



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is a pattern of physically, sexually, verbally and/or emotionally abusive behaviors used by one individual to assert power or maintain control over another in the context of an intimate or family relationship. Behaviors may also include harassment, threat or harm.

Are You a Victim?

- Verbally insult, demean or threaten you?
- Isolate you from friends, family or other people? Do they become excessively jealous, possessive and/or angry in attempt to control you?
- Organize schedules to follow or harass you?
- Limit your mobility or access to money and/or other resources?
- Explode into a rage and abusive behaviors after using drugs and/or alcohol?
- Negate your words, abilities, ideas and actions?
- Choke, punch, slap, kick, pull hair, bite, throw things, abuse or damage your personal belongings or force you to have sex?
- Excuse each attack and promise to stop?

If you answered “yes” to some of these questions, you may be in an abusive relationship. However, you are not alone. Whether you need information, support, or a safe place to stay, Housing and Human Services has people who can help. Call 703-248-5005.

Protective Orders

A Protective Order is a civil order designed for people who are experiencing family abuse. Protective Orders can:

- Order the respondent to refrain from acts of family abuse against you
- Prohibit contact between the abuser and you, including in person, phone and/or mail contact with you
- Give you temporary possession of your residence
- Order the abuser to stay away from you, your children, or any family members
- Order the abuser to stay away from your residence and/or place of employment
- Order the abuser into a counseling program

Kinds of Protective Orders

- **Emergency Protective Order (EPO)**
 - requested by petitioner at time of the incident. EPOs are not issued by the City Court Services Unit. Requests are made by contacting the Arlington County Magistrate office at 703-228-3962/TTY 711.
 - valid for 72 hours or until 5:00 pm the next day that court is in session
- **Preliminary Protective Orders (PPO)**
 - petition Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court before expiration of EPO. City residents may contact Falls Church Court Services Unit at 703-248-5430/TTY 711.
 - valid 15 days and must be personally served on respondent to be enforceable
- **Protective Order**
 - entered by the judge at the final hearing
 - valid up to two years from date of issuance and must be personally served on respondent to be enforceable
 - valid in all fifty states and US territories, so wherever you go, you must carry it with you.

Who can get a Protective Order?

If you are related or married to, living together in the last 12 months or have children in common with the abuser, you are eligible to apply for a protective order. City residents may contact Arlington County Magistrate office at 703-228-3962/TTY 711 for an Emergency Protective Order; or Falls Church Court Services Unit at 703-248-5430/TTY 711 for Preliminary Protective Orders.

Safety Plan

A safety plan is designed to help a victim consider options and develop plan of action when living in an abusive relationship. Plan without abuser's knowledge, and include children if possible.

- Call Women's shelter 703-435-4940 or family violence hotline 703-360-7273
- Have money, clothes, important papers, and extra keys concealed in a safe place in case you need to leave in a hurry. A safe place may include a neighbor or friend's house, or hidden by the front door.
- Think through all possible escape routes and plan where you will go.
- Do emergency drills with children. Teach them how to dial 911.
- If you have a protective order, carry it with you at all times.

The City of Falls Church is committed to the letter and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The City of Falls Church is committed to the letter and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

This document will be made available in alternate format upon request. Call 703 248-5005, (TTY 711).