

Domestic Violence

Important Questions and Answers about Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence Assistance



The Seekonk Police Department has partnered with New Hope to provide a Civilian Advocate to assist victims of sexual and/or domestic violence. The advocate works out of the Seekonk Police Department 5 hours per week to provide follow-up and referral services to all victims of sexual and/or domestic violence.

Civilian Advocate Marta (508) 336-8123 ext. 51122

www.new-hope.org or 1 (800) 323-HOPE (4673)

A printable brochure (PDF) is also available on this page which contains resources for victims of sexual or domestic violence, courtesy of the Bristol County District Attorney's Office.

Domestic Violence

Important Questions and Answers about Domestic Violence

- **What is domestic violence?**

Domestic Violence or family violence is the abuse of power and or control. It is behavior used by one person to control another through force or threats. A batterer makes a choice to strike, hit, kick, punch or threaten the victim. Domestic violence includes physical and sexual attacks and threats. These violent acts are criminal and the batterer can be prosecuted for committing them. The acts are a means of controlling the victim's thoughts, feelings and behavior. The violence does not lessen over time. The threats and or beatings generally happen more often with time, last longer and cause greater physical injuries.

Emotional abuse and insulting words are almost always part of the abuse pattern, but are not considered criminal acts. The wounds from these injuries however, may be more difficult to heal. Domestic violence is not caused by or provoked by the actions or inaction's of the victim. Domestic violence is not directly caused by alcohol or drug abuse, depression, lack of money, lack of a job, mental illness or abuse as a child. However, existing problems often create additional stress in a relationship and may increase the risk of violence. Many abusers blame the victim or other things for their violent acts and do not take responsibility for the abusive behavior. There is never an excuse for violence.

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