother had died giving me life, and father never stopped loving me as both a mother and a father would have. He always said that he must love me enough for mom too since she could not be with us. Mom died giving birth, but father lived giving me love, protection and security.

Strange, how I recalled that last year of my father's life. I took leave from my job as consultant and trainer for Boswell Mutual Insurance and spent an entire year with father. From that first night until the hour of his death, a year later, I never left him. That time became very special and happy for me even with his death because I knew he would be free of the pain of slowly dying, and somewhere on another level, he and my mother would meet again.

I never returned to my old job with Boswell Mutual. I stayed in Del Ora Springs living in my father's house and finding a job as a teacher at the local high school. Teaching young students filled the void that my father's death had left. My career in computer technology soon became all that I did. With the exception of weekly trips to church, my social life was all but nil by choice. Men asked me out; I politely refused. A relationship was not in the plans for me or so I thought. An invitation to Powell Computers became an invitation that changed my life.

Anthony Powell made his fortune in computers and software. A former Del Ora Springs native, he wanted to give back to the community what had helped shape his youth. What better way to give to the community than through the schools. Anthony had made a massive donation of new computers and educational software to the three schools that comprised the Del Ora Springs School District. Every classroom would have a computer and software that would complement the curriculum. As chairperson of the computer education department it was my job to meet with and coordinate with Anthony Powell. I was the liaison between Powell Computers and the Del Ora Springs School District. And, computers for the schools was Anthony's pet project.

Our first meeting occurred at a faculty meeting after school. Anthony Powell was commanding and persuasive as he discussed his proposal of facilitating the donation of computers with workshops geared toward teachers becoming familiar with his software and computers. Usually after school meetings are held in a rush because everyone knows that most teachers are involved with other activities, and they desire to leave the campus as soon as possible. But, today was different. Anthony had everyone's attention, and he succeeded in getting them to agree to more after school meetings involved with learning about his product. Mr. Hearn, the building principal, had never been able to get the staff to agree totally on anything, but Anthony Powell had managed in one faculty meeting.

Walking back and forth through the rows of teachers Anthony told them that they shaped the future; the future was in computer technology and with his project, the future was now. Del Ora Springs School District was moving into the twentieth-first century, and it was moving fast. Everyone was captivated by his promises and plans for the future of our students. Teaching and learning would be fun and exciting again for students and teachers. We all walked out of the meeting thinking that Anthony Powell was an angel sent from heaven to make our jobs easier and better for kids. And, he did deliver just that.

We met over dinner that same evening with Mr. Hearn, and three board members, Stella Jenkins, Bob Turley and Mike Morton. I was introduced to him by Mr. Hearn.

"Mr. Powell, this is our chairperson of Computer Technology Education, Katie Thies."

"Hello, Miss Thies."

"Hello, Mr. Powell."

"Mr. Powell, Miss Thies, why are you so formal? We all are going to be working together on this committee. I say let's skip the formalities and start with just plain old names. Huh, what about it, John?" Mike Morton was never one to get lost on formal behavior and so he set the tone for informality from that moment on.

Soon my time became very entangled with Anthony's. I consulted on ideas for the educational software while he modified changes to the computers geared toward student use. No student need was rejected. The special needs students were given machines that they could manipulate with ease. Our community was indebted to Mr. Powell, and I was eager for our planned meetings on the day's activities. Anthony had captivated the students and their parents with his generosity, even I wasn't immune.

The project was a success. Anthony and I continued to see one another for dinner and casual dates. He conducted his business activities via the phone, e-mail and by flights home to Laguana, California. By summer break, I was definitely entangled emotionally with Anthony. He became the first person that I had loved aside from my father and childhood pets. We spent every moment we could together as a couple. By August, Anthony had talked me into moving to Laguana and teaching there as a computer specialist with the local community college. The job was all arranged when I arrived at my new apartment. I thought Anthony's handling of the situation was sweet and very thoughtful. Moving there seemed just the right step to take, so I took it.



Anthony talked me into selling my father's home and leaving those memories behind. He had everything all planned. I walked into his life with my eyes closed. Everything that was me before was slowly slipping away as I became Anthony's girl.

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One Sunday, I stayed after service for the traditional coffee hour and to meet some of the members. The church was friendly and near my apartment, so I was considering joining the congregation. The morning had been so beautiful that I had walked to the service. During the coffee hour, I met several nice couples and a single gentleman, Justin Parks. Justin was especially nice and very quiet. He listened more than talked in the group. Questions about my move and how I liked Laguanna were asked. Friendships were started when invitations to upcoming church activities were given. The move to Laguanna was a good idea. I was making the adjustments and finding my way. Conversation continued for about an hour when everyone drained their coffee cups. We parted company and promised to see each other next Sunday. I started to walk home from the church when Justin pulled up in his car and offered me a ride.

"Are you walking?"

"Yes, it was such a beautiful day that I left my car at home." Before I could say anything more, I heard brakes screeching.

"Katie, where have you been? I've been calling you all morning." Anthony's tone was not pleasant. He looked over at Justin and said, "Who is that?".

I attempted to make polite introductions. "Anthony this is Justin Parks. I just met him at church. He was offering to drive me home."

Before I could complete the introductions, Anthony was out of the car and grabbing my arm. He forcefully pulled me to his car. No comments were made to acknowledge Justin. I felt suddenly ashamed and afraid. What puzzled me was why I felt that way. I hadn't done anything that was wrong. But Anthony made me feel guilty and he continued to make me feel this way as we drove home.

"Why did you do that?"

"Do what?" I asked.

"You know, accept a ride from another man."

"Anthony, he was only driving me home. He wasn't asking me out. I just met him. Why are you so upset?"

I should have seen it coming, but I didn't. Anthony did not answer me with words. His hand was so quick that it was a few seconds before the shock of the smack registered across my face.

"Why did you do that! What's wrong with you?" Tears fell as I struggled to understand what had just happened. I'd never been slapped before in my life.

"Sorry, Katie. I don't know what came over me. When I saw you with that other guy, well ... I just flipped. I couldn't control it. You're the world to me. I love you and ... I don't want to lose you."

"You hit me, Anthony... You hit me... Don't you *ever* do that again."

"I know, Katie... I won't; I promise. Katie, don't leave me--I...I won't hit you again, ever."

Anthony was as good as his word. He spent the next six months loving me and doing everything that would make me happy. We spent all our free time together. He even joined my church and was there every Sunday sitting beside me in the fifth pew from the front. Anthony met my church friends and even managed to become friendly to Justin, although Justin did not return the warmth. Justin's attitude toward Anthony always puzzled me in the beginning.

"Anthony, have you noticed that Justin never joins in the conversation when you are around?"

"Maybe. I've never really given it any thought. Of course now that you mention it, he could be slightly jealous. After all, he does *like* you.

"Like me? Justin has never given me any indication that he likes me as you put it. He is just a friend. A good friend I might add. The relationship is strictly platonic. More like that of a big brother."

"Right, big brother...more like a kissin cousin. I see the way he looks at you. Worships your every word. Jerk is what I'd call him... always around you at church... and now that you mention it, he never acknowledges my rights over you. But he is always there in the background silently challenging me with his eyes and facial expressions where you are concerned. Yeah, he's jealous all right and not because he wants to be your big brother."

"Anthony, I don't think he is jealous. We never had that kind of a relationship. He only speaks to me at church. I have never seen him outside of church. But, he just doesn't seem to like you or something. How can you say he likes me in a personal way when I only see him at the church? We've never talked about anything but church issues."

"But, when you come and stand by my side or near me in the crowd, he just stops talking."

"Well, say what you will. The guy's not really worth the effort to discuss. He's a jerk that's all... a jealous jerk who wants my unsuspecting girl. Not important ... won't worry about whether he likes me or not....after all, you're my girl, right?"

"Right." I said as we walked toward his car in the parking lot.

"I just hope he will at least start to get to know you. I consider Justin a friend...I want all my friends to like you and for you to like my friends."

Well, the ball's in his court, Katie. He's the one who doesn't talk when I am around. But, If you want me to be friendly with the jerk, I can be friendly...anything for you."

It wasn't long after that conversation that Anthony asked me to marry him. His proposal was given on bent knee and with an engagement ring that supported a beautiful diamond surrounded by eight tiny rubies. "This ring has been in his family for generations." That was what he told me, but I later found out that he bought the ring at an antique jeweler in Los Angeles. If that would be the only lie that Anthony told me during our life together, I would never have had any regrets. Lying it seemed came easily to Anthony, and the word "No" wasn't a word he recognized. He could lie to you, but no one could lie to him. He could say "No" to you, but no one could say "No" to him. Anthony operated on absolute loyalty and obedience. He required this behavior of anyone who worked for him and for anyone whom he regarded as part of his personal life.

Transition from "Anthony's girl" to "Anthony's wife was not as smooth as I would have hoped. Loyalty or fidelity in a relationship was important to me as well as to Anthony, but loyal obedience without question was a requirement that was new to me in a mutual relationship.

Our marriage was a simple affair held at the church. Many of my friends were in attendance, but Justin did not attend. I thought that odd because Justin was a friend to me even if he and Anthony were not. Anthony didn't seem to notice his absence and when I brought it to his attention, he only shrugged and said, "Unimportant, Mrs. Powell... forget him."

His comment was soft and quiet, but laced with finality. Anthony wanted no mention of disappointment associated with Justin, so I did not mention it. Sadly as it was neither one of us had parents at the wedding. Strangely I never thought about his family until we were planning the wedding two days before the ceremony. I asked Anthony about his parents.

"Anthony are your parents going to be at the wedding?"

"Why do you ask that now? You never asked about my parents before, even when we discussed your father's death the year before. Why is it so important now?"

I couldn't hardly answer him because his tone of voice was so hostile. Blinking back tears and swallowing the hurt that was growing inside I attempted to apologize and change the subject.

"Anthony, I'm sorry if I didn't seem interested in your parents before. It's just that you never appeared willing to talk about family, so I never asked the questions."

"We're getting married so naturally I would ask because of the occasion. I'm sorry if I upset you."

Thinking back on the occasion I realize that Anthony's attitude toward his parents and the absence of Justin at our wedding was the same...unimportant. He looked at me as though he was looking through me. His eyes became cold and hard when he spoke. A brief flicker of fear appeared and disappeared when he said.

"Katie, you'll learn that when I plan an affair, everything is taken care of. If I had wanted you to meet my family, I would have introduced you to them. As it stands, I do not see my family. I was never close to them the way you were with your father. My family is *not* important in my life. We are to be married; you'd best learn that. You also would do well to drop your friendship with Justin. You will be my wife and your attentions will focus only on me!"

With those words, Anthony stalked away leaving me to stand in the midst of my confusion. What had I said that angered him so? I wanted to meet his parents and I wanted Justin, my platonic friend, to attend my wedding. Family and friends were important to me especially since the death of my father the year before. Friendships were dear and special because I had no other family, and now Anthony would be my only family and friend.

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Anthony and I married and honeymooned in Hawaii. The trip was wonderful; I had never been there, and Anthony was a great tour guide. We stayed two weeks and returned in time for Anthony to start preparing for a new sales campaign on the East coast.

We flew in and left the airport immediately for his home to unpack. My furniture and belongings had been packed and delivered to his house while we were on our trip. The movers had placed my furniture on the third floor of Anthony's home, the place he referred to as the attic. As soon as I arrived, I rushed to the third floor to see my things. Everything was there and I began mentally to imagine where I would place certain pieces in the home that Anthony and I now shared.

"Katie, Katie where are you?" Anthony's voice echoed through the hallway like a foghorn.

"I'm up here in the attic. Come see my stuff!"

Anthony walked quickly up the stairs. His face showed a frown as he asked.

"Why are you up here looking at all this junk?"

I turned to him and said, "Anthony this junk as you put it, is my stuff from my apartment. Remember, the movers moved my belongings up here while we were on our honeymoon."

"Oh, yeah, I remember. But I thought you were going to get rid of this stuff now that we are married. My furniture is much, much better, and we can certainly buy any new furniture that we might need." I looked at him in disbelief. How could he refer to my things as junk and want to throw it all away?

"Anthony, these things are a part of my life. I can't just throw them away. This furniture belonged to my father. I thought we would incorporate some of the furniture in with some your furniture. My knickknacks and small items can stay in the boxes until I can find suitable spots for them in the house."

He looked at me and shook his head.

"Katie, we've got to talk. I don't want any this stuff in my house. The style is all wrong. I thought you would give the furniture away to Goodwill or someplace now that you are married. We don't need this extra furniture. The boxes of mementos can stay up here until you've had time to sort through them and throw out what is unnecessary, but this cheap furniture must go." With that, Anthony walked from the room leaving me to stand amidst my things confused as to why I must get rid of it.

"Unimportant, unnecessary" these words swam around inside my head as I recalled Anthony's response to his parents' absence from our wedding and the total dismissal of one of my friends, Justin. Sitting through dinner that night was not pleasant for me. Anthony acted as if the matter had been settled and we both were in agreement. We ate in silence. When he attempted to converse, I answered quietly and politely. Anthony seemed oblivious to my mood. He carried on as if nothing was out of place and we were the happiest couple on the planet. Finally, I couldn't take this pretense any longer.

"Anthony," I said. "How can you sit there and converse about nothing with me knowing that I'm not happy about your demand that I get rid of my furniture? I thought this house was to become my home as well when we married. I didn't know you expected me to get rid of my things. And how could you just tell me to without asking me first if I really wanted to keep them?"

The room suddenly became very cold. Anthony looked at me as though he were looking at a stranger.



He got up from his chair and quietly walked over to me and as he was bending down close to my head he said.

"The furniture will leave this house by tomorrow. When I come home from work, I expect movers to have come and removed all of that ugly, cheap furniture from my house. You are my wife, and you will do as I say. Is that clear?"

The rasp of his voice chilled me to the bone. Shaking I responded by nodding my head and answering, "Yes". Anthony walked from the room as I slumped in my chair whirling in a state of confusion. Who had I married? What had I done to cause his reaction? Why couldn't he allow my furniture to remain in his house?

Anthony left for work the next morning. Movers came to the house prepared to take my furniture away. All furniture was taken, but my father's antique writing desk. I couldn't part with that. I hid the desk in a corner and covered it with a blanket. Then I put my boxes on top for a further disguise. Anthony came home late that night and went immediately up to the attic. I heard his steps echo over the entire floor of rooms. My breathing ceased until I heard him come down the steps to our room. Anthony did not greet me, but he walked over to the bathroom and began to undress. I wondered had he eaten, but I was too apprehensive to ask. Anthony walked over to the bed and began to look at me. I quickly looked away and moved further under the covers. He slid into bed and grabbed me. Intimacy? After he forced me to get rid of my things. No words were spoken as he took me to him. My mind was in shock and disbelief.

Anthony had no intention of discussing the furniture. He had no intention of discussing his behavior. There was no apology in his touch, only a demand for complete loyal obedience. I submitted.

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I can't exactly remember when fear came into my marriage. Those first months are a blur as Anthony began gradually to make changes in my life. All "changes" were sanctioned by the phrase, "now that you are my wife....you will" do any and everything that he wanted. Money, no longer a concern, forced me to quietly quit my job. And if I no longer worked outside the home, than friendships and socializing with co-workers even on an informal basis was "unnecessary". Life outside Anthony's home was always in his company. I was never alone except in his home. Ironically as Anthony began to structure my life for more quality married time, the more "I" began to disappear. As our first year of marriage began to dissolve, I fell into a routine of being "Anthony's Wife". My thoughts and actions became programed responses measured by how well Anthony treated me when we were alone, which was most of the time when he wasn't at work.

My opinion was of no importance; my role was to obey. Anthony began to leave notes that detailed his specifications for dinner and what special project he wanted completed. No discussion was allowed trying to change the orders. He would not accept substitutions. Menus with recipes were given to me during the early part of our marriage. He called these instructions "lessons on being Anthony's wife". He expected me to achieve "high marks" because to achieve otherwise was not tolerated.

"What is this?" Anthony would ask in a hard tone as he moved his food around the center of the plate.

"We were out of the salmon", I would start to explain as the plate came crashing down on the floor. He would look at me and leave the table with no explanation as to where or when he would return.

Shocked, dazed and confused, I would rise and begin to clean up the mess left on the floor. Alone and now frightened, I would sit on the edge of my seat at the table waiting for his return....waiting for his approval..his acceptance of my unspoken apology for"what", I never knew. He would return just about the time I had finished putting food and dishes away. Anthony would walk into the kitchen and wait until the kitchen and dining room were clean so we could go upstairs to bed.

The conversation would begin... "Katie, sorry about dinner. Today was rough at work and you know my problems, so many incompetent people that I must work around. No people skills. My tolerance and temper are well spent by the time I come home to you. You're my only constant in this world of confusion. That's why I protect our privacy so closely. Other people are jealous of what we have.. my success in business and of course our relationship. We are so special, Katie. You do know that; don't you? All my work and successes are just for you, now. I'm beginning to design the plan for expansion to the East coast. Everyone at work seems unable to follow the simplest instruction. Tonight at dinner was just the straw that broke the camel's back. I'm sorry I let those people upset my mood so much that our private dinner was spoiled. But you know how it is when a man has to work, even if he does own the company, with people lacking in knowing how to placate clients.

I must do everything and check everyone for fear of incompetence. Even when I have to correct your mistakes, the action takes a toll on me. I have to plan everything so it will be right just to keep us perfectly happy; that's all. Let's go to bed. I need to unwind from all of this."

He would stand there in the kitchen and say this litany of reasons and then expect me to forget and forgive at the same time. Whether I answered his conversation or not, we always ended the discussion with him saying, "Let's go to bed." Those four words created my hell that I found impossible to escape.

At first I tried to show in a slight way that all was not forgiven when Anthony directed us to bed after an incident. My responses would be deliberately weak and without emotion. Anthony would sense my withdrawal and begin an angry onslaught of rage upon my body. His touch became rough and hard as he attacked me in accordance with his "husbandly rights". Afterwards his conversation and tone would be mocking and relentless as he questioned me about reactions to his "lovemaking". If I lied and said all was well, he would smack me across the face. If I told the truth and said I did not feel comfortable being intimate after one of our "marital incidents" he would hit me across my face as well. Not responding to Anthony's passion was not an option. For he would punish me with a smack and start our passionate activity anew with more vigor and brutality than before.

Loyal obedience took on new depth as I attempted to cope with my position. Anthony expected loyalty; obedience and total submission. My place as his wife did not allow other possibilities. My attentions were to be totally focused upon him.

I was to follow every direction and agree with every suggestion that he spoke. My job was to do any sexual request that would meet his needs and perform with a smile. By the end of our second year of marriage my mind started to find sanctuary from within. Smiling outwardly, yet crying from the inside became my mode of coping. Soon my only fear was how long could I continue to endure before the "me" inside began to crumble?

"Katie? Katie? Oh, there you are. Where are my folders? I left them here on the counter last night after dinner. Did you move them?"

"Yes, here they are on the desk. I was worried that some food might fall on them and soil their appearance. Would you like another cup of coffee before you leave?"

Yeah, sure, thanks for the cup, but next time tell me when and where you move my business papers before doing it. I've been searching this entire house even before you came down. Here take my cup...I'm already late."

The door closed behind him as if in slow motion. "Thank you for your consideration", I said in my head. "Shh!, he might hear you. No comments. You know the drill, Katie." *Yes I know the drill*, as I thought aloud. No commenting, just smile and do and you will not be hurt. Right, no comments and no pain. Anthony must never know your true thoughts. They must always be hidden. Wait, I hear the car. Oh no, he's coming back. Something's wrong, I just know it. The door flings open.

"Katie, you bitch. I'm late and my client has left." Smack comes the back of his hand across my face. I don't even flinch anymore, why bother. It only makes it worse. "Say something. It's all your fault. If you hadn't moved my folders...come here."

Legs wooden and devoid of feeling slowly move toward him. Automatically my mouth begins...

"I'm sorry...I didn't think you would not see them lying on the desk in the kitch"....smack.

"You didn't think. You never think. I try to be a good husband to you even when you can't give me child. But, no you have to mess me up every time with your incompetence. You can't cook, you can't clean, you can't even fuck! Get out of my way before you make me beat you. The phone...where's the goddamn phone? Here, give me that, worthless bitch. This is the last straw. I can't get rid of you..it's cheaper to keep you. But I don't have to look at you. Get your shit out of my room. Move to the attic where the rest of your shit is hidden...I know you didn't obey me. I know you've got junk hidden up there. Well now, you can sleep with it."

The attic? Did he say stay in the attic? I can't believe it..maybe he'll leave me alone for good. Maybe he'll forget I'm there...if I'm very quiet and I stay out of his way. No, no, he won't forget. He enjoys it too much, but maybe I can lock my door. Lock my door and only come out when he's gone from the house. Why not? I can sneak around his home and cook, clean.....he never acknowledges that I do anything. He thinks the house cleans itself and those menus are made by a puff of magical smoke. I can continue my routine of survival when he is gone; he'll never know or care about my whereabouts as long as I stay in his house...like a prisoner. Who am I'm fooling? I'm a prisoner, but this time I control the lock on the door to my attic room....not Anthony.

Light began to seep into my consciousness. The throbbing in my head continued. Birds were chirping outside in my maple tree while the breeze blew the sheer white curtains softly against my arm. Daylight is a powerful force for the mind when only darkness is desired. Slowly allowing the eyes to adjust I focused on the wallpaper with its pretty floral print. "Try to get up," a voice in my mind commanded.

My body slowly began an ascent that was accomplished through weakened muscular effort. Each angle brought a new feeling of reeling sensations that beckoned the body to return to a horizontal position. Sheer will pressed the body forward to a sitting position promising faint strength needed to maintain positioning. Fogging recollection pushed my memory into gear. This was my room; my room of experience promising sanctuary.

The throbbing became a dull ache as clarity enveloped my eyes. Painful memories flashed before me as I remembered the night before. Anthony. There was another "confrontation" where I was the loser as always. What was it this time? Oh, yes, I remember... the company party. Anthony wanted me to attend and I refused. I didn't refuse, but rather I feigned illness. Feigned? Why not. I'm sick...sick of him....the beatings, name-calling, the sexual attacks. The very thought of leaving my room makes me sick. I can't go out to a party. I haven't been outside his house since we've been married. It must have been a client's request to meet "the little woman". Well, fuck him, ha. I don't ever have to see him again. This house is large enough..I have my room in the attic. Didn't he tell me to live up here? When was it ? Six months? No, a year ago. He told me to leave his room a year ago.

What a blessing. I found my room, my haven....my room to experience...to escape. I locked the door. I always lock the door. But, wait, he did something...Anthony did something when he returned from the party. Yeah. the door..he assaulted the door. My door. My room. The bastard! Ouch! Why can't I move? Oh, yeah, I remember....the assault..in the middle of the room. The night the door broke. Carefully I adjusted my position on the bed. The ache in my muscles brought last night back with crystal clarity. Every word and action was etched in my brain as my body reacted to the injuries inflicted.

"Open this door, you ungrateful bitch. I'll teach you to stand me up in front of a client and make me look like a fool! Open the door. When I get you, you're gonna be sorry. Everyone asked where you were. 'Anthony where's the little woman? My wife and I would like to meet her. Yo'all got any kids? We got three. Yes, two boys and a girl.' Humph, I had to make excuses for your sorry ass. Open the door! "

The pounding on the door became louder as I listened to Anthony beat and scream. Hunching in the closet I began to think of ways to avoid discovery. No way would be successful. His anger would know no bounds tonight, and I would pay a hard price for disobedience. The pounding stopped briefly and when it resumed, a heavy force was added. Anthony had some ramming device; the door crash beneath his attack forcing his entrance to be heard as stumbling and loud footsteps. His recovery was quick as he searched under the bed and behind the curtains.

Footsteps....outside the closet door. He laughed. The door flung open as he said,"Gotcha."



The carpet burned against my back and bottom as he pulled me across the floor. Seated in the middle of my room he hit me repeatedly about the head, shoulders and chest with his fists. One blow hit my throat and another my stomach as the wind was forced from my body. I fell horizontally to the floor. The last blow I remembered was the toe of his shoe piercing my back.

Tears fell as the recollection faded from my mind. Death was slow in coming I thought. Why didn't I just die? Death might stop the pain. A sound broke my reverie as I looked toward the motion.

"I brought you some juice, Katie. Can you move?" I did not want to answer him. I wanted him to die or me.

"No juice, Anthony. I want you to leave me alone. Go away and let me just sit here by my window."

"Look. Katie, I was angry. You made me angry. You know how I get when I'm angry. Katie you should've gone with me to the party. I know we haven't been living together totally since last year, but you should have gone to the party. Mr. Fisher, my client, is very important to the deal I'm trying to make for my company. See, you don't know, but my business is in a slump. I needed you Katie, last night and you let me down. I didn't mean to hurt you, but you made me do it. You know you can't say "no" to me. Are you able to stand? Do we need to go to an emergency room? You look bad this time, Katie. I just flipped out...so much is riding on this deal and Fisher is such a family man. He'd never understand that you are such an incompetent wife, a worthless bitch. A man like him has never had to put up with a wife like you. So, don't you see, Katie...you asked for the beating. It's your fault, really." Anthony stood waiting for an answer.

"Go away, Anthony. Just, please go away."

"Okay, Katie, I'll leave, but I'll be back later when you are feeling better. You just need some rest. You'll be fine."

Anthony left my room. I watched him leave and disappear into the dark hall. The door had been removed. But, pieces of it remained shattered along the baseboards. Shattered along the floor just like my life with Anthony. Shattered and no one would come to sweep away the pieces.

My head ached and my eyes felt drowsy. Rest, Anthony said all I needed was rest. I don't know how long I slept, but my waking thoughts were anything but restful.

"Pieces.....pieces of experience telling me what? Have I failed the lesson? Am I a worthless bitch as Anthony says? I don't know. Help. Yes, I need help. But who to call? Wait...plan....I need to plan. Plan what? Can I leave him? Nobody will understand. Nobody will believe me. I'm just a worthless bitch like he says. Nobody cares. No...I can't tell anyone. They won't understand."

The trees are blowing. My maple tree is dancing in the wind. A storm must be brewing. Why can't I think. Oh, no, the birds have flown away. I wish I could fly...fly like the birds to different trees....chirping. There are no wings for me. My wings are clipped. When I had wings once, flying came easily. I had friends. Everyone is gone. I should have known this would be the way, but how could I. How could anyone know? Wait. Someone knew. Justin knew. It was in his eyes. But why didn't he warn me? Would I have believed him? No...I wouldn't have. Does he still know? Will Justin believe me if I call him? Will he help me?

Help me to fly as before? Can I call him? I never call anyone...the phone...where is the phone? The phone. I've got to look for the phone! A box, yes it was in a box with my stuff. Wait! I need a line. Okay, think, Katie, think back to the first day in the attic. A jack? Was there one? Yes! There was phone jack in the attic. In a corner, hidden behind some boxes; I think there is a jack. Find it! I must find it. But wait, he'll hear me moving up here. I've got to wait until he leaves. Wait, like always after the storm...make my move then, when the house is empty.

The trees swayed frantically as the rain beat down on the roof tiles. I sat calmly at the window waiting and listening for the sound of his exit. A gush of wind blew the trees near the window. "Soon, soon, I'll fly like the birds....fly away to? Where? I don't know, but I must get there, or at least die trying."

Bam! Shoes running down the steps. An engine starts. "Now's my chance! Ouch! My back, it still hurts, but I can't let it stop me. I must find that phone and the jack.

The operator took an eternity to connect the number. This has to be his number. It's the only listing for Justin Parks in the area. Maybe he didn't move. I hope not, please, Lord let him answer.

The ringing took forever. Finally a voice answered the phone. "Hello, hello? Is someone on the line?" Is that him? Is that Justin's voice? I can't remember. I can't remember my friend's voice. What to do? He'll hang up. Click.....dial tone... no, don't hang up, Justin. It's me Katie from church. You remember. Your friend. Shit!

Dial again. I must dial again. Wait, I didn't dial....the operator dialed for me. Zero, dial zero and ask for the listing again. Tell her you were disconnected. Okay..okay the operator is dialing the number again. It's ringing. "Hello?"

"Hello, umm, Justin? Justin Parks? This is Katie. Do you have a minute? I need.... some help. Umm."

"Hi, Katie! I've been waiting for your call."

**Chattel**

I am alone today  
my friend is gone  
my keeper stays,  
I am alone today.

I feel pain today  
my body aches  
my mind cries out,  
I feel pain today.

I died today  
my special self  
my secret prize,  
I died today.

No one mourns today  
my death was nothing,  
my life minor.  
No one mourns today  
I don't matter.

**Us**

Yesterday we were lovers,  
today we are married  
tomorrow we are victims,  
Always we are together.

**Wife**

I can't love you  
there's not enough  
of me  
to go around the  
world and heal  
your pain  
while I  
try to  
understand.

## The Cycle

Hit me, I can take it  
crush me, I can take it  
kick me, I can take it  
beat me, I can take it  
apologize, I can take it  
drink, I can take it  
blame me, I can take it  
pity me, I don't want it  
help me, I can use it  
shelter me, I accept it  
counsel me, I cope with it  
teach me, I avoid it.

## Rain

The rain is comin

I can see it,  
moving this way.

The rain is comin

feel the wind,  
blowin this way.

The rain is comin

air's mighty full,  
headin this way.

The rain is comin

storm's a brewin,  
wrath on its way.

The rain is comin

stormy punches,  
watch out;

for  
the rain  
is  
here.



**Sand**

Sand, waves, textures and lines

mix

Sand, affinity and bearing

spread

Sand, trickling, falling to form

hope

Sand, footsteps are windswept

stop

Sand, tracks disappearing

now

Sand, coming together

the

Sand, love and pain making

hurt

Sand, spilling everywhere

please.

## **Saving My Life**

My life  
before the pain  
prepared  
me not for what  
hurt and  
abuse that came.  
marry  
a man a cut  
above  
the rest who taught  
me how  
love's put to test.  
lessons  
that fiercely taught  
me how  
to save my best.,  
how to  
protect the best  
which is  
**me.**

## Discussion

Domestic violence is coming to the forefront of societal issues. As women and men become better educated about the problems, changes in attitudes toward victims and protection of their civil rights are upheld by community support. Of course the advocacy for abused victims is still in its infancy stage of fighting back, but the steps and measures that have been made are causing an awakening in the cultural ideas of society in the United States. This paper addressed issues brought to task in the United States, but education and information can filter through to other national shores and start changes. The age of information brings the world closer, and issues addressing human relationships are not immune to discussion and debate as questions of human rights and conduct are discussed and evaluated.

Culturally, suppositions that place women and other partners in the roles as chattel are being challenged daily. As the inequalities are brought forth, new offspring are being taught and even encouraged to seek relationships where abuse is not tolerated. The community is starting to take stands against the cultural prejudices that have hindered the assistance and support needed by the victims of domestic violence in the past. Agencies such as law enforcement, medical personnel, judicial personnel and the legislature are now beginning to become informed as to the issues of domestic violence and the various ways society can prohibit further injustices from occurring.

The awareness of domestic abuse continues to grow slowly. Public awareness began very slowly in the United States in the 1970's.

Advocates have fought long and hard to secure civil rights and protection for the victims of domestic violence. The battle is still in its infancy as federal statistics report that 88% of all heterosexual marriages will experience wife abuse in some form. The remaining 12% is given to male spousal abuse. These statistics do not reflect data that can be obtained from relationships that are not legalized through marriage and are not heterosexual.

Locally, in Missouri, legislators have taken a stand to address domestic violence. The Young Lawyers Section of The Missouri Bar Association has published a guide for survivors of domestic abuse and it can be found on the Internet by using the [FindLaw - Justice Mail](#) search engine or [Free Legal E-Mail.com](#). A complete copy of this guide can be found in the appendices of this paper. This information is free and posted on line for educational and informational purposes. A complete listing of all agencies established within the state of Missouri that offer assistance to victims of domestic violence is also included. The network of shelters and institutions available are listed by geographical regions or counties. Victims need only find the nearest shelter and help is available. The national 1-800 number is also included.

This guide gives a comprehensive outline of sources information that are available for victims of in all abusive situations. The table of contents is structured so that a victim searching for help can click onto various subtopics that address a particular situation. A definition of domestic violence is given at the beginning of the guide on page 2 of 31 pages found at the site.

Domestic violence may be physical or emotional; slapping, punching, kicking, threats of harm and verbal abuse are all forms of domestic violence. Violent behavior toward others is wrong no matter who does it. Family members are not excused. If you are in an abusive situation and don't do something to stop it, you may be harming your family. There is evidence that children raised in abusive homes are likely to become abusers or victims of abuse in later life.

This definition addresses violence in a general sense. Domestic violence takes a broader range than just physical or emotional abuse. Sexual abuse and mental abuse are also a part of the problem. The Missouri Bar association has made a big first step in attempting to offer assistance to victims of abuse. Society must continue it.

Abused victims are given a step by step procedure in which to follow in order to obtain legal assistance. Domestic violence is defined as a criminal offense. Victims are told that the police are required to protect. Legal advice is given within the guide that is helpful and supportive to the victim. The procedure of collecting of evidence to give to the police is provided as well as how to ask the police for legal help. **The Adult Abuse Act** passed in 1980 in Missouri has helped generate support and aid from the legal system and law enforcement agencies. Shelters and support groups are available to help victims regain lives and start over. These shelters can offer assistance in finding counselors, attorneys and medical personnel who are trained in the issues of domestic violence.

At the national level, an **Advisory Council on Violence Against Women** was established in 1995. This council was in response to the 1994 **Violence Against Women Act** that was passed by the Federal Government. The results of the council produced a Internet posted checklist, *The Community Checklist: Important steps to End Violence Against Women*, "...what can we do about it?". The list offers practical suggestions of things that various support sectors in society can do to offer aid and support to women who are in abusive relationships. Each section is labeled based on the community personnel targeted. Suggestions and ways to assist the victims of abuse are given. In addition to the expected sources of aid, the religious communities, colleges and universities, sports agencies, media and workplace are also included in the checklist of community resources available to offer assistance.

The information presented in this Internet document offers suggestions that are within the targeted groups ability to perform. The checklist can be found using the [Find/Law - Justice Mail](#) or the [FindLaw.Library](#). A copy of the document is included in the appendices of this paper.

Domestic violence is a hidden crime that is coming slowly to the forefront of society's consciousness. Awareness of the issues associated with abuse is in the infancy stage. Communication and education are necessary tools needed to inform the public of the injustices associated with domestic violence.

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Domestic violence is a hidden crime that is coming slowly to the forefront of society's consciousness. Awareness of the issues associated with abuse is in the infancy stage. Communication and education are necessary tools needed to inform the public of the injustices associated with domestic violence.

People are dying as a result of this cultural belief as to how a personal relationship is formed. views that one gender is dominant over another is still prevalent in society. Dominance can be accepted in certain situations, but aggression and violence should not be used to control an individual involved with another individual in a personal relationship. Control, obedience and absolute power over a spouse is not a healthy relationship. Relationships should allow both partners to grow and develop closer bonding on equal levels.

This paper has only addressed one group of people affected by domestic violence. In truth, domestic violence affects all people involved in the family unit. Children, parents, all who determine a family unit are affected and are in danger of perpetuating the cycle of abuse. The aggressively dominant behaviors used within the relationship are learned and repeated. The submissively recessive behaviors are learned as well and continued in further relationships. The cycle will continue and expand to other relationships, without intervention. Education and communication are affective in stopping the cycle. Intervention of education and communication before a personal relationship starts is the most effective prevention. Providing areas of aide and resources within society whereby people can learn about domestic violence is a strong step toward preventing or stopping the cycle of abuse. Domestic violence is criminal because lives are taken and social units of procreation are destroyed internally. Domestic violence if unchecked, can destroy the social fabric of a community. People are exposed daily to violence through the media and in the community. If no interventions are made, abuse can only exacerbate.



# Appendix

Domestic Violence

And

The Law

A Practical Guide For Survivors

The Missouri Bar

~

A Community Checklist:

Important Steps

to End

Violence Against Women

"....what can we do about it?"

~

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## A Community Checklist: Important Steps to End Violence Against Women

*"...what can we do about it?"*

On July 13, 1995 we created the Advisory Council on Violence Against Women to help promote greater awareness of the problem of violence against women and its victims, to help devise solutions to the problem, and to advise the federal government on implementing the 1994 Violence Against Women Act. From police to doctors to clergy, the Advisory Council's 47 members draw on the many different professions that can help fight violence against women and assist victims.

Members of the Advisory Council have created working groups that focus on different segments of the community and what they might do to address the problem of violence against women. At the third meeting of the Advisory Council, held on July 18, 1996, each subgroup created a checklist of important steps communities can take to end violence against women. We are grateful for their input and for the commitment of each member to this issue.

This checklist identifies actions that can be taken by the religious community, colleges and universities, law enforcement, health care professionals, the sports industry, through the media, and in the workplace. We also recognize that there are many other facets of the community that can have a significant effect in this effort. The initial distribution of this booklet is taking place during October 1996 in recognition of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list but is meant to offer some straightforward, practical suggestions that we believe can make a difference in communities across the country. By coming together as a community, exchanging ideas, and coordinating efforts, we can begin to end this violence which destroys so many American lives.

Janet Reno ||| Donna E. Shalala

### Religious Community

*The religious community provides a safe haven for women and families in need. In addition, it exhorts society to share compassion and comfort with those afflicted by the tragedy of domestic violence. Leaders of the religious community have identified actions to share with*

*the nation to create a unified response to violence against women.*

- Become a Safe Place. Make your church, temple, mosque or synagogue a safe place where victims of domestic violence can come for help. Display brochures and posters which include the telephone number of the domestic violence and sexual assault programs in your area. Publicize the National Domestic Violence Hotline number, 1-800-799-SAFE(7233) or 1-800-787-3224(TDD).
- Educate the Congregation. Provide ways for members of the congregation to learn as much as they can about domestic and sexual violence. Routinely include information in monthly newsletters, on bulletin boards, and in marriage preparation classes. Sponsor educational seminars on violence against women in your congregation.
- Speak Out. Speak out about domestic violence and sexual assault from the pulpit. As a faith leader, you can have a powerful impact on peoples' attitudes and beliefs.
- Lead by Example. Volunteer. Volunteer to serve on the board of directors at the local domestic violence/sexual assault program or attend a training to become a crisis volunteer.
- Offer Space. Offer meeting space for educational seminars or weekly support groups or serve as a supervised visitation site when parents need to visit safely their children.
- Partner with Existing Resources. Include your local domestic violence or sexual assault program in donations and community service projects. Adopt a shelter for which your church, temple, mosque or synagogue provides material support, or provide similar support to families as they rebuild their lives following a shelter stay.
- Prepare to be a Resource. Do the theological and scriptural homework necessary to better understand and respond to family violence and receive training from professionals in the fields of sexual and domestic violence.
- Intervene. If you suspect violence is occurring in a relationship, speak to each member of the couple separately. Help the victim plan for safety. Let both individuals know of the community resources available to assist them. Do not attempt couples counseling.
- Support Professional Training. Encourage and support training and education for clergy and lay leaders, hospital chaplains, and seminary students to increase awareness about sexual and domestic violence.
- Address Internal Issues. Encourage continued efforts by religious institutions to address allegations of abuse by religious leaders to insure that religious leaders are a safe resource for victims and their children.

*[Adapted in part from the Nebraska Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalition and the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence, Seattle, WA. Used with permission.]*

## **Colleges & Universities**

*Colleges and universities offer important opportunities to educate young men and women about violence against women. Experiences on campuses will be carried forth to everyday life and will influence future actions. Therefore, every effort to inform students may mean one less victim abused or one less crime committed. Leaders in higher education have identified the following strategies to assist educators across the country in reaching out to*

*students and communities, and to make campuses safe places for women.*

- **Make Campus a Safe Place.** Evaluate the safety and security of the campus environment and the quality and availability of resources to insure safety. For example, establish campus escort services through campus security and student government programs.
- **Increase Awareness.** Educate your students, faculty, and staff about the problem of sexual assault and dating violence on college campuses. Provide adequate training on the signs that often accompany abuse, on victims' legal rights and on available resources.
- **Target Special Groups.** Identify target groups (e.g. new students, fraternities and sororities, athletes, etc.) on your campus and develop specialized training and resources for them.
- **Coordinate Resources.** Identify resources addressing violence against women on your campus and bring together local community and university service providers.
- **Encourage Reporting of Violence.** Through orientation and awareness programs on campus, encourage students, faculty and staff to report incidents of violence. Develop effective linkages between campus and community law enforcement personnel.
- **Provide Services to the Campus Community.** Support a coordinated community response to violence against women; ensure that services are comprehensive and appropriate for the entire campus community.
- **Develop an Administration Response to Violence on Campus.** Establish protocols to manage complaints of violence on your campus with care for the victim as the first priority. Your protocol should include a clearly defined process for providing assistance to victims and holding the perpetrators accountable.
- **Review and Revise the Student Code of Conduct and Policies.** Review your campus policies and disciplinary sanctions to assess that violence against women is treated as seriously as other crimes, with equally severe punishments.
- **Provide A Voice for Women on Campus.** Provide support for students and faculty to establish victim advocacy groups on campus.
- **Get the Message Out to the Campus Community.** Speak out against domestic violence and sexual assault in your position of leadership on campus. Communicate expectations about appropriate conduct, include them in student policy statements. Post information about available resources in dining halls, health facilities, dormitories, locker rooms, and other places students are likely to see it.

## **Law Enforcement**

*Across the country, law enforcement is developing innovative and effective strategies to prevent and prosecute violence against women more effectively. Law enforcement leaders have identified several of these strategies that, if used consistently, may go a long way toward reducing incidents of violence against women.*

- **Create a Community Roundtable.** Convene a community roundtable bringing together police, prosecutors, judges, child protection agencies, survivors, religious leaders, health professionals, business leaders, educators, defense attorneys and victim advocate groups, and meet regularly. Create specific plans for needed change,

and develop policies among law enforcement, prosecutors, and others that will result in coordinated, consistent responses to domestic violence.

- Record Domestic Violence. To help understand and respond to the dimensions of violence against women, develop and require the use of a uniform domestic violence reporting form. It should include an investigative checklist for use in all domestic violence incidents or responses.
- Continue to Educate. Create informational brochures on domestic violence and sexual assault, which include safety plans and a list of referral services, for distribution in all court houses, police stations, and prosecutors offices AND in non-legal settings such as grocery stores, libraries, laundromats, schools, and health centers.
- Provide Clear Guidance on Responding to Domestic Violence. Write new or adapt existing protocol policies for police, courts, and prosecutors regarding domestic violence and sexual assault incidents, and train all employees to follow them. Policies should specify that domestic violence and sexual assault cases must be treated with the highest priority, regardless of the severity of the offense charged or injuries inflicted.
- Ensure Law Enforcement is Well-Informed. Designate at least one staff member to serve as your agency's domestic violence and sexual assault contact, with responsibility for keeping current on legal developments, training resources, availability of services and grant funds. Wherever possible, create a unit of employees with special expertise to handle domestic violence and sexual assault cases in prosecutor's offices, police departments, and probation/parole agencies, and ensure that these employees are well trained regarding their responsibilities.
- Reach Out to Front Lines. Identify and meet with staff and residents from local battered women's shelters and rape crisis centers to discuss their perceptions of current needs from the law enforcement community. Solicit suggestions for improving the law enforcement response to these crimes.
- Improve Enforcement by Implementing a Registry of Restraining Orders and a Uniform Order for Protection. Implement a statewide registry of restraining orders designed to provide accurate, up-to-date, and easily accessible information on current and prior restraining orders for use by law enforcement and judicial personnel. Develop a uniform statewide protection order for more effective and efficient enforcement.
- Support and Pursue Legislative Initiatives. Develop and support legislative initiatives to address issues regarding domestic violence and sexual assault including: a) stalking, b) death review teams, c) sentencing guidelines, d) indefinite restraining orders, and e) batterers intervention programs.
- Conduct Training. Conduct on-going multi-disciplinary domestic violence and sexual assault training for police, prosecutors, judges, advocates, defenders, service providers, child protection workers, educators and others. Training should include the victim's perspective and an emphasis on safety planning.
- Structure Courts to Respond to Domestic Violence/Create Specialized Domestic Violence Courts. Develop specialized courts that deal exclusively with domestic violence cases in a coordinated, comprehensive manner, where community and court resources can be utilized together to address domestic violence effectively. At a minimum, all court personnel involved with domestic violence cases, including judges prosecutors, public defenders, probation officers, and corrections and parole officers should receive relevant and practical domestic violence training and have an understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence.

## Health Care Professionals

*Health care professionals are in the critical position of providing services to victims of violence as the first contact point for many of these victims. It is crucial that health care professionals recognize their potential to intervene appropriately. Immediate recognition of the problem and the provision of medical care and referrals to appropriate resources within the community can make all the difference. Leaders in the field have identified the following strategies to make interventions by health care professionals more effective.*

- **Incorporate Training into Curricula**. Support the incorporation of domestic violence and sexual assault training in medical, nursing, and allied health care professional education curricula.
- **Make Resources Available to Patients**. Make resource materials available in waiting rooms and restrooms. Include the National Domestic Violence Hotline number 1-800-799-SAFE(7233) or 1-800-787-3224(TDD).
- **Support Incorporation of Protocols into Accreditation Process**. Support efforts to ensure that domestic violence and sexual assault protocols are addressed through the National Commission for Quality Assurance and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals.
- **Encourage Continuing Education on Violence Against Women Issues**. Encourage your state licensing boards and various specialty groups to encourage physicians and nurses to allocate Continuing Medical Education (CME) hours to violence against women related issues for re-licensure requirements.
- **Involve Medical Organizations and Societies in Increasing Awareness**. Collaborate with health care professional organizations and societies in your area to increase medical school and health care professional involvement in addressing violence against women.
- **Feature Violence Against Women on Meeting Agendas**. Arrange presentations and symposiums on violence against women at various health care specialty annual, regional and local meetings.
- **Highlight Commitment to Violence Against Women Issues**. Give awards, citations, and certificates to exceptional organizations and individuals for their continued commitment to addressing violence against women.
- **Develop a Standard Intake Form**. Develop a standardized intake assessment form for health care professionals who interact with victims of domestic or sexual violence. This assessment form would ensure that certain information regarding these incidents is identified and proper resources are utilized.
- **Ensure Employee Assistance Programs are Responsive to Victims of Domestic Violence**. Determine whether your health care facility's employee assistance program (EAP) includes domestic violence services or referrals. If it does not, speak with your human resources director or the appropriate manager about the possibility of expanding the program to address the needs of employees facing violence in their homes. All EAP personnel should receive domestic violence training and have an understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence.
- **Volunteer**. Provide a health care series on a volunteer basis to community organizations that serve victims of domestic and sexual violence.

## Sports

*Today, more than ever, our sports players and organizations have an enormous capacity to influence the minds and behaviors of Americans, both young and old. The reason is simple. For many Americans, professional, college and olympic athletes are today's heroes. We must utilize this outlet to send a positive message to all Americans about preventing domestic violence and sexual assault. Following are a number of ways communities can work with the local sports industry to help stop the violence.*

- **Bring Sports Leagues Together in a Common Cause.** Encourage local sports teams to come together in a joint effort to combat violence against women through joint awareness campaigns and public appearances.
- **Create Strict Disciplinary Policies.** Encourage the creation of disciplinary policies for players on domestic violence and violence against women similar to drug policies. These policies should include stiff sanctions and penalties for committing domestic violence and sexual assault.
- **Push for PSAs During Broadcast of Sporting Events.** Write or call sports leagues in support PSAs about violence against women during the broadcast of major sporting events, including NCAA games.
- **Promote the Distribution of Educational Materials.** Promote the distribution of educational materials from local shelters and programs to players by offering the materials to the teams.
- **Involve Local Sports Heroes in Community Activities.** Involve local sports heroes in rallies and events which bring attention to the problem of violence against women.
- **Reach Out to Potential Sponsors.** If there are businesses in the area that are known for making or selling sporting equipment or clothing, approach them for sponsorship of community awareness activities.

## Media

*The media industry represents much more than television and film stars. It is the most influential source of information for millions of Americans. Before we can change people's attitudes about violence against women and prevent violent behavior, we must not only change the way violence is portrayed in the media, but also educate members of the media who report on domestic violence and sexual assault crime. Leaders in the media industry have identified ways in which communities can work with their local media to encourage responsible reporting of violence against women.*

- **Use the Power of Communication.** Contact local television, radio, and newspapers urging thoughtful and accurate coverage of violence against women, and the provision of educational messages about the problem when possible.
- **Urge Action Through the Local Paper.** Through community organizations, distribute model op-ed piece and letters to the editor and urge community action for placement of these pieces.
- **Link Media with Experts.** Provide media outlets with a list of well-known experts available for interviews, as well as a packet of materials with information on a variety of related subject areas, such as local shelters and programs.
- **Organize Public Events.** Plan a public event, such as a community education forum

on violence against women, and solicit local media coverage.

- Encourage Employee Awareness. Encourage the development of domestic violence awareness programs for employees of media outlets.
- Build a Bridge Between Media and Law Enforcement. Urge police chiefs and commissioners to go on air locally to discuss domestic violence and violence against women.
- Provide a Forum for Community Leaders. Encourage community leaders to speak to media about issues of violence against women.
- Publicize Local Resources During Reporting. Encourage local media to include the National Domestic Violence Hotline number, 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or 1-800-787-3224 (TDD), during reporting on incidents of domestic violence.

## **The Workplace**

*Men and women spend more and more of their daily lives in the workplace. Domestic violence is a workplace issue which affects the safety, health, and productivity of America's workers. Business and labor leaders have identified several strategies that can be used to create safer and more supportive workplaces.*

- Start with the Top and Get Corporate Leadership on Board. Encourage CEOs or the management team to establish a workplace which is intolerant of domestic violence and aids a victim to obtaining assistance and protection.
- Establish Employee Policies that Meet the Needs of Victims of Domestic Violence. Work with your management and unions to develop and negotiate paid leave and benefit policies which recognize and are responsive to the particular needs of your employees who are victims of domestic violence.
- Ensure Employee Assistance Programs are Responsive to Victims of Domestic Violence. Determine whether your company's employee assistance program (EAP) includes domestic violence services or referrals. If it does not, speak with your human resources director or the appropriate manager about the possibility of expanding the program to address the needs of employees facing violence in their homes. All EAP personnel should receive domestic violence training and have an understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence.
- Provide Management with the Tools to Respond to Domestic Violence. Establish a training program for all supervisors and managers at your workplace to give them guidance on how to respond when an employee is a victim or perpetrator of domestic violence.
- Educate Employees About Domestic Violence. Sponsor a workshop or series of workshops at your workplace on domestic violence. Invite a domestic violence survivor to speak about her experiences and to discuss the impact of violence on her life and her work.
- Share Materials About Domestic Violence. Distribute educational materials about domestic violence to all employees in your workplace and display posters and brochures in public places which explain the issue. Send the message that there is no excuse for domestic violence. Make victim safety information available in private places such as restrooms or in paycheck envelopes. All information should include the National Domestic Violence Hotline number, 1-800-799-SAFE(7233) or 1-800-787-3224(TDD).



- Increase Safety At the Workplace. Find out whether security guards at your workplace have been trained to handle the special safety needs of battered women, who may be stalked at work. If they have not, speak with the appropriate manager to arrange training and help security personnel develop safety procedures.
- Coordinate with Local Law Enforcement. Arrange a meeting between security personnel at your workplace and local law enforcement agencies to facilitate appropriate information sharing and the development of collaborative working relationships.
- Join in Local Community Efforts to Combat Domestic Violence. Conduct a drive in your workplace to collect items for local domestic violence shelters. Be sure to contact the programs first to find out what they want, but common needs for shelters are toys, clothing, furniture, office equipment, office supplies and food. Alternatively, make a contribution of company products.
- Donate Time and Resources. Adopt a local domestic violence shelter by collecting money from coworkers for a joint donation or getting a group of coworkers to make a commitment of volunteer hours. For example, raise money to pay for a new roof for a shelter; organize groups of volunteers to paint a shelter, do yard work around the shelter, assist with a special event, or provide other specialized skills.

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*formatted October 1, 1996*

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**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
AND  
THE LAW**

**A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR SURVIVORS**

[The Missouri Bar](#)

Published By  
The Young Lawyers Section  
of  
The Missouri Bar

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Domestic Violence Resources**INTRODUCTION**

Domestic violence may be physical or emotional: slapping, punching, beating, kicking, threats of harm and verbal abuse are all forms of domestic violence. Violent behavior toward others is wrong no matter who does it. Family members are not excused. If you are in an abusive situation and don't do something to stop it, you may be harming your family. There is evidence that children raised in abusive homes are likely to become abusers or victims of abuse in later life.

**Q: WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNDER THE LAW?****1. *Physical Abuse Against You.***

The legal definition of domestic violence includes: causing you physical harm (hitting, kicking, slapping, throwing things, etc.) or threatening physical harm (with or without a weapon), coercing you to do something or refrain from doing something by threats or use of force, harassing you (causing emotional distress by lingering at your home, peering in windows, following you, etc.), forcing or attempting to force you to engage in any sexual act, or holding you against your will.

**2. *Emotional Abuse.***

Domestic violence also includes placing a party in fear of imminent serious bodily harm by threat of force. This includes threats of violence; or other conduct that would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress, like "I will hit you", "if you leave, I will hurt you," or "if you tell anyone, I will kill you," so long as the act actually causes substantial emotional distress.

### 3. *Child Abuse.*

The law provides for protection against violence toward children as well. Child abuse is any physical injury, sexual abuse or emotional harm inflicted on a child other than by accidental means by an adult household member. This includes sexual abuse of children, such as fondling or rape. The abused children need not be the children of the abuser in order for you to file a child abuse petition. The law does, however, exempt discipline administered in a reasonable manner.

## Q: HOW DOES THE LAW PROTECT AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

1. You can file for *CIVIL RELIEF* in the civil courts if you are:

The spouse or former spouse of the abuser;  
 Being stalked or harassed by any person;  
 Have a child in common with the abuser;  
 The current or former live-in girlfriend or boyfriend of the abuser; or  
 Related by blood or marriage to the abuser.

2. You can and should file a *Child Protection Order* if:

You suspect child abuse is occurring.

3. You can bring *CRIMINAL CHARGES* if:

You have suffered violence in an abusive relationship, regardless of whether you are married to or living with the abuser.

## Q: HOW CAN A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GET HELP?

1. *Call The Police*

If you are a victim of domestic violence, you can call the police or county sheriff for help. The law requires the police to provide you with:

### ADVICE

Law enforcement officers are trained to know and be able to tell you where the closest temporary shelters for domestic violence victims are located. If you are hurt, in need of food, clothing or counseling, the police can direct you to the appropriate community resource.

### TRANSPORTATION

Law enforcement officers can and should take you where you need to go to get help, whether it be the home of a friend or family member, shelter or hospital. The police can also take you to the prosecuting attorney's office if you want to file a criminal complaint. In all cases of domestic violence, **leave the house**, take your children with you, and bring your important things if this can **safely** be accomplished.

### EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Law enforcement officers are authorized by law to do whatever is *reasonable* to protect you from harm. The police can arrest the abuser if they have good reason to believe that the abuser has hurt you. They have an *obligation* to arrest the abuser if they reasonably believe the abuser has violated a court order by hurting you or coming to your house.



***When you call the police . . .***

If you call the police twice within a 12-hour period, the police must arrest the abuser on the second visit.

**BE READY TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM HARM FOR AT LEAST A SHORT WHILE.**

The police are only required to respond to your call *as soon as practicable*.

**COLLECT EVIDENCE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN BEATEN OR THREATENED.**

When the police arrive, show them torn or bloody clothing, broken items or any other evidence of an attack (if you have any). Be sure to give the police the names and phone numbers of all witnesses to your attack, if there are any. If there is a court order that the abuser has violated, give the police a copy of it so they can arrest the abuser for violating the order. Do not give them your only copy, as you will be disadvantaged should you need to call the police again and do not have a court order to show them. You should also give the police a copy of separation or divorce papers, if there are any.

**ASK THE POLICE TO MAKE A REPORT OF THE INCIDENT.**

Ask the police to take pictures of your injuries and to conduct an investigation. You should ask for the police officer's name and badge number so that he/she can be a witness for you in any civil or criminal proceeding you may bring against your abuser. Write this information down so you can report it to the prosecuting attorney if you pursue a criminal complaint.

**PREPARE TO TAKE YOUR ABUSER TO COURT.**

If you do not pursue your civil remedies and also fail to press criminal charges against your abuser, the police may (although they should not) become less likely to help you in the future. In addition, your abuser may believe that he/she can get away with hurting you. Be prepared to take your abuser to court, whether it be civil, criminal or both.

***2. Pursue Your Civil and Criminal Remedies.***

To get started, you can contact:

**CLERK OF COURT.** Go to your local clerk of court's office to file a request for a petition for a protective order. A local domestic violence assistance agency may be able to assist you in preparing these forms, if not the court clerk with assist you.

**PROSECUTOR.** If the police officer does not pursue criminal charges against your abuser, see the local Prosecutor yourself and pursue a criminal complaint.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CENTER AND/ OR ATTORNEY.** For more help and advice, contact an attorney or local domestic violence assistance organization.

The police may also direct you to these organizations. This book contains a complete list of all the resources available in the State of Missouri at the end of the text.

**Q: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CIVIL & CRIMINAL REMEDIES?**

The purpose of a criminal action is to punish the abuser. The purpose of a civil action is to get certain types of relief for you from the domestic violence which has and may again be inflicted against you. Civil cases are **not** a part of an abuser's criminal records. You do not need to decide between civil and criminal remedies. You may pursue both remedies for the same incident of domestic violence.

## Q: HOW DO YOU PURSUE YOUR CIVIL REMEDIES?

### 1. Know What Kind of Relief is Available.

You can request and **may** be able to get the court to order:

- the abuser not assault, threaten, harass or contact you;
- possession of the residence so that the abuser cannot return there and/or an order that he/she leave the residence;
- suitable housing other than the former residence;
- law enforcement assistance in evicting the abuser from the residence and/or in returning you to it;
- custody of minor children;
- child support;
- visitation;
- payments for your support if you and the abuser are married (most judges will only award this if compelling circumstances exist);
- possession of a vehicle;
- possession of your furniture and other household goods;
- possession of certain other items of personal property (for example, the tools you use for your work, your keys, checkbook or your daughter's wheelchair);
- your court costs for the civil case paid for by the abuser or waived by the court, and your attorney's fees may be paid;
- your rent or house payments, or other reasonable housing costs;
- the abuser dispose of jointly owned or leased property; and
- the abuser attend counseling programs designed to stop violent behavior.

### 2. Consider Your Children's Safety.

If you leave the residence, *take your children with you if you can*. Be wary of leaving them with the abuser. You may have delays in getting custody of the children if they are left with the abuser. If you have left the house and can come back to get the children *safely*, do so.

### 3. Go to Court for Immediate Protection and Relief.

#### Prepare the Forms

The Clerk of the Court should be able to give you the appropriate forms to get started. Ask for a "Petition for Order of Protection." In describing the domestic violence against you in the petition, **start with the most recent episode of violence first**; then go back in time with each violent episode. Add additional sheets if necessary. If the violence has caused any injuries such as bruises, knots or wounds, include that information in the appropriate place on the petition. Also, be prepared to tell the judge about your injuries (and your children's injuries). If the abuser is violent while using alcohol and illegal drugs, tell the judge in the complaint and remind him or her of it in court. **It is very important to show the judge on paper why you are afraid now**. The judge may read your petition and may ask you more questions in the courtroom, although some judges conduct these hearings informally in their offices. In the petition, remember to ask for all the kinds of relief you want.

#### Have an Ex Parte Hearing

You should ask the judge to issue a temporary or **ex parte** order without contacting your abuser. The order protects you while the summons and complaint are being served by the sheriff on the abuser and before the abuser has the chance to come before the judge. The order is only good for fifteen (15) days, or until a full hearing on the matter can be heard. The **ex parte** order will protect you in the event your abuser attempts further contact with you. You must enforce it by calling the police if your abuser attempts further contact with you. The police must arrest an abuser who violates an **ex parte** order.

#### *4. Be Prepared for the Hearing for Full Order of Protection.*

The full hearing with you, your witnesses, the abuser and the judge is held ten days after the summons is issued and the complaint is filed, assuming the abuser has been served with your petition by then. The abuser must be served with the summons at least five days prior to the hearing date. The judge will be deciding what type of relief he or she should order for the next six to twelve months. It may be the same as the relief you got in the temporary order or it may be different. Be sure you bring with you to the courtroom any witnesses to the domestic violence against you and all evidence of the violence, such as pictures, medical reports and clothing. Be prepared to describe to the judge in detail what the abuser has done to you and why you are still afraid of him **now**.

If the papers are not served on the abuser by the 10-day hearing, ask the judge or his/her clerk to extend the temporary, **ex parte** order and that another court date be assigned. The order of protection remains in effect for this period of time so long as you have requested this relief and it was granted.

#### **Ask the Judge for Relief**

Be certain that you tell the judge exactly what relief you want. Make a list of all the kinds of relief you want and read it to the judge. If your circumstances have changed or if you have changed your mind since you filed the petition, you can change the type of relief requested.

The judge **can** (although he or she may not) order that you be provided with any of the relief described on pages 8-9 or some other form of relief. The judge can also order that the abuser not assault or attempt to assault you, not harass or intimidate you, not go to your work or residence and not follow you around.

#### **Keep Your Court Order**

Once you obtain an order, keep it with you. The local law enforcement authorities must keep copies of these orders on file, but you should keep a copy in your purse or other safe place near you so that you can show the police or court that you have a domestic violence order should the abuser violate it.

#### *5. Extend Your Court Order Before It Expires.*

Your order for civil relief will only last for six (6) months to one (1) year; the length is up to the judge. You can get the order extended or obtain another order beyond the original order if the abuser continues to be a threat to your physical safety. Go to clerk of court's office for information on how to proceed, or you may wish to contact an attorney to help you. Be sure to apply for the renewal before your order expires. Consult the index of services in the back of this book, the Missouri Bar Association, or the clerk of court to determine what attorneys, including low-cost or volunteer attorneys, are available in your area to help get further help.

#### *6. Abide by the Order.*

There is no way that you can violate an Order of Protection you have against someone else; however, if the judge has ordered the abuser not to contact you, try to refrain from any

telephone or personal contact with the abuser. Make the abuser abide by the order, and do not let the abuser talk you into disregarding the order.

If you have let the abuser into your home (even if you have started living together again), you can reapply for relief if further domestic violence occurs.

*7. Get the Order Enforced if the Abuser Violates the Order.*

Do not ignore the violation. You can and should file a "motion for finding of contempt" as soon as possible after the abuser has violated the order. Your safety may depend on you showing the abuser that you intend to enforce your legal rights. You can contact an attorney to file a motion for entry of contempt or you can file a motion yourself. Forms are available at the clerk of court's office. Again, you must write specifically what the abuser did that was in violation of the order and you and the abuser must appear before a judge. The judge may tell the abuser that if he violates the order, he will be jailed; or the judge may find that the order has already been violated and sentence the abuser to jail or order that he pay a fine. Be aware that a violation of a court order is also a criminal offense and that you can contact the police or the prosecuting attorney's office and have the abuser arrested immediately. The police should arrest the abuser if you show them you have a court order and they reasonably believe that the abuser has violated it.

### **WHEN YOU SEEK CIVIL RELIEF OR PRESS CRIMINAL CHARGES, FOLLOW THESE TIPS AND POINTERS . . .**

*1. File Civil and Criminal Charges Simultaneously.*

You can press criminal charges and file a civil petition at the same time based on the same incident.

*2. Stay with Relatives or at a Shelter.*

When you leave your home to get away from the abuser, stay with relatives, friends or at a shelter.

*3. Go to the Hospital If You Are Injured.*

Seek medical treatment if you are physically injured. The hospital or doctor's office should make records of injuries. Get all medical documents and keep them with you so they can be used in court later. Medical reports will be important evidence at either a civil or criminal trial.

*4. Seek Counseling.*

You may find it helpful to talk with someone outside of your circle of family and friends. Seek counseling from volunteers at a shelter or other domestic violence assistance program and get any documents or reports from your visit for use in court later. Counseling may be important to your recovery from the domestic violence against you, and may help you sort out your feelings. Consult the index at the end of this book for participating agencies.

*5. Be Organized In Court.*

Know what you want to say to the judge. Most judges are busy, thus, you should tell him or her the most recent and most violent episodes first. Be aware that your abuser, or more likely his or her counsel, can ask you questions in court. Keep calm, if you can. Remember, your sworn testimony may be all the evidence you need to get civil relief or to get the abuser convicted.

*6. Your Word is Good Evidence.*

Your testimony may be all the evidence you need. You do **not** have to have proof of injuries or witnesses to the violence against you, but they are helpful. Bring photographs of your bruises or friends who saw the violence or the black eye if you can. If you have been threatened with violence, tell the judge why you are afraid of the threat. Do not get upset if the abuser contradicts what you say. Most judges have seen many cases of domestic violence and will expect contradictions in the testimony. If the judge believes you are truthful, he or she will give you some form of domestic violence relief.

#### *7. Provide for Your Financial Security.*

After you are in a safe place, get money out of bank accounts to which you have access. Collect important personal belongings after you leave the house, if you can **safely**. Remember, the police can and should escort you back to your home to get your belongings. Also, you can ask the judge for an order allowing you to get the household goods and other personal things you need.

#### *8. Call a Lawyer for Help with the System.*

The Clerk of Court, or the Missouri Bar Association may help you locate attorneys in your area who can help you file a civil petition, get a temporary order and advise you on how to press criminal charges. Remember, you do not have to go through the legal system by yourself if you do not want to.

### **Q: HOW DOES A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PURSUE CRIMINAL REMEDIES?**

As a victim of domestic violence, you can bring criminal charges, which will be prosecuted by the State of Missouri through the local Prosecuting Attorney's office. The purpose is to punish your abuser for violating the law.

*To start a criminal proceeding, you should . . .*

#### *1. Report the Crime As Soon As Possible.*

If you can get to a telephone, call the police. The police must respond to your call. If the police witness the assault, they are required by law to make an arrest on the spot. Of course, you should never remain in a place of danger in order to allow the police to witness the violence. The police also have an obligation to arrest if they have a reasonable belief that you have been attacked or abused in some manner.

#### *2. Be Prepared to Tell What Happened.*

If the police do not witness the assault, you may need to go to the Prosecuting Attorney's office to press charges. You will need to describe to the Prosecutor what happened to you and take along with you any witnesses to the domestic violence and any evidence of injury or abuse, including pictures, torn or blood-stained clothes and medical reports. Upon hearing your sworn testimony, the Prosecuting Attorney's office should press charges which will result in the issuance of a criminal summons or a warrant. A criminal summons or warrant should be issued even if you do not have physical evidence of abuse.

#### *3. Know the Crimes and Charges.*

##### *Rape and Sexual Assault:*

Sexual assault is the attempt to cause another to engage involuntarily in any sexual act by force, threat of force, or duress.

The crime of forcible rape is when a person has sexual intercourse, which includes penetration, however slight, with you by use of force. Rape or an attempt to commit rape is a

felony.

#### *Assault:*

A person commits the crime of assault if he or she attempts to kill or knowingly causes or attempts to cause serious injury to you. Assault in the first degree is a felony. Assault in the second degree is also a felony, and includes attempts to cause serious physical injury under the influence of sudden passion or by using a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument or if the person recklessly causes serious injury or while a person is intoxicated or under the influence of drugs.

#### Communicating Threats - Harassment

A person is guilty of harassment against you if, for the purpose of frightening or disturbing you, he or she threatens to physically injure you or damage your property, or to commit any felony, or makes an offensive telephone call, or makes anonymous or repeated telephone calls.

#### Stalking

The offense of stalking occurs when a person purposely and repeatedly harasses or follows you with the intent to harass you. To be illegal, stalking must occur over a period of time, showing a pattern of conduct and continued purpose. The course of conduct must be such that it would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress, and must actually cause substantial emotional distress to you.

#### Harassing Phone Calls

Using profane, indecent or threatening language against you over the telephone or on your answering machine is illegal. This includes annoying or harassing you by making false statements over the telephone or by repeated calling.

#### *4. Be Prepared for the Criminal Trial.*

##### The Court Date

You need to keep track of the date which is set for trial, and be sure to go to court at the right time that day ready to testify about the details of the violence against you.

##### The Prosecuting Attorney is *Your* Attorney

You do not need to hire an attorney since the prosecuting attorney represents your interests. You should contact the prosecuting attorney's office before the trial date to discuss the case and the evidence which you will be able to present. If there are any witnesses to the domestic violence against you, you should let the prosecuting attorney know as soon as possible and request that they be subpoenaed to appear at the trial. You should give the prosecuting attorney the names and badge numbers of the police officers who arrested the abuser or who responded to your call.

##### Possible Continuances

Criminal cases are routinely continued for several weeks or even months in order to allow the abuser (defendant) to hire an attorney or to subpoena witnesses. It is important to keep track

of the date on which the case is scheduled to return and, once again, to go to court at the appropriate time that day.

### The Punishment

If the defendant is found guilty, the punishment will depend on the circumstances of the case. The decision is up to the judge, but the judge will consider the prosecuting attorney's recommendation and other factors such as whether the defendant has done this before. If the crime is serious enough, the abuser could be sentenced to a long prison term. In the typical domestic violence case, however, the abuser will be found guilty of a misdemeanor and will receive a suspended sentence, a fine and/or probation. Depending on the circumstances of the case, you may want to ask the court to order the abuser to undergo counseling, substance abuse counseling and/or to stay away from you.

#### 5. *Follow These Tips and Pointers . . .*

Do not press criminal charges if you are not going to follow through. Remember that if you drop the charges, the court and police are less likely to believe you the next time. If you do not appear on the day scheduled for trial, your case may be dismissed.

Be present and ready to have all witnesses available on short notice. Cooperate with the prosecuting attorney and tell him or her everything you can remember about the domestic violence against you.

If the abuser attacks you again (after he has been found guilty), take out another warrant for their arrest and report the attack to his probation officer.

## **Q: HOW CAN AN ELDERLY VICTIM OF VIOLENCE GET HELP?**

### 1. *What is Elder Abuse?*

Elderly adults are also subject to abuse. Elderly adults have the same personal right to be free of abuse as other members of society. Abuse of the elderly can be physical or psychological in nature.

One common form of abuse of the elderly is **physical neglect**. As people become older they sometimes become dependent on others to help them perform tasks required for everyday living. For instance, elderly adults may become dependent on others to clean and maintain their homes, bring them food and medicine, and to help them maintain their personal cleanliness. If the abuser stops performing these necessary tasks, the elderly adult becomes a victim of **physical neglect**. Another common form of abuse of the elderly occurs when an abuser **obtains money and property** from an elderly adult through deceit, schemes or threats. The elderly adult may be forced to give up property or money because of threats or intimidation. While the abuser may threaten physical harm, more commonly the abuser threatens to deny the elderly adult a need or comfort such as food, clothing, transportation or access to family and friends. The abuser may also threaten to have the elderly person put in an institution or home if the property or money is not given to the abuser.

Fortunately, while it does occur, physical abuse, such as a beating, is not as common among the elderly. But intimidation, verbal abuse, denial of necessary care and isolation can make the elderly adult's life miserable.

### 2. *How Does the Law Protect the Elderly?*

- Orders of Protection.

There are laws that protect elderly or handicapped individuals from abuse. The Missouri Adult Abuse Act applies to all adults over the age of eighteen. The provisions of this act are discussed in depth in this handbook (pages 1-23). The Adult Abuse laws apply equally to the elderly or handicapped.

- The Elderly Adult Protection Services Act.

As the problem of abuse of the elderly received more attention and study, the Missouri General Assembly passed the Elderly Adult Protection Services Act. The primary goal of this law is to end abuse of the elderly. The law is also designed to assist the elderly in their efforts to live and function in the community.

The most important aspects of this law is the availability of a free hotline number (**1-800-392-0210 or 1-800-235-5503 for aging information and referrals**) that any abuse victim or concerned person may call to report an abusive incident. If a call is received, the Department of Social Services will become involved and either investigate the abuse, refer the report to local law enforcement officials, provide the abused person with services, or refer the caller to local community agencies that provide services.

A major problem for the elderly has been the difficulty in understanding or identifying abusive behavior and then stopping that abuse. The elderly adult, like any victim of abuse, often suffers alone, and only with courage and outside help will the abuse end.

- Persons Protected by the Act.

To qualify for protection under this Act a person must be:

1. Sixty years of age or older; or
2. A handicapped person between the ages of eighteen and fifty-nine who is not able to protect his or her own interests; or who cannot adequately perform or obtain services that are necessary to meet his or her essential human needs.

- Reporting Abuse or Neglect.

Any person who has reason to suspect that an elderly or handicapped adult is in a situation that **presents likelihood of suffering serious physical harm** and is in need of protective services should report that information to the Missouri Department of Social Services. Certain professionals are required by law to report abuse or neglect of the elderly person. The Department's Division of Aging has toll-free hotline for receiving such reports.

**Hotline for Reporting Abuse of the Elderly**  
**1-800-392-0210**  
 or  
**for Information on Aging and Referrals**  
**1-800-235-5503**

The Act provides that a **likelihood of serious physical harm** exists when:

1. The person is unable to provide for his or her own essential needs;
  2. The person may cause physical harm to himself or herself;
  3. Another person will physically harm the protected person; or
  4. The person has suffered physical injury, neglect, sexual or emotional abuse, or other mistreatment, or wasting of his or her financial resources by the abuser.
- Investigation Procedures.



After getting the report of abuse, the Department of Social Services **must** promptly investigate whether the elderly person is in need of protective services. If the person is found to be in need of protective services, the Department **must** assist the person in getting the needed services, including alternative housing if necessary.

In order to protect the privacy of the abused elderly or handicapped adult, the reports and investigative records are closed (confidential) records. These records are available only to specified persons employed by the state.

- Seeking Relief.

In addition to the Adult Abuse Act and the Elderly Adult Protective Services Act, Missouri has enacted criminal statutes designed to protect elderly Missourians. If you are aware of an elderly person who is being abused, contact the police, the local prosecutor's office, and the Department of Social Services hotline number.

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCES**

Look in the blue pages of the phone book to find the Clerk of Court for your county and the location of the courthouse. The Clerk of Court is a useful resource for pursuing your rights. You may also find in the first few pages of the "white pages" phone book a phone number for a women's shelter or agency. In addition, more resources are listed on the following pages. This index is organized by regions of the State. Locate your region and the index lists various services available to you and your family.

National Domestic Violence Hotline  
(800) 799-SAFE (7233)  
or  
TDD (800) 787-3224

## **CENTRAL REGION**

**September 1996**

### **Shelters/Safehomes**

#### **ACCIS-AUDRAIN CO. CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICES**

Karen Johnson  
P.O. Box 181  
Mexico, MO 65265  
(573) 581-3835 (Office)  
(573) 581-0994 (Fax)  
(573) 581-2280 (Hotline)

#### ***Services:***

shelter, safehomes, counseling, legal/court advocacy, support groups, referrals

#### ***Counties Serving:***

Audrain, Montgomery, North Callaway and Pike Counties

#### **CITIZENS AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-SUNSHINE HOUSE**

Christine Eiskant  
Lynn Richards  
P.O. Box 245  
Camdenton, MO 65020  
(573) 346-9630 (Office and Fax)  
(573) 346-2238 (Hotline)

***Services:***

shelter, safehomes, legal/court advocacy, counseling, referrals, community education, abusers' groups, children's services

***Counties Serving:***

Camden, Laclede, Miller and Morgan Counties

**NEW START-A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER**

Teresa Blackmore  
P.O. Box 204  
New Franklin, MO 65274  
(816) 882-2400 (Office)  
(800) 479-0522 (Hotline)

***Services:***

shelter, counseling, legal/court advocacy, support groups, transportation, day care

***Counties Serving:***

Cooper and Howard Counties

**PULASKI COUNTY CRISIS CENTER**

Judy Corse  
Judy Miller  
P.O. Box 4177  
Waynesville, MO 65583  
(573) 774-6012 (Office)  
(573) 774-2628 (Hotline)

***Services:***

shelter, counseling, support groups, legal/court advocacy, transitional housing, children's services, employment assistance

***Counties Serving:***

Pulaski and Surrounding Counties

**RAPE & ABUSE CRISIS SERVICE**

Dr. Pat Allen  
Linda Amick  
P.O. Box 416  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
(573) 634-8346 (Office)  
(573) 659-8508 (Fax)  
(573) 634-4911 (Hotline)

***Services:***

shelter, legal/court advocacy, counseling, children's services, resource library, community education/ training, support groups

***Counties Serving:***

Cole, Gasconade, Maries, Miller, Moniteau, Morgan, Osage, Southern Callaway and Southern Boone Counties

**SAFE PASSAGES**

Beverly Knapp  
P.O. Box 456  
Moberly, MO 65270  
(816) 269-8999 (Office)  
(816) 269-8111 (Hotline)

***Services:***

shelter, crisis intervention, legal advocacy, peer counseling

***Counties Serving:***

Randolph and surrounding counties

**THE RUSSELL HOUSE-PHELPS CO. FAMILY CRISIS SERVICES, INC.**

Tammy Mathews

Connie Woody

P.O. Box 2259

Rolla, MO 65402

(573) 364-0579 (Office)

(573) 364-0222 (Hotline)

***Services:***

shelter, legal/court advocacy, transportation, counseling, referrals, children's services, support groups, parenting group

***Counties Serving:***

Crawford, Dent, Maries and Phelps Counties

**THE SHELTER**

Pat Glasier

Wanda Thatcher

P.O. Box 1367

Columbia, MO 65205

(573) 875-1369 (Office)

(573) 874-8608 (Fax)

(573) 875-1370 (Hotline)

(800) 548-2480 (Hotline)

***Services:***

shelter, legal/court advocacy, counseling, support groups, children's groups, community and professional education

***Counties Serving:***

Audrain, Boone, Callaway, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Montgomery, Randolph and Saline Counties

**TURNING POINT**

Martie Hemphill

P.O. Box 426

Warrenton, MO 63383

(314) 709-0260 (Office)

(314) 709-7233 (Hotline)

***Services:***

shelter, crisis intervention, legal advocacy, support groups, referrals, outreach and education, transportation and follow-up

***Counties Serving:***

Warren County

**Related Services**

**FAMILY COUNSELING CENTER OF MISSOURI**

Allen Tacker

Shari Melton

117 N. Garth  
Columbia, MO 65203  
(573) 449-2581 (Office)  
(573) 875-6607 (Fax)

***Services:***

counseling for men, women and children

***Counties Serving:***

Boone and Cole Counties

**Organizing for Services**

**COALITION AGAINST RAPE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Marcy Campbell  
P.O. Box 786  
Fulton, MO 65251  
(314) 642-7206

***Services:***

safehomes, hotline, legal/court advocacy, support groups, community education

***Counties Serving:***

Callaway County

**KANSAS CITY REGION**

**September 1996**

**Kansas City Metropolitan Area 1-800-995-1000**

**Shelters/Safehomes**

**HOPE HOUSE**

Susan Else  
Mary Ann Metheny  
P.O. Box 520409  
Independence, MO 64052  
(816) 461-4188 (Office)  
(800) 995-1000 (Hotline)  
(816) 461-8429 (Fax)

***Services:***

shelter, crisis intervention, legal/court advocacy, counseling, support groups, children's services, transitional housing, outreach office, speakers bureau, life skills program

***Counties Serving:***

Eastern Jackson County

**NEWHOUSE**

Leslie Caplan  
Nancy Brown  
P.O. Box 240019  
Kansas City, MO 64124  
(816) 231-7378 (Office)  
(816) 231-1909 (Fax)  
(816) 241-0311 (Hotline)

***Shelter Phones:***

(816) 843-6140 (Office)  
(816) 483-2920 (Fax)

***Services:***

shelter, legal/court advocacy, counseling, children's services, substance abuse programs, support group, child care, outreach office, transitional housing

***Counties Serving:***

Jackson County

**ROSE BROOKS CENTER**

Susan Miller  
Lisa Fleming  
P.O. Box 10453  
Kansas City, MO 64171-0453  
(816) 523-5550 (Office)  
(816) 523-8177 (Fax)  
(816) 995-1000 (Hotline)

***Services:***

shelter, crisis intervention, legal advocacy, support groups, counseling for women and children, day care, outreach office

***Counties Serving:***

Jackson County

**SAFEHAVEN**

Jan Kauk  
Cathy Asher  
230 N.E. Evansdale Road  
Kansas City, MO 64116-2623  
(816) 454-3581 (Adm./Main)  
(816) 453-3233 (Fax)  
(816) 995-1000 (Hotline)  
(816) 458-7200 (Outreach)

***Services:***

shelter, crisis intervention, legal advocacy, support groups, counseling for women, children and men, transitional housing, community and professional education

***Counties Serving:***

Clay, Platte, Ray, Caldwell, Carroll, Clinton and Lafayette Counties

**PROJECT ASSIST LEGAL AID OF WESTERN MO**

Kelley Rice  
Richard Halliburton  
1005 Grand #600  
Kansas City, MO 64106  
(816) 474-6750 (Office)  
(816) 474-9751 (Fax)

***Services:***

legal services, legal advocacy, representation for orders of protection, police training

***Counties Serving:***

Kansas City Metropolitan Area

**JACKSON COUNTY VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAM**

Megan Carter

Jackson County Courthouse  
415 E. 12th, 11th Floor  
Kansas City, MO 64106  
(816) 881-3555 (Office)  
(816) 881-3843 (Fax)

***Services:***

legal/court advocacy, information and referrals, crime victim compensation

***Counties Serving:***

Jackson County

**BELTON VICTIM ADVOCATE UNIT**

Capt. Don Spears  
Pam Seaver  
Belton Police Dept.  
7001 E. 163rd Street  
911 Emergency  
(816) 331-5522 (Office)

***Services:***

motel placement, legal and court advocacy, referrals

***Counties Serving:***

Cass County

**NORTHEAST REGION**

September 1996

**AVENUES**

Linda McCalister  
Madonna Petitjean  
P.O. Box 284  
Hannibal, MO 63401  
(573) 221-2093 (Office)  
(573) 221-7022 (Fax)  
(573) 221-4280 (Hotline)  
(800) 678-7713 (Hotline)

***Services:***

shelter, legal/court advocacy, counseling, referrals, sexual assault intervention and advocacy

***Counties Serving:***

Clark, Lewis, Marion, Monroe, Pike and Ralls Counties

**PEOPLE AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Judy Hereford  
P.O. Box 423  
Union, MO 63084  
(314) 583-8443 (Office)

***Services:***

safehomes, support groups, legal/court advocacy, counseling

**VICTIM SUPPORT SERVICES, INC.**

Kim LeBaron  
Alice Davis  
213 W. Washington Street

Kirksville, MO 63501  
(816) 665-0021 (Office)  
(816) 665-0020 (Fax)  
(800) 665-1617 (Hotline)  
(816) 665-1617 (Hotline)

**Services:**

shelter, crisis intervention, advocacy, legal/court advocacy, counseling, referral, women's group, outreach office

**Counties Serving:**

Adair, Knox, Lewis, Macon, Putnam, Schuyler, Scotland, Clark and Sullivan Counties

**"TURNING POINT" – WARREN COUNTY COUNCIL AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

P.O. Box 426  
Warrenton, MO 63383  
(314) 709-0260 (Office)  
(314) 709-7233 (Hotline)

**Services:**

shelter, legal/court advocacy, transports, referrals, children's services, women's counseling, support groups, counseling, transitional housing

**Counties Serving:**

Franklin, Gasconade, Lincoln, Montgomery and Warren Counties

**CASA, INC.**

Kathy Smith  
Diane Morrison  
P.O. Box 1371  
Sedalia, MO 63501  
(816) 827-5559 (Office)  
(816) 827-5548 (Fax)  
(816) 827-5555 (Hotline)  
(800) 894-1151 (Hotline)

**Services:**

shelter, crisis intervention, legal/court advocacy, counseling, referrals, support groups, children's services, non-resident services and follow-up program

**Counties Serving:**

Benton, Cooper, Lafayette, Pettis, Morgan and Saline Counties

**FAITH**

The Anne Molini Fitch Memorial Shelter  
Tracy Trumble  
1007 S. Second St., Box 9  
Clinton, MO 64735  
(816) 885-6067 (Office)  
(816) 821-5073 (Hotline)

**Services:**

shelter, crisis intervention, court advocacy, transportation, parenting information

**Counties Serving:**

Henry and St. Clair Counties

**SURVIVAL**

Adult Abuse, Inc.  
Dave Garner  
Karen  
P.O. Box 344  
Warrensburg,  
MO 64093  
(816) 429-1088 (Office)  
(816) 429-1088 (Fax)

**Services:**

shelter, crisis intervention, legal advocacy, support groups

**Counties Serving:**

Johnson County

**NORTH CENTRAL MISSOURI WOMEN'S ABUSE SHELTER**

Virginia Daniels  
P.O. Box 30  
Trenton, MO 64683  
(816) 359-3297 (Office)  
(816) 359-4129 (Fax)  
(800) 942-0649 (Hotline)

**Services:**

advocacy and referral

**Counties Serving:**

Caldwell, Davies, Grundy, Harrison, Linn, Livingston, Mercer, Putnam and Sullivan  
Counties

**YWCA WOMEN'S SHELTER**

Diana Taylor  
Mary Gilchrist  
304 N. 8th  
St. Joseph, MO 64501  
(816) 232-4481 (Office)  
(800) 653-1477 (Hotline)  
(816) 232-1225 (Hotline)

**Services:**

shelter, legal/court advocacy, counseling, referrals, children's services, support groups,  
men's counseling and support groups, education program, child care

**Counties Serving:**

Andrew, Buchanan, Clinton, DeKalb and Nodaway Counties

**HOPE HAVEN OF CASS COUNTY**

Amy Taylor  
Gerri Jackson  
P.O. Box 754  
Harrisonville, MO 64701  
(816) 380-4663 (Office)  
(800) 380-4663 (Hotline)

**Services:**

shelter, legal advocacy, counseling for women and children, outreach services

**Counties Serving:**

Cass and Bates Counties



## Organizing for Services

### **GENTRY/WORTH COUNTIES HELP LINE**

Rev. Sandra Crater  
302 North Smith  
Albany, MO 64402  
(816) 726-5828 (Office)

**Services:**

organizing help line and women's support group

### **HOUSE OF HOPE, INC.**

Shirley A. Guevel  
1001 Main Street  
Lexington, MO 64067

## SOUTHEAST REGION

1995

### **Shelters/Safehomes**

#### **CASA GUADALUPE**

Lois Martens  
Anne Francioni  
P.O. Box 417  
Ellington, MO 63638  
(573) 663-2720 (Hotline and Office)

**Services:**

shelter, safehomes, legal/court advocacy, counseling, support groups, children's services, transitional housing, outreach services, parenting classes

**Counties Serving:**

Carter, Iron, Reynolds and Wayne Counties

#### **THE LIBERTY SHELTER-THE CENTER FOR FAMILY RESOURCES**

Kathie Miller  
Faye Dockins  
P.O. Box 207  
Malden, MO 63863  
(573) 276-5500 (Office and Fax)  
(573) 276-2955 (Hotline)

**Services:**

shelter, legal advocacy, counseling, children's groups, support groups, referrals, men's counseling, parenting classes, outreach services

**Counties Serving:**

Dunklin, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Scott and Stoddard Counties

#### **HAVEN HOUSE, INC.**

Mary Ann Allen  
Nancy Stewart  
P.O. Box 4875  
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901  
(573) 686-4873 (Office)  
(573) 686-6416 (Fax)

(800) 491-1138 (Hotline)

**Services:**

shelter, counseling, support groups, social services advocacy, transportation

**Counties Serving:**

Butler, Carter, Ripley, Stoddard and Wayne Counties

**SAFE HOUSE FOR WOMEN, INC.**

Bonnie Gerecke

Debra Willis-Hamilton

P.O. Box 1167

Cape Girardeau, MO 63702

(573) 335-7745 (Office)

(573) 335-6435 (Fax)

(573) 651-1614 (Hotline)

**Services:**

shelter, legal/court advocacy, counseling, support groups, children's services, local transportation, food/clothing assistance and referrals

**Counties Serving:**

Cape Girardeau, Dunklin, New Madrid, Reynolds and Stoddard Counties

**NEW WAY SHELTER SOUTHEAST MISSOURI FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNCIL**

Mary Ann Taylor

Mary Pyatt

P.O. Box 934

Farmington, MO 63640

(573) 358-3913 (Office)

(800) 663-9929 (Hotline)

(573) 358-3913 (Fax - call first)

**Services:**

safehomes, support groups, temp. shelter, legal/ court advocacy, parenting groups, community education, sexual assault crisis intervention and shelter

**Counties Serving:**

Iron, Madison, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve and Washington Counties

**PERRY COUNTY WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTER**

Michelle Riehn

Janice Lundy

434 North West

Perryville, MO 63775

(573) 547-2480 (Office)

(573) 547-2536 (Fax)

(573) 547-0737 (Hotline)

**Services:**

shelter, crisis intervention, legal/court advocacy, women/children counseling, community education

**Counties Serving:**

Perry County

**EPWORTH BOOTHEEL FAMILY LEARNING CENTER**

Dr. Martha Black, Ph.D.

Mary Robinson  
P.O. Box 249  
East Prairie, MO 63845  
(573) 649-3731 (Office)  
(573) 649-5028 (Fax)

**Services:**

shelter, crisis intervention, legal advocacy, support groups, counseling, day care

**Counties Serving:**

Mississippi County

**Organizing for Services**

**RIPLEY COUNTY FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNSEL**

Diane E. Groves  
Nancy Powell  
Route 2, Box 20  
Doniphan, MO 63935  
(573) 996-2175 (Office)  
(573) 996-2238 (Fax)

**Services:**

motel placement, support group, transportation, victim mentor program

**Counties Serving:**

Ripley County

**ST. LOUIS METROPOLITAN REGION**

**September 1996**

**Shelters/Safehomes**

**ST. MARTHA'S HALL**

Michelle Schiller-Baker  
Chris Heckendorn  
P.O. Box 4950  
St. Louis, MO 63108  
(314) 533-1313 (Office and Hotline)  
(314) 533-2035 (Fax)

**Services:**

shelter, legal/court advocacy, children's services, counseling, support groups, community education

**Counties Serving:**

St. Louis City and County, St. Charles and Jefferson Counties

**FORTRESS OUTREACH**

Irma Jenkins  
P O. Box 2115  
Florissant, MO 63032-2115  
(314) 653-1500 (Office)  
(314) 921-8398 (Fax)  
(314) 381-4422 (Hotline)

**Services:**

safehomes, counseling, support groups, children's counseling, transitional housing, outreach services

***Counties Serving:***

St. Louis County North

**KATHY J. WEINMAN SHELTER FOR ABUSED WOMEN**

Michelle Schiller-Baker  
Chris Heckendorn  
P.O. Box 5852  
St. Louis, MO 63134  
(314) 423-1117 (Office and Hotline)  
(314) 423-7537 (Fax)

***Services:***

shelter, counseling, legal/court advocacy, children's services, support groups, community education

***Counties Serving:***

St. Louis City and County, St. Charles and Jefferson Counties

**THE WOMEN'S CENTER**

Meg Schnabel  
Peggy Krash  
P.O. Box 51  
St. Charles, MO 63302  
(314) 946-6854 (Office and Hotline)  
(314) 946-6897 (Fax)

***Services:***

shelter, counseling, legal/court advocacy, children's services, support groups

***Counties Serving:***

Lincoln, St. Charles, St. Louis and Warren Counties

**THE WOMEN'S SAFEHOUSE**

Margaret Caven  
Eloise Golden  
P.O. Box 63010  
St. Louis, MO 63163  
(314) 772-4535 (Office and Hotline)  
(314) 772-8952 (Fax - call first)

***Services:***

shelter, advocacy, court escort, children's services, support groups

***Counties Serving:***

St. Louis City and County

**Counseling Services and Sexual Assault Services**

**ALIVE, INC.**

Elizabeth Stoodley  
Jessica Sloan-McCoy  
P.O. Box 11201  
St. Louis, MO 63105  
(314) 993-7080 (Office)  
(314) 567-5629 (Fax)  
(314) 993-2777 (Hotline)

***Services:***

crisis intervention, legal/court advocacy, individual counseling, support groups

***Counties Serving:***

St. Louis City and County and St. Charles County

**WOMEN'S SELF HELP CENTER**

Barbara Bennett  
Kathleen Sharkey  
2838 Olive  
St. Louis, MO 63103  
(314) 531-9100 (Office)  
(314) 531-3449 (Fax)  
(314) 531-2003 (Hotline)

***Services:***

crisis intervention, sexual assault/domestic violence counseling, community education

***Counties Serving:***

St. Louis City and County, Jefferson and St. Charles Counties

**LIFE SOURCE CONSULTANTS**

Gloria Johnson, Ph.D.  
Joanna Johnson  
P.O. Box 5752  
St. Louis, MO 63121-0752  
(314) 385-8588 (Office)  
(314) 385-8364 (Fax)  
(314) 385-8686 (Hotline)

***Services:***

crisis intervention, counseling, support groups, outreach, education

***Counties Serving:***

St. Louis Metro Area, St. Louis County, St. Charles

**SOUTHSIDE WOMEN'S CENTER**

C.J. Brotherton  
2632a Iowa  
St. Louis, MO 63118  
(314) 776-6727 (Office)  
(314) 569-1399 (Fax)

***Services:***

sexual assault and domestic violence counseling, legal/court advocacy, support groups, community education, referrals, day care, conflict resolution services and training, education for parenting, career and health issues

***Counties Serving:***

St. Louis City and County, East St. Louis, Belleville, St. Charles and Jefferson Counties

**YWCA: WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER**

Pat Randall  
140 N. Brentwood Blvd.  
Clayton, MO 63105  
(314) 776-6665 (Office)  
(314) 727-1372 (Fax)

**Services:**

counseling, sexual assault, victim assistance, family counseling, support groups, school-based group for teen parents, hospital crisis intervention and follow-up

**Counties Serving:**

St. Louis City and County

**WOMEN'S COUNSELING COLLECTIVE**

Kim Anderson

Debra Kuhn

7818 Forsyth, Suite 209

St. Louis, MO 63105

(314) 727-4152 (Office)

(314) 727-4157 (Fax)

**Services:**

counseling, sexual assault and domestic violence, legal advocacy, support groups

**Counties Serving:**

St. Louis City and County

**Legal Advocacy/Court Based Services**

**LAAW-LEGAL ADVOCATES FOR ABUSED WOMEN**

Lynn Rothbarth

Jennifer Mathis

3115 South Grand Avenue Suite 102

St. Louis, MO 63118

(314) 664-7465 (Office)

(314) 664-7412 (Fax)

(314) 664-7475 (Hotline)

(800) 527-1460 (Hotline)

**Services:**

legal representation and court advocacy, crisis intervention, referrals, community outreach

**Counties Serving:**

Franklin, Jefferson, St. Charles, St. Louis City and County, Warren and Washington Counties

**LASTING SOLUTIONS LEGAL SERVICES OF EASTERN MISSOURI**

Anne Hegeman

4232 Forest Park

St. Louis, MO 63108

(314) 534-4200 (Office)

(314) 534-1028 (Fax)

(800) 444-0514 (Hotline)

**Services:**

legal/court advocacy, counseling, referrals

**Counties Serving:**

St. Louis extended region

**ST. CHARLES VICTIM OF CRIME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Maggie Lipman

Ann Kuhn

300 N. Second Street

St. Charles, MO 63301  
(314) 949-7370 (Office)  
(314) 949-7360 (Fax)

**Services:**

advocacy, sexual assault and DV counseling, legal/court advocacy, women's counseling/group counseling

**Counties Serving:**

St. Charles County

**ST. LOUIS CIRCUIT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE- VICTIM SERVICES**

Kim Norman  
JoAnn Miller  
1320 Market, Room 222  
St. Louis, MO 63103  
(314) 622-4373 (Office)  
(314) 622-3369 (Fax)

**Services:**

court advocacy, counseling, referral, children's groups, men's counseling, witness relocation, assistance with victim compensation reimbursement emergency fund, court escorts, internship program

**Counties Serving:**

St. Louis City

**VICTIM SERVICE COUNCIL**

Kathleen Tofall  
Allyn Hoke  
7900 Carondelet, 4th Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63105  
(314) 889-3075 (Office)  
(314) 854-7590 (Fax)

**Services:**

legal/court advocacy, assistance with orders of protection, crisis intervention, referrals

**Counties Serving:**

St. Louis County

**Related Services**

**AWARE**

Sue Dersch  
c/o Women's Education Services, Barnes Hospital  
#1 Barnes Hospital Plaza  
St. Louis, MO 63110  
(314) 362-9273 (Office)  
(314) 362-3946 (Fax)  
(314) 453-2227 (Pager)

**Services:**

hospital based advocacy for domestic violence, counseling for women, education for hospital staff and health care professionals, referrals

**Counties Serving:**

St. Louis Metro Area, St. Louis County, St. Charles and Jefferson Counties

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

Geri Redden  
3500 Giles  
St. Louis, MO 63116  
(314) 771-1116 (Office)  
(314) 771-1593 (Fax)

**Services:**

education and training programs concerning family violence and related issues

**Counties Serving:**

St. Louis and State of Missouri

**HAVEN**

Sidney Kendall  
Pat Janowski  
c/o F.V.C. Church  
1325 N. Highway 67  
Florissant, MO 63031  
(314) 837-6767 (Office)

**Services:**

supporting organization for the Kathy J. Weinman Shelter and educational group, also provides community training

**Counties Serving:**

St. Louis City and North St. Louis County

**LYDIA'S HOUSE, INC.**

Mary Albert  
Martha Brunell  
P.O. Box 2722  
St. Louis, MO 63116  
(314) 865-3040

**Services:**

transitional housing, support group for women, spiritual support group

**Counties Serving:**

St. Louis City

**SOCIAL CONCERNS/AGING CONSULTANTS**

Rebecca Rengo  
Debbie Emmelkemp  
10425 Old Olive St. Rd. #7  
Creve Coeur, MO 63141  
(314) 997-7578 (Office)  
(314) 997-7578 (Fax)  
(314) 997-7278 (Hotline)

**Services:**

in-home counseling care management for persons with disabilities and older women and men

**Counties Serving:**

St. Louis City and County, Jefferson, Franklin and St. Charles Counties Counties

**Services for Men**



**RAVEN**

Mark Moloney  
Teresa Willis  
Susan Wise  
Mary Sue Guenther  
7314 Manchester  
2nd Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63143  
(314) 645-2492 (Office)  
(314) 645-2075 (Hotline)

**Services:**

batterer's intervention services, support group, counseling for men who batter, community education

**Counties Serving:**

St. Louis City and County, Franklin, Jefferson Counties and Edwardsville, Madison, St. Clair Counties, Illinois

**ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE AND ABUSE THE WOMEN'S CENTER**

Jim Read  
Meg Schnabel  
P.O. Box 51  
St. Charles, MO 63302  
(314) 949-9940 (Office)

**Services:**

intervention and education, classes for batterers, community education, in- service training and workshops

**Counties Serving:**

St. Charles, St. Louis, Lincoln and Warren Counties

**SOUTHWEST REGION**

**September 1996**

**Shelters/Safehomes**

**AGAPE HOUSE**

Joan Smith Lawson  
Rita Cunningham  
P.O. Box 550  
Mountain View, MO 65548  
(417) 934-1811 (Office and Hotline)

**Services:**

shelter, counseling, support groups, children's services, transportation, parenting classes

**Counties Serving:**

Howell, Ozark, Douglas, Oregon, Shannon, Texas and Wright Counties

**CHRISTOS HOUSE**

Pat Jones  
Kathy Barron  
P.O. Box 771  
West Plains, MO 65775  
(417) 256-9255 (Hotline)

(417) 257-3289 (Fax)

**Services:**

shelter, legal/court advocacy, counseling, support groups, children's services

**Counties Serving:**

Douglas, Howell, Oregon, Ozark, Shannon, Texas and Wright Counties

**COPE-COUNCIL FOR THE PREVENTION OF FAMILY VIOLENCE**

Dorothy Dewitt

Joy Turner

P.O. Box 1281

Lebanon, MO 65536

(417) 532-2885 (Office)

(417) 588-9773 (Hotline)

**Services:**

shelter, legal/court advocacy, support groups, community education, counseling

**Counties Serving:**

Laclede, Dallas, Camden and Pulaski Counties

**FAMILY VIOLENCE CENTER, INC.**

Stella Harrison

P.O. Box 5972

Springfield, MO 65801

(417) 837-7700 (Office)

(417) 837-7707 (Fax)

(417) 837-7777 (Hotline)

(800) 831-6863 (Hotline)

**Services:**

shelter, community education, children's services, support groups, legal/court advocacy, counseling

**Counties Serving:**

Cedar, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Douglas, Greene, Laclede, Lawrence, Ozark, Phelps, Polk, Stone, Taney, Texas, Webster and Wright Counties

**HARBOR LIGHTS**

Laurie Domsch

Dee Stott

P.O. Box 398

Kimberling City, MO 65686

(417) 739-2118 (Office)

(417) 739-5883 (Fax)

(800) 831-6863 (Hotline)

**Services:**

safehomes, legal/court advocacy, counseling, support groups, community education, transitional housing, outreach office

**Counties Serving:**

Stone and Taney Counties

**LAFAYETTE HOUSE**

Dr. Sherry Gant, Ph.D.

Alison Malinowski

1809 Connor

Joplin, MO 64804  
(417) 782-1772 (Office)  
(417) 782-3832 (Fax)  
(800) 416-1772 (Hotline)

***Services:***

shelter, rape crisis, counseling, referral, children's services, community education, legal/court advocacy, support groups, day care, outreach office, batterers' groups

***Counties Serving:***

Barry, Barton, Dade, Jasper, Lawrence, McDonald and Newton Counties

**MOSS HOUSE-COUNCIL ON FAMILIES IN CRISIS**

Martha Sander  
Julie Leonard  
415 N. Main  
Nevada, MO 64772  
(417) 667-7171 (Office)  
(800) 398-4271 (Hotline)

***Services:***

shelter, referrals, legal/court advocacy, counseling, community education, children's services, support groups, education, outreach office

***Counties Serving:***

Barton, Bates, Cedar, Dade, St. Clair and Vernon Counties

**WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTER OF TANEY COUNTY**

Sandra Patton  
P.O. Box 282  
Branson, MO 65615  
(417) 335-5181 (Office)  
(417) 335-3197 (Hotline)

***Services:***

safehomes, referrals, support groups, advocacy, counseling, outreach office, transportation

***Counties Serving:***

Taney County

**MARY SHAW BUTLER SHELTER FOR HICKORY COUNTY**

Patty Koehler  
Brad Coates  
P.O. Box 402  
Hermitage, MO 65668  
(417) 745-2146 (Office)  
(417) 745-2267 (Fax)

***Services:***

safehomes, legal/court advocacy, support groups

***Counties Serving:***

Hickory, S. Benton, E. St. Clair, N. Polk and W. Dallas Counties

**Related Services**

**LAKES COUNTRY REHABILITATION CENTER**

Roberta Routh

Joplin, MO 64804  
(417) 782-1772 (Office)  
(417) 782-3832 (Fax)  
(800) 416-1772 (Hotline)

***Services:***

shelter, rape crisis, counseling, referral, children's services, community education, legal/court advocacy, support groups, day care, outreach office, batterers' groups

***Counties Serving:***

Barry, Barton, Dade, Jasper, Lawrence, McDonald and Newton Counties

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Julie Leonard  
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(417) 667-7171 (Office)  
(800) 398-4271 (Hotline)

***Services:***

shelter, referrals, legal/court advocacy, counseling, community education, children's services, support groups, education, outreach office

***Counties Serving:***

Barton, Bates, Cedar, Dade, St. Clair and Vernon Counties

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(417) 335-3197 (Hotline)

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***Counties Serving:***

Taney County

**MARY SHAW BUTLER SHELTER FOR HICKORY COUNTY**

Patty Koehler  
Brad Coates  
P.O. Box 402  
Hermitage, MO 65668  
(417) 745-2146 (Office)  
(417) 745-2267 (Fax)

***Services:***

safehomes, legal/court advocacy, support groups

***Counties Serving:***

Hickory, S. Benton, E. St. Clair, N. Polk and W. Dallas Counties

**Related Services**

**LAKES COUNTRY REHABILITATION CENTER**

Roberta Routh

2626 W. College Road  
Springfield, MO 65802  
(417) 862-1753 (Office)  
(417) 864-5621 (Fax)

**Services:**

substance abuse counseling statewide

**Organizing for Services**

**NEIGHBORS AGAINST VIOLENT BEHAVIOR**

Donna K. Brengle  
101 W. Church, Apt. B  
Ozark, MO 65721  
(417) 581-7392

**Services:**

organizing education programs for schools

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