

City of Janesville

Domestic Violence Resource Guide



National Domestic Violence

24-Hour Hotline:

1-800-799-SAFE

(Assistance available in English & Spanish with access to over
140 languages through interpreter services)

TTY: 1-800-787-3224

**IF THIS IS AN EMERGENCY, DIAL 911
IMMEDIATELY!**

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Disclaimer

This guide was written in conjunction with the Janesville Police Department and the Rock County District Attorney's Office for the purpose of providing the citizens of Janesville with information and resources on Domestic Violence. Some of the information contained in this guide was adapted from materials provided by the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project of Duluth, MN. Many of the resources contained in this guide have not been independently evaluated or endorsed by the Janesville Police Department or the Rock County District Attorney's Office. **The contents of this guide are for reference purposes only and do not constitute legal advice.**

The information in this guide is current as of August 2010. Laws, policies, and resources on Domestic Violence change often and therefore, this resource guide is a work in progress that will be updated on an as-needed basis.

IF THIS IS AN EMERGENCY, DIAL 911 IMMEDIATELY!

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic Violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner.

Domestic Violence includes willful intimidation, assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior including emotional, psychological, and/or economic abuse perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It is an epidemic effecting individuals in every community, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, or educational background. Violence against an intimate partner is often accompanied by emotionally abusive and controlling behavior, and thus is a part of a systematic pattern of dominance and control. Domestic violence may result in physical injury, psychological trauma, and sometimes death. The consequences of domestic violence can cross generations and truly last a lifetime.¹

In Wisconsin, *domestic abuse*² is defined as any of the following engaged in by an adult person against his or her spouse or former spouse, against an adult with whom the person resides or formerly resided or against an adult with whom the person has a child in common:

1. Intentional infliction of physical pain, physical injury or illness.
2. Intentional impairment of physical condition.
3. First-, second-, or third-degree sexual assault.
4. A physical act that may cause the other person reasonably to fear imminent engagement in the conduct described above.

¹ National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Office on Violence Against Women.

² See Wis. Stat. § 968.075 (2010).



DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION PROJECT

202 East Superior Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802
218-722-2781
www.duluth-model.org

TYPES OF ABUSE

Physical Abuse – includes punching, slapping, hitting, pinching, choking, grabbing, shoving, use of a weapon, forcing to use alcohol or drugs.

Sexual Abuse – includes coerced or forced sexual intercourse or contact, undermining a person's sexuality, forcing unprotected sex, and includes rape in marriage.

Verbal/Emotional Abuse – includes name-calling, insults, put-downs, belittling, threats, silent treatment, and criticism.

Psychological Abuse – includes intimidation, isolation from family and friends, harassment, and attempts to control one's behavior.

Economic Abuse – includes attempts to make someone financially dependent, refusal to pay bills, keeping someone from work or school, controlling all income, harassing someone at work, requiring justification and accounting for all monies spent.

Legal Abuse – includes dragging out legal/custody proceedings, refusing to pay support or alimony, withholding assets, fighting for custody solely to maintain control over the victim's whereabouts, and using immigration status as a tool to control.

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

Violence is just as frequent and serious in teen relationships as it is in adult relationships. Even though teen relationships may be different from adult relationships in many ways, teens do experience the same types of physical, sexual, verbal and emotional abuse that adults do.

One out of every three teens experiences some type of abuse in their romantic relationships, including verbal and emotional abuse. Forty percent of teenage girls, ages 14 to 17, report knowing someone their age who has been hit or beaten by their partner.

Teens also face unique obstacles if they decide to get help. Unlike many adults, teens may not have money, transportation, or safe places to go. They may have concerns about lack of confidentiality, reports to police and child protective services, and parental notification. But teens do have rights to a safe and healthy relationship.³

If you or someone you know is experiencing teen dating violence, call the National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline at **1-866-331-9474** or <http://www.loveisrespect.org/>. For additional resources, visit The Safe Place at <http://www.thesafespace.org/>.

³ Break the Cycle at <http://www.thesafespace.org/>.

ELDER ABUSE

“Elder Abuse” refers to intentional or neglectful acts by a caregiver or trusted individual that lead to, or may lead to, harm of a vulnerable elder. Physical abuse; neglect; emotional or psychological abuse; verbal abuse and threats; financial abuse and exploitation; sexual abuse and abandonment are all considered to be forms of elder abuse.⁴

Elder abuse can occur anywhere – in the home, in nursing homes, or other institutions. It affects seniors across all socio-economic groups, cultures, and races.⁵ According to the best available estimates, between 1 and 2 million Americans age 65 or older have been injured, exploited, or otherwise mistreated by someone on whom they depended for care or protection.⁶ Isolation, dementia, other mental health issues and substance abuse issues are all significant risk factors for victimization.⁷

If you or someone you know is experiencing elder abuse, call the Rock County Human Services Department at **608-741-3555** (8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday; after hours, call 608-757-5025).

For additional resources, visit the National Center on Elder Abuse at http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/ncearoot/Main_Site/index.aspx and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services at <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aging/elderabuse/index.htm>.

⁴ “Why Should I Care About Elder Abuse?”, National Center on Elder Abuse.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Elder Mistreatment: Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation in an Aging America. 2003. Washington, DC: National Research Council Panel to Review Risk and Prevalence of Elder Abuse and Neglect.

⁷ “Why Should I Care About Elder Abuse?”, National Center on Elder Abuse.

SAME-SEX DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is just as prevalent in same-sex relationships as it is in opposite-sex relationships. At least one in four gay and lesbian partners will experience domestic violence in his or her lifetime.⁸ All domestic violence is about one partner asserting power and control over the other partner by the use of verbal, emotional, economic, sexual and/or physical abuse.

In addition to many of the same that dynamics that characterize domestic violence in opposite-sex relationships, domestic violence in same-sex relationships is often accompanied by a fear of being outed should the victim seeks assistance and a fear that the abuse will not be taken seriously because it is occurring in a same-sex relationship.⁹

MULTI-CULTURAL/IMMIGRANT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Immigrants that are victims of domestic violence may be less likely to report abuse than non-immigrant victims due to language barriers, cultural differences, and fear of deportation if they are not legally documented to live in the U.S. The Violence Against Women Act allows *some* abused immigrants to obtain lawful permanent residence without their spouse's cooperation. All domestic violence victims who rely on the abuser for immigration status should consult with an immigration attorney specializing in domestic violence remedies. To be directed to an immigration specialists, call the National 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline at **1-800-799-SAFE**.

⁸ National Coalition of Anti-Violence Projects (NCAVP).

⁹ Similarities & Differences: Between Opposite-Sex and Same-Sex Domestic Violence Information Sheet, Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy Project.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS

- The Janesville police department responds to approximately 700 domestic related calls per year. In 2009 over 400 arrests were made for domestic violence violations.
- 2/3rds of all homicides that have occurred in the city of Janesville have been domestic related. Janesville had one domestic related homicide in both 2008 and 2009.
- In 2009, 60 deaths were attributed to domestic violence in Wisconsin.
- Approximately 1.5 million women are physically assaulted by an intimate partner annually in the United States.
National Institute of Justice & Centers For Disease Control, National Violence Against Women Survey, 1998.
- 90-95% of domestic violence victims are women, as many as 95% of domestic violence perpetrators are men.
Tjaden, P. & Thoennes, N. (July 2000). Extent, nature, and consequences of intimate partner violence findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey. (Publication #NCJ181867). National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Washington, DC:Office of Justice Programs.
- Each day, more than three women in the United States are murdered by a male intimate partner.
United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Violence by Intimates, 2000.
- Among victims of violence committed by an intimate, the victimization rate of women separated from their husbands was about 3 times higher than that of divorced women and about 25 times higher than that of married women.
Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Study, 1995.
- One-third to one-half of homeless women are on the street because they are fleeing domestic violence.
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, 1990.
- 3 million children in the United States are exposed to domestic violence in their homes each year.
American Psychology Association, Violence in the Family: Report of the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Violence in the Family, 1996.
- In Wisconsin:

- There were 29,769 domestic abuse incidents reported to law enforcement and referred to district attorney's offices in Wisconsin in 2008;
- There were 54 domestic homicides reported in 23 counties in 2008; and
- In 2008, the most common relationship between domestic violence offenders and victims was that of spouse/ex-spouse (29%), followed closely by partners/ex-partners from a dating relationship (25%) and cohabitants/ex-cohabitants (22%).

Wisconsin Department of Justice Domestic Abuse Incident Report (Jan-Dec 2008).

LOCAL RESOURCES:

YWCA OF ROCK COUNTY

The YWCA of Rock County offers numerous resources to victims of domestic violence, including the Alternatives to Violence Program and the Transitional Living Program.

The YWCA Alternatives to Violence Program provides confidential emergency and crisis intervention services such as emergency shelter for women and children, individual case management and group support for shelter residents and walk-ins, child/youth advocacy and group support for children in shelter and walk-ins, advocacy and group support for abuse later in life, and legal advocacy for assistance with restraining orders, custody and visitation, and the legal process. For more information about this program, please visit the YWCA website by clicking [here](#).

The YWCA Transitional Living Program offers women seeking to rebuild their lives a supportive, violence-free community, with 12 months of subsidized housing, and up to 24 months of advocacy and support. Applicants for the Transitional Living Program must be homeless, abused or formerly abused, and ready to work on their recovery. Available units can accommodate both families and women without children. To obtain more information on recovery services and unit availability, please contact [TLP Program Director](#).

For additional information and tips regarding restraining orders, click [here](#).
For information on developing a safety plan, click [here](#).

JANESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION TEAM (DVI TEAM)

The Domestic Violence Intervention Team understands the unique and personal nature of domestic violence offenses and recognizes the importance of an immediate, comprehensive, and compassionate response to the needs of victims. The Domestic Violence Intervention Team was established to provide victims with immediate access to safety planning resources; to identify those individuals that are at the greatest risk of re-victimization and provide them with immediate assistance; to reduce recidivism; and to hold offenders accountable for their actions. By reconnecting with a victim of domestic violence within 72-hours of an incident, DVI officers are able to making referrals to domestic violence advocates for resources such as shelter, counseling, and legal assistance.

ROCK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The purpose of Rock County's Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP) is to end violence by the perpetrator and keep all family members safe. Domestic violence crimes are always serious because the victim and offender are likely to be in a relationship.

The courts and DVIP are interested in teaching the abuser consequences for his/her violent choices and new beliefs and actions to stop the intimidation, controlling tactics, and violence. To be eligible, the assistant district attorney must refer the defendant to the program. The defendant must accept responsibility for the crime and be willing to participate in DVIP.

Programming for the abuser often includes referrals to outside agencies for alcohol and drug treatment, individual or group counseling, and parenting classes, in addition to the Domestic Violence Intervention groups.

Completion of the program usually results in the assistant district attorney giving credit to the defendant by either amending the case to a county ordinance for a forfeiture or a lesser fine on a state charge.

For more information about the Domestic Violence Intervention Program or to contact this office, click [here](#).

VICTIM/WITNESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM & VINE

The mission of the Victim/Witness Assistance Program is to provide moral support, information about the criminal court process, and referrals and services to victims of crime, witnesses of crime, and their families. Being a victim or witness of a crime is a difficult and often traumatic experience. The Victim/Witness Assistance Program was established to assist victims, witnesses and family members of homicide victims in understanding how the criminal court process works. Victims of crime have certain rights. The Victim/Witness Assistance Program will try to make your experience within the criminal justice system as comfortable as possible while understanding the tremendous impact that any crime has on the personal life of the victim, witnesses and family members.


For assistance, please feel free to contact the Victim/Witness Assistance Program at (608) 757-5569 (M – F, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm) or click [here](#) for more information.

Rock County's VINE (Victim Information & Notification Everyday) system is an anonymous and confidential service designed to empower and protect crime victims, improve public safety, and assist corrections, law enforcement and victim service providers by providing information about offenders in custody. Victims and other citizens can register for VINE by calling the toll-free number, 1-888-WI4-VINE (1-888-944-8463) or visiting the website at <http://www.vineline.com>. Registration allows you to receive automated telephone notification and/or email notification when there is a change in the offender's custody status.

OTHER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCES

- Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence, <http://www.wcadv.org/>.
- National Network to End Domestic Violence, <http://www.nnedv.org/>.

 United Way First Call, <http://www.firstcallrock.com/Default.aspx>.

 Beloit Domestic Violence Center,
http://www.fsofswani.org/beloit_domestic_violence_center.htm.