



NNADV

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COVERING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: A GUIDE FOR MEDIA PROFESSIONALS

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August 2014

This project was supported by Grant No. 2012-DW-AX-0021 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

INTRODUCTION

When covering a situation that involves domestic violence, this guide provides the novice and experienced media professional with practical tips to guide your work with community-based and statewide domestic violence organizations, their advocates, volunteers, and survivors. In addition to covering the situation, you, as a journalist, are in a unique position to educate the general public about the complex issues surrounding domestic violence. You will learn what, where, and how services are offered to survivors. In addition, you will be able to assure the people in your community that these organizations are ready and able to respond in a caring way to help victims of domestic violence and their children as they work toward a violence-free life.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence (NNADV) wishes to acknowledge the work of numerous statewide coalitions, national technical assistance providers and other reputable sources in public relations who are willing to share their work on this topic. Our focus is to compile and condense the information from these sources into an easy-to-read and user-friendly format for media professionals. The resources used in the making of this publication are listed at the end of this document for further reference.



A special thank you to the media professionals for their time and expertise in reviewing this publication. The NNADV commends your willingness to learn and share ideas about domestic violence and how it is reported to the community. Your part in educating the community on domestic violence is instrumental, because your stories shape how people think about domestic violence.

ABOUT THE NEVADA NETWORK AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In 1980, the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence was founded when four programs providing services to survivors of domestic violence – Advocates to End Domestic Violence in Carson City, Committee Against Domestic Violence in Elko County, Committee to Aid Abused Women in Washoe County, and Temporary Assistance for Women (now known as Safe Nest) in Clark County met at Maya Miller’s ranch in Washoe Valley. During this meeting, four program administrators driven by their passion and commitment to end domestic violence created a statewide coalition and christened it the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence. From this grassroots effort, a new coalition was on its 30+ year odyssey to support the work of community-based advocacy programs.

What began as a handful of individuals, many strictly volunteer; has become a community of supporters, advocates and service providers. NNADV is proud of a past filled with challenges and triumphs; confident in a present that offers opportunities and openings for real change; and excited about a future where violence is not a way of life for families.

Currently, the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence provides statewide advocacy, education, and support of the front-line organizations that help those impacted by domestic violence and their families. The purpose of the NNADV is to help Nevada’s communities respond creatively and effectively to the needs of victims as well as to promote social change and empower all persons affected by domestic violence. The Network accomplishes its goals through coordinated statewide interaction that supports its member organizations by offering resources that will assist them financially, to maintain their operations and to provide educational opportunities for their staff, board members, and volunteers.

As Nevada's leading source on domestic violence information and industry promising practices, NNADV educates Nevada's communities and leaders on domestic violence.

Each year, the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence...

- ...educates policy makers about the needs of survivors and the programs that serve them;
- ...distributes thousands of educational materials;
- ...provides trainings and technical assistance to local program staff, volunteers, and allied professionals from the health care, social work, counseling, legal, and education fields; and
- ...administers more than one million dollars in grant funding to support direct services.

For more information on how NNADV strives to create social change ending domestic violence: [NNADV's mission, vision, and current initiatives](#). In addition, the [NNADV's annual report](#) catalogues its progress toward these goals, its acknowledgement of its funders, member organizations, and its individual supporters.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

 Introduction	2
• Acknowledgements	
• About the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence	
 Domestic Violence Overview	5
 Domestic Violence Statistics and General Facts	8
 Misconceptions, Myths, and Realities	10
 Frequently Asked Questions	12
 Increasing Awareness of the Complicated Issue of Domestic Violence	15
• Warning Signs of Domestic Violence	
• Suggestions for Helping Someone Experiencing Domestic Violence	
• Safety Planning	
• Promoting Healthy Relationships	
 Navigating the Legal System: Legal Remedies for Survivors	18
• Criminal and Civil Court	
• Orders of Protection Against Domestic Violence	
• Legal Services and Organizations that Can Help Survivors	
• References for Federal & State Laws	
 Suggestions for Accurately Covering Domestic Violence Crimes	23
 What to Avoid When Covering Domestic Violence Cases	27
 Cautions when Covering Domestic Violence-Related High Profile Cases	28
 Media Inquiries and References	29
 Resources	30
• National Resources for Domestic, Sexual, and Dating Violence and Stalking	
• Resources for Survivors	
• Nevada Statewide Resources	
 Appendix	35
• Power & Control and Equality Wheels	
• Nevada’s Domestic Violence Organizations	
• Safety Plan Templates & Resources for Survivors	
• Safety & Technology Resources, Tip Sheets, and Toolkits	

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OVERVIEW

Domestic violence is a difficult issue to investigate and a complicated one to report. This guide was created to assist journalists in covering acts of power-based personal violence with understanding and accuracy through the lens of domestic violence. We also hope to link journalists to domestic violence advocates in community-based advocacy programs who can be utilized as sources to improve coverage. Journalists can make a significant difference in helping the community understand how domestic violence can reach epidemic proportions and even result in homicide.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE is a general term that references many types of abuse, such as child abuse, family violence, intimate partner abuse, elder abuse, and sibling abuse. For advocates and other service providers, domestic violence is a systematic and deliberate pattern of coercive behaviors designed to dominate and control a partner through fear and intimidation. The incidents of violence may be frequent or infrequent, lengthy or brief, severe or mild. Perpetrators use a combination of tactics that include acts of physical assault (slapping, punching, strangling, rape, etc.); psychological trauma (name calling, public and private humiliation, threatening to harm the victim, their children and other family members, friends, pets, harassment, stalking, etc.); interference with the personal liberty of the victim (isolation, monitoring where they are going and who they are with, etc.); as well as economic coercion (controlling the victim's finances and other sources of income, larceny, etc.) Domestic violence may also include trespassing, destruction of private property, and carrying a concealed weapon without a permit. Domestic violence is an epidemic affecting individuals in every community, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, nationality, ethnicity, mental or physical ability, gender identity, sexual orientation, or educational background. The consequences of domestic violence can cross generations and can truly last a lifetime.

The definition discussed above is behavioral-based which focuses on a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors used against an intimate partner. The legal definition below is used in civil and criminal proceedings. Nevada has a misdemeanor crime called, domestic battery, which also uses the definition of domestic violence. This legal definition of domestic violence is more incident-driven and also includes family relationships and people who reside together.

NEVADA REVISED STATUTE (NRS) DEFINITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic Violence: [NRS 33.018](#). Acts which constitute domestic violence.

1. Domestic violence occurs when a person commits one of the following acts against or upon the person's spouse or former spouse, any other person to whom the person is related by blood or marriage, any other person with whom the person is or was actually residing, any other person with whom the person has had or is having a dating relationship, any other person with whom the person has a child in common, the minor child of any of those persons, the person's minor child or any other person who has been appointed the custodian or legal guardian for the person's minor child:
 - a. A battery.
 - b. An assault.
 - c. Compelling the other person by force or threat of force to perform an act from which the other person has the right to refrain or to refrain from an act which the other person has the right to perform.
 - d. A sexual assault.
 - e. A knowing, purposeful or reckless course of conduct intended to harass the other person. Such conduct may include, but is not limited to:
 1. Stalking.
 2. Arson.

3. Trespassing.
 4. Larceny.
 5. Destruction of private property.
 6. Carrying a concealed weapon without a permit.
 7. Injuring or killing an animal.
- f. A false imprisonment.
 - g. Unlawful entry of the other person's residence, or forcible entry against the other person's will if there is a reasonably foreseeable risk of harm to the other person from the entry.
 - f. As used in this section, "dating relationship" means frequent, intimate associations primarily characterized by the expectation of affectional or sexual involvement. The term does not include a causal relationship or an ordinary association between persons in a business or social context. (Added to NRS by 1985, 2283; A 1995, 902; 1997, 1808; 2007, 82, 1275)

ANOTHER ASPECT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: STALKING

As noted above, stalking is a form of domestic violence. In 1993 and 1995, the Nevada legislature adopted provisions making stalking a crime and also providing for Restraining Orders against alleged stalkers ([NRS 200.575 - 200.601](#)).

Stalking occurs when any person, not just a family or household member or dating partner, willfully or maliciously engages in a course of conduct that would cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated or harassed and, in fact, causes such a reaction in the alleged victim. This course of conduct may also include the use of an Internet or network site, or electronic mail, text messaging or any other similar means of communication to publish, display or distribute information that increases the risk of harm or violence to the victim. Aggravated stalking occurs when such conduct is accompanied by threats of substantial bodily harm or death.

Anyone who has reason to believe that the crime of stalking/aggravated stalking is being committed against them can assist law enforcement officials and prosecution of their cases by keeping a detailed log of the stalking incidents. For more information about Stalking Incident Logs, please contact a local domestic violence organization or the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence.

Another way victims can deal with stalking is to petition the court for a Temporary or Extended Restraining Order. The purpose of such a Restraining Order is to keep the alleged or convicted stalker away from the victim's home, school or employment, as well as prohibit any contact with the victim and the victim's family and/or household. As in the case for Orders of Protection, a Temporary Restraining Order regarding stalking lasts no longer than 30 days, and an Extended Restraining Order may not last more than a year ([NRS 200.591 and 200.594](#)).

Arrest may be made for violation of such Restraining Orders, in addition to whatever arrests are made for the actual crime of stalking. Violation of a Temporary Restraining Order is a gross misdemeanor, while the penalty for violating an Extended Restraining Order is a Category C felony.

The law provides that the prosecutor must inform the alleged victim of the final disposition of any criminal stalking prosecution ([NRS 200.601](#)).

A FEW WORDS ABOUT TERMINOLOGY

In addition to the term domestic violence, there are some words or phrases that often are used interchangeably to describe acts of domestic violence: intimate partner violence; relationship abuse; or battering. Sometimes a distinction is made between battering (the physical aspects of domestic violence) and abuse (the non-physical aspects of domestic violence.)

In addition, there are some words that are often used interchangeably to describe the person whom acts of domestic violence are committed: survivor, victim, and battered women. In the criminal justice system context, the term victim is used to communicate that a survivor is also the victim of a crime. A survivor is someone who has survived the experience of domestic violence and/or other types of trauma. As opposed to the word “victim,” the term “survivor” conveys strength, experience, empowerment, wisdom, positive self-image, and hope for the future. When interviewing a survivor, journalists should be aware that people do have preferences when referring to them experiencing domestic violence. It is recommended that you ask the survivor what term they prefer and simply model the language they use to increase their comfort level.

When referring to the person who commits acts of domestic violence: batterer, abuser, and perpetrator can be used interchangeably. The word perpetrator is used in a criminal justice system context.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS AND GENERAL FACTS

NATIONAL STATISTICS

References cited in this section are listed at the end of this section as well as additional reliable sources for statistics.

- Domestic violence is a major problem in the United States. One in four women while one in seven men has been a victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime. (NISVS, CDC 2010)
- Women are four times more likely to be beaten, six times more likely to be slammed against something, and nine times more likely to be hurt by choking or suffocating. (NISVS, CDC 2010)
- While female victims experience multiple forms of violence, including physical violence, rape, and stalking by an intimate partner, male victims most often experience physical violence only. (NISVS, CDC 2010)
- Women of all ages are at risk for domestic and sexual violence, and those ages 20-24 experience the greatest risks of nonfatal intimate partner violence. (Catalano, Shannan DOJ 2007)
- Young women age 20-24 also experience the highest rates of rape and sexual assault followed by those ages 16 to 19. (National Crime Victimization Survey, DOJ 2007-2008)
- People age 18 and 19 experience the highest rates of stalking. (Baum, Katrina, et al Stalking Victimization in the United States, DOJ 2009)
- Technology has become a quick and easy way for stalkers to monitor and harass their victims. More than one in four stalking victims report that some form of cyberstalking was used against them, such as email (83 percent of all cyberstalking victims) or instant messaging (35 percent). Electronic monitoring of some kind is used to stalk one in 13 victims. (Ibid)
- A recent study found that 44 percent of victims of domestic violence talked to someone about the abuse; 37 percent of those women talked to their health care provider. Additionally, in four different studies, 70-80 percent of the patients studied reported that they would like their healthcare providers to ask them privately about domestic violence. (Futures Without Violence Fact Sheet on Health Care and Domestic Violence, posted 2012)
- Approximately one in three adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner – a figure that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting youth. ([Davis, Antoinette, MPH. Interpersonal and Physical Dating Violence among Teens. The National Council on Crime and Delinquency Focus 2008](#))
NNADV has compiled a [document](#) listing of the current research, national and Nevada crisis lines, culturally-specific, LGBTQ, digital abuse and technology resources for teens.
- Almost one-third of female homicide victims that are documented in police reports are killed by an intimate partner. ([FBI Uniform Crime Reports](#) “Crime in the United States”, 2000) In 70-80 percent of intimate partner homicides, no matter which partner was killed, the man physically abused the woman before the murder. (Campbell et al, “Assessing Risk Factors for Intimate Partner Homicide.” Intimate Partner Homicide, NIJ Journal, DOJ 2003)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NATIONWIDE CENSUS RESULTS

Annually, a nationwide survey of domestic violence community-based advocacy programs is conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence. In 2013, the Census revealed an urgent need for increased funding for domestic violence service providers. Nationwide, more than 66,000 victims of domestic violence were helped on a single day, but almost 10,000 requests for help went unanswered.

Census Snapshot of Nevada

On September 17, 2013, 169 domestic violence victims (101 children and 68 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs across Nevada. Domestic violence advocates here answered 86 crisis line calls – more than 4 calls every hour. At the same time, 20 requests for services went unmet, largely due to not enough staff and lack of funding. Across Nevada, 21 staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most of these positions were direct services, such as shelter or legal advocates.

[Nevada's Census Results](#)

NEVADA STATISTICS

- In Nevada, the lifetime prevalence of intimate partner violence is higher with an estimated one in two women and one in three men experiencing rape, physical violence, and/or stalking. ([NISVS](#), CDC 2010)
- According to a study published by the Violence Policy Center in September 2012, Nevada ranked #1 of women murdered by men for a third year in a row. Nevada has held this top spot for five of the last six years. [When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2010 Homicide Data](#), Violence Policy Center Annual Report, September 2012.
- In September 2013, the Violence Policy Center published, [When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2011 Homicide Data](#), Nevada ranked #16 in the nation.
- For fiscal year 2013, the NNADV reported the following statistics based on information submitted by domestic violence programs in Nevada:
 - 58,582 total number of victim contacts;
 - 55,631 bed nights provided in emergency shelters or transitional housing;
 - 11,768 temporary protection orders were prepared;
 - 12,989 law enforcement contacts; and
 - 134,518 referrals provided to counseling, legal services, and other community resources.To keep up-to-date on the [latest statistics in Nevada](#) relating to the incidence of domestic violence and services in Nevada. The NNADV compiles aggregate data submitted by domestic violence community-based advocacy programs quarterly and by fiscal year.

Below is an alphabetical listing of organizations that provide reliable sources for statistics relating to domestic violence:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey \(NISVS\)](#), National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention, 2010.
- [Federal Bureau of Investigation \(FBI\) Uniform Crime Reports](#)
- Futures Without Violence, [Get the Facts](#).
- National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, [Domestic Violence Facts](#), 2007.
- United States Department of Justice (DOJ), [Bureau of Justice Statistics](#), National Crime Victim Survey 2007, 2008 and Family Violence 2005 and other DOJ publications cited.
- Violence Policy Center, [When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2010 Homicide Data](#), September 2012. In this report, Nevada ranked #1 in the nation. For the [most recent report](#) published in September 2013, Nevada ranked #16 in the nation. The Violence Policy Center publishes this report annually in September.

MISCONCEPTIONS, MYTHS, AND REALITIES

Myths about domestic violence and its victims are widespread in our society and around the world. As long as they continue to exist, they help to justify and perpetuate violence against women. According to social psychologists, believing in these myths helps people distance themselves from the reality that domestic violence could happen to them. People may say things like: "This could never happen to me." "I would never marry somebody like that." "I would have left the first time they hit me." These myths also reinforce stereotypes about survivors, abusers, and domestic violence. Challenging ourselves and others about these false perceptions and stereotypes would create a dialogue to focus on what needs to be changed to make perpetrators accountable for their violent behavior and to end the cycle of violence.

MYTH: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS USUALLY A ONE TIME, ISOLATED OCCURRENCE.

REALITY...Domestic violence is a pattern of power and control that one person exerts over another. It incorporates not only physical abuse, but a repeated number of tactics, including intimidation, threats, economic deprivation, isolation, stalking, psychological and sexual violence.

MYTH: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OCCURS ONLY IN POOR, UNEDUCATED, AND MINORITY FAMILIES.

REALITY...Studies have consistently found that domestic violence occurs among all types of relationships, regardless of income, profession, religion, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, educational level, or race. That fact that lower income victims and batterers are overrepresented in calls to police and domestic violence programs due to a lack of other resources, not that it occurs more frequently.

MYTH: A SLAP NEVER HURT ANYONE.

REALITY...Physical injuries range from a black eye to broken bones, burst eardrums, split lips, burns, scalds, torn scalps, broken teeth and bruised necks through attempted strangulations. In Nevada [NRS 200.481\(h\)](#), strangulation is defined as intentionally stopping or decreasing normal breathing or blood flow of another person by putting pressure on the throat or blocking airways, which could result in serious injury or death. Constant exposure to beatings is also damaging mentally in terms of that individual's self-esteem, self-worth, and self-confidence.

MYTH: ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE CAUSES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

REALITY...There is a high correlation between alcohol/substance abuse and domestic violence, but it is not a causal factor. Abusers often use alcohol as one of many excuses for their violence. Stopping an abuser's use of alcohol or other substances will not stop the violence. Abuse and substance abuse need to be addressed separately, as co-existing yet distinct problems. (Bancroft, 2002)

MYTH: PARTNER VIOLENCE IS CAUSED BY MENTAL ILLNESS; THEREFORE, ABUSERS NEED PSYCHOTHERAPY IN ORDER TO END THEIR ABUSE.

REALITY...Batterers do not control and dominate their partners because of individual psychopathology, but rather because centuries of patriarchy has encouraged, supported, or condoned their right to do so. Abuse is not a problem of psychology, but a problem of attitudes and values. "Abuse grows from attitudes and values, not feelings. The roots are ownership, the trunk is entitlement, and the branches are control." Feelings, Bancroft says, do not bring about controlling or abusive behavior, it is driven by beliefs, values, and habits. (Bancroft, 2002)

MYTH: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS BEHAVIOR THAT IS "OUT OF CONTROL".

REALITY...Physical abuse is often the most serious aspect of a course of conduct intended to subject the victim to the control of the abuser. Other controlling behaviors may include intimidation, coercion and threats, emotional and economic abuse, using children as weapons, destruction of property and isolation. The abuser's

behavior is, therefore, quite intentional. Abusers use anger as an excuse to rationalize their abusive behavior. Battering is a purposeful and deliberate behavior aimed at gaining and maintaining power and control over another person. (Bancroft, 2002)

MYTH: I SHOULD STAY WITH MY ABUSER FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN.

REALITY...It is extremely harmful emotionally for children to live in an environment in which domestic violence is occurring. Men who abuse their partners frequently abuse their children physically or sexually. Even when children are not directly abused or hurt, they may suffer as a result of witnessing domestic violence. Abusers often display an increased interest in their children at the time of separation, as a means of maintaining contact with, and control over, their partners. (Bancroft & Silverman, 2002) Even if the child has been exposed to domestic violence, with early intervention and appropriate referrals, children can be resilient. Factors that build resiliency include: having at least one person who takes an interest in the child and their development; and helps the child develop better ways to cope; having a supportive community; and a feeling of being valued and belonging. (Access to Advocacy, 2007)

MYTH: ONCE AN ABUSED PERSON, ALWAYS AN ABUSED PERSON.

REALITY...There is a growing community awareness of the plight of victims and their children. There are counseling programs offering support and help with housing and employment, hotlines providing crisis counseling and referrals, and shelters providing safe refuge. Victims of abuse can break the cycle of violence.

References:

- Bancroft, L. *Why does he do that? Inside the minds of angry and controlling men*. New York, NY Putnam & Sons, 2002. [Articles & books written by Lundy Bancroft](#)
- Bancroft, L & Silverman, J.G. *The batterer as parent: Addressing the impact of domestic violence on family dynamics*. Thousand Oaks, CA Sage Publications, 2002.
- [Access to Advocacy: Serving Women with Psychiatric Disabilities in Domestic Violence Settings, A Curriculum for Domestic Violence Advocates](#), 2007.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why do victims stay in abusive relationships?

It is important to acknowledge that many people ask this question as they first begin to understand the terrible conditions in which some victims live, and that it is probably a healthy and normal response to this situation characterized by violence. We all want to believe that we have ultimate control over our vulnerability to harm. It may be a challenge for some people to understand that victims of domestic violence might still love their partners, or hope they'll change. Many victims comment that they don't want to leave their partners; they just want someone to stop the violence. Other reasons victims stay may include: they don't want to break up the family; the children need their father; they made a marriage vow to commit for better or worse; shame because they couldn't make the marriage work; and divorce may be against their religion.

When contemplating leaving the relationship, the victim considers life-generated risks: If I leave, can I find a job that can support myself and my children? Who'll provide safe and affordable child care? Where can I find affordable housing? Will I be homeless? Might I end up in a more dangerous living situation? Will I lose custody of my children? Will I lose my immigration status? Abuser-generated risks might include an increased risk for escalating violence when victims contemplate leaving the relationship. Seventy-five percent of domestic violence-related homicides occur after the victim leaves. The abuser may begin stalking them or even kidnap the children. The abuser may call the victim's boss and accuse them of stealing or drug abuse. The abuser may pursue custody of their children; threaten the victim with reports to CPS, immigration, etc. The abuser may threaten their extended family, or threaten to kill themselves and/or the victim and/or the children. Despite multiple barriers, many victims do leave their abusers. We need to keep in mind that leaving is a process that takes place over time. No matter whether the victim stays or goes, domestic violence is still a crime and the victim's choices are not the issue. The responsibility for domestic violence (as it is for other crimes) belongs solely to the abuser.

2. What causes domestic violence?

Domestic violence is a learned behavior. It is learned through observation, experience, reinforcement, and interaction within families, their community, and in society. Societal factors that perpetuate domestic violence span across cultural, economic, legal, and political factions. Cultural factors include gender-specific socializations, cultural definitions of appropriate gender roles, expectations of relationship roles, values giving men proprietary rights over women and girls, notion of family as the private sphere under male control, customs of marriage, and acceptability of violence as a means to resolve conflict. Economic factors may include women's economic dependence on men, limited access to cash and credit, discriminatory laws, and limited access to employment, education, and training. Legal factors include a lesser legal status of women either by written law and/or practice, laws regarding divorce, child custody, inheritance, legal definitions of rape and domestic violence, and low levels of legal literacy among women, and insensitive treatment of women and girls by the police and the judiciary. Political factors include the underrepresentation of women in power, politics, media, legal and medical professions, and domestic violence not taken seriously, notions of family being private and beyond the control of the state, risk of challenge to status quo, limited organization of women as a political force, and limited participation of women in an organized political system. (Kapoor S. [Domestic Violence Against Women and Girls](#), Innocenti Digest 6, UNICEF Innocenti Research Center, 2000.)

3. Who are the abusers? What help is available for abusers who wish to change their behavior?

Like victims, abusers come from all professions, educational backgrounds, ethnic backgrounds, all ages, races, sexes, sexual orientations, gender identities, social classes, and religious affiliations. Abusers do have some characteristics in common, including the belief in the use of violence, the use of defense mechanisms to justify abusive behaviors, extreme jealousy, and conflicting personalities. (Wilson, K.J. (1997) [When Violence Begins at Home: A Comprehensive Guide to Understanding and Ending Domestic Abuse](#). Alameda, CA: Hunter House.)

According to Wilson, typically, the abuser will not accept responsibility for their actions and develops a number of defense mechanisms to explain why they use violence. Abusers not only deny responsibility for their actions, but they also deny that any type of abusive behavior has taken place. The abusive partner is jealous of any relationships the partner has, including other men, women, children, and even pets. Anything that takes time away from them is seen as a threat. One of the greatest fears an abuser has is the fear that their partner will abandon them. This manifests itself in extreme jealousy and possessiveness. They believe if they can just control them, they will not leave and they will do anything to keep them from leaving – even maiming or killing them.

Wilson continues...Abusers typically present a different personality outside the home than they do inside, which complicates the partner's ability to describe their experiences to people outside the relationship. The abuser does not always use violence, and may have periods when they can be very generous with their affection. The partner sees this and knows their partner is capable of being loving to them...Thus, much of their time is spent trying to be the "perfect" partner and parent to their children. Unfortunately, this is a setup for the victim; the abuser will choose or choose not to use violence against them, regardless of their actions.

People are not born abusers. Use of violence in a relationship to establish and maintain power and control over another person is learned behavior. Most standard interventions for behavior modification have not proven successful in domestic violence situations. Individual counseling and anger management classes are not effective because domestic violence is not about anger, it is about power and control. Couples counseling and family therapy can escalate the violence toward the victim and fear of retaliation is a reality.

Batterer's Intervention Programs attempt to address the issue of power and control. In Nevada, Batterer's Intervention Programs focus on altering beliefs and attitudes toward violence by holding perpetrators accountable for their actions, teach non-abusive behavior, and safety for the victim. The success of these programs depend on the integrity of the program, the rate of completion, and a sincere desire by the abuser to change their behavior. Most people who attend Batterer's Intervention Programs are required to participate by a court, but individuals can enroll voluntarily. The [Committee on Domestic Violence \(CDV\)](#) certifies, reviews and monitors batterer's treatment programs for the State of Nevada in accordance with NRS 228.470 and [NAC Chapter 228](#). The CDV adopts regulations for the evaluation, certification and monitoring of programs for the treatment of persons who commit domestic violence. This site lists the Programs that are certified, reviewed and monitored according to Nevada law.

4. What tactics/strategies are used by abusers to establish and maintain control over their victims?

In 1984, staff at the [Domestic Abuse Intervention Project](#) (DAIP) in Duluth, MN began developing curricula for groups for men who batter and victims of domestic violence. The staff wanted a way to describe battering for victims, offenders, practitioners in the criminal justice system and the general public. Over several months, they convened focus groups of women who had been battered. We listened to heart-wrenching stories of violence, terror and survival. After listening to these stories and asking questions, the staff documented the most common abusive behaviors or tactics that were used against these women. The tactics chosen for the wheel were those that were most universally experienced by battered women. These behaviors were illustrated in the form of a wheel that identified the various strategies and tactics being used all the time to control the victim. Power and control are at the hub of wheel because they are at the center of an abusive relationship. For a complete history, to view the Power and Control graphic, and to listen to videos of the founders, Ellen Pence and Michael Paymar, visit the DAIP website.

4. What about men who are victims of abuse?

Women are by far the most common victims of domestic violence, but men can also be victims and they deserve to be treated with the same sensitivity, concern, and options offered to women who are abused in our communities. Based on statistical references, "she" is a common pronoun used. It is not meant to exclude male survivors, but it simply reflects the latest empirical data.

As reported in The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey](#) (NISVS) 2010:

- Women are disproportionately impacted by intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and stalking. They experienced high rates of severe intimate partner violence, rape, and stalking, and long-term chronic disease and other negative health impacts, such as post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms.
- Nearly 1 in 5 women (18%) and 1 in 71 men (1%) have been raped in their lifetime;
- Approximately 1.3 million women were raped during the year preceding the survey;
- One in 4 women have been the victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner, while 1 in 7 men have experienced the same;
- One in 6 women (16%) has been stalked during their lifetime, compared to 1 in 19 men (5%).

5. Isn't domestic violence more common among people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender?

As reported in [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's \(CDC\) National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey](#) (NISVS) 2010:

- People who identify as gay, lesbian, or bisexual, reported levels of intimate partner violence at rates equal to or higher than those of heterosexuals.
- Forty-four percent of lesbian women, 61% of bisexual women, and 35% of heterosexual women experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.
- Twenty-six percent of gay men, 37% of bisexual men, and 29% of heterosexual men experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime.
- Approximately 1 in 5 bisexual women (22%) and nearly 1 in 10 heterosexual women (9%) have been raped by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

For teens who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, review the research conducted by Kosciw JG, Greytak EA, Diaz EM, and Bartkiewicz MJ. [The 2009 National School Climate Survey: The Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth in Our Nation's Schools](#). New York: Gay, Lesbian Straight Education Network; 2010. In this 2009 survey of more than 7,000 LGBT middle and high school students aged 13–21 years found that in the past year, because of their sexual orientation:

- Eight of 10 students had been verbally harassed at school;
- Four of 10 had been physically harassed at school;
- Six of 10 felt unsafe at school; and
- One of 5 had been the victim of a physical assault at school.

For resources on intimate partner violence for people who identify with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer communities, visit The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP). This Coalition coordinates the [National Training and Technical Assistance \(TTA\) Center on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, & Queer \(LGBTQ\) Cultural Competency](#).

INCREASING AWARENESS OF THE COMPLICATED ISSUE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Media professionals can help the broader community understand why domestic violence often remains an unaddressed and unrecognized problem until it escalates to an extreme and tragic level. When coverage of domestic violence crimes conveys a sense of hope and empowerment, communities can take action to address domestic violence. People can learn about the warnings signs, how to support a friend or family member experiencing violence in their relationship, and the resources that are available to survivors. Communities can make a difference by working together to address holding abusers accountable, re-affirming that violence will not be tolerated, and reaching out to our children by promoting healthy relationships.

The following information can be incorporated into coverage of domestic violence:

- Warning Signs of Domestic Violence
- Suggestions for Helping Someone Experiencing Domestic Violence
- Safety Planning
- Promoting Healthy Relationships

WARNING SIGNS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Most often victims of domestic violence will keep the abuse secret from family and friends out of shame or the fear of not being believed. Consequently, loved ones are often the last ones to know and for some it comes too late. Education and awareness of the signs of abuse is important. Knowing this information may increase the awareness of abuse and help victims reach out for support.

The most common warning signs include: jealousy; harassment; name calling; making the person feel bad about themselves; quick involvement; unrealistic expectations; isolation; controlling what they do, who they see and talk to; blaming others for problems or feelings; hypersensitivity; cruelty to children or using them to relay messages; threatening to take the children away; cruelty to animals; use of force during sex; rigid sex roles; interfering with or sabotaging birth control methods; previous incidents of abusive behavior; controlling finances in a relationship, (e.g., giving them an allowance and making them ask for money, ruining their credit, and no access to family income); intimidation; making them afraid by using looks, actions, gestures; destroying property; displaying weapons; minimizing or denying the abuse; monitoring their social media activities; using technology to harass and stalk them; controlling medication, nutrition, and mobility devices; threatening to leave the victim, commit suicide, report them to law enforcement, immigration, welfare or child protective services; threatening to “out” them to family, friends, their employer; making them do illegal things; and making them drop any pending legal charges.

SUGGESTIONS FOR HELPING SOMEONE EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Approach the person in an understanding, non-judgmental way. Tell them you care and are willing to listen. If the victim is willing to talk, listen carefully and empathetically, in a safe place. Acknowledge that it is scary and difficult to talk about abuse. Believe them. Never blame them for what’s happening or underestimate the fear of danger. Let them know that no one deserves to be abused, beaten, or threatened. Problems exist in many relationships, but using violence to resolve them is never acceptable.
- Helpful things to say, “I am afraid for your safety.” “I am afraid for the safety of your children.” “I am afraid it will get worse.” “No one deserves to be treated this way.” “You are not alone and there is help available.” “I won’t tell anyone about the confidential things we have discussed.”
- Do not tell them what to do. Allow them to make their own decisions even if you do not agree with them. Try to understand the many obstacles that keep them from getting out of the abusive relationship. Focus on supporting them making their own decisions even if it means staying with the abuser for now.

Even if the victim leaves and then goes back, do not withdraw your support. Many victims leave several times and go back before they leave permanently.

- Guide them to resources available in their community including advocacy organizations. These organizations offer safety, support, legal information, and other services. Assure them advocacy organizations will keep the information they share confidential. To learn more about confidentiality and privilege in Nevada, review [NRS Chapter 49](#).
- Victims suffer physical and emotional abuse which takes a toll on their self-esteem. This is a good time to focus on their strengths and skills and re-affirm the emotional support you can provide them. Everyone deserves a life that is free from violence.
- Keep in mind that the most dangerous time for them is when they do anything in preparation to leave the relationship. Suggest they speak with an advocate to discuss safety planning at home, at work, at school, and in the community. Provide information about where to go for help. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline. There are advocates available 24/7 who can safety plan with them on the phone. Making a connection with local advocates can assist them in the following ways: proactively assisting and supporting the survivor and their children by listening to and believing them; transporting and accompanying them to court; assisting them in finding housing; and advocating within the legal, medical, and social systems. A list of community-based advocacy programs by geographic location is available: [Nevada's domestic violence programs](#).
- For a list of resources for survivors including crisis lines, visit the Resources section of this document.



SAFETY PLANNING

Just as it is recommended for every home to have an emergency plan in case of fire or other disaster, it is equally important for those experiencing domestic violence to spend time creating a safety plan which would enable them and the children to leave without being in danger. A safety plan is a tool that helps a victim think about what they can do ahead of time if/when the abuser's violence escalates. To emphasize its importance, once an abusive act takes place in a relationship, violence almost always reoccurs. In fact, it tends to become more severe and more frequent as time goes on. This will happen even when the abuser apologizes and promises to change after an incident. In addition, an abuser will almost always try to isolate the victim by causing disagreements between the victim and those who care about them. Therefore, it is extremely important to think ahead about what to do in the case of another attack. The victim may start by keeping a journal and meeting with a domestic violence advocate to safety plan. Safety plans can be done confidentially, over the phone and some crisis lines now offer text and/or chat options. Encourage survivors to contact one of the organizations listed in the Survivor Resources section of this document to learn how to create a customized safety plan. These organizations provide information, support, and emergency assistance.

Suggestions for Safety Planning:

- Have phone numbers available: police, crisis line, friends, and domestic violence program.
- Teach children to call 9-1-1 in times of emergency.
- Tell one or two trusted neighbors about the violence and ask them to call the police if they hear suspicious noises coming from the home. A word of caution about having police respond to the home may escalate the violence, so plan ahead if this will be a safe option.
- If leaving the home, have four different places to go immediately. Think strategically about the geographic areas would be the safest. Rehearse an escape route with a support person.
- Have important items and documents ready when leaving quickly, such as identification; birth certificates; social security cards; school and medical records; money; credit cards; keys for house, car,

and office; driver's license and registration; passports; work permits; immigration documents; current unpaid bills; insurance papers; lease/rental agreements; medications/prescriptions; and keepsakes. For children, plan on packing their favorite toy(s); books; blankets; pillow; diapers; formula; change of clothes, etc. Store these items in a suitcase or other box in a safe location where the abuser is not likely to find these items.

- Caution when sharing exit plans with family, friends by email or phone since these may be monitored by the abuser. Do not use the family computer to develop your safety plan. Use a safer computer at a public library or other safe location.
- To ensure safety and independence, open a checking or savings account at a different financial institution than the family currently uses and change stores used frequently.
- Consider obtaining an Order of Protection and keep a copy. Leave a copy with a supportive friend or family member.
- If returning to an abusive relationship, make sure to have someone to contact for support, attend workshops, and continue to attend support groups.
- Review and revise the safety plan regularly. The plan that was created today may not be adequate for what may happen tomorrow.

PROMOTING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Teens and adults may have a difficult time defining what a healthy relationship is. Both learn from what they experience and what they observe. The family, friends, teachers, coaches, school counselors, religious leaders, healthcare providers, youth leaders in community organizations, and employment supervisors and co-workers, all shape the expectations of partners in a relationship, how each person wants to be treated, and how to address and resolve conflicts. While growing up, what young people experience and observe may be unhealthy and abusive, but with early intervention by people they trust and respect, both youth and adults can work through adversity, model healthy relationships, and learn effective methods of coping.

Based on the [Equality Wheel](#) developed by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, Duluth Minnesota, non-violent, caring and respectful relationships are based on equality. The Equality Wheel is an educational tool that illustrates the elements of a healthy, non-violent relationship. It includes: sharing responsibilities; making decisions together; seeking mutually satisfying resolutions to conflict; being willing to compromise; talking and acting in ways so both partners feel safe and comfortable; being emotionally affirming; understanding; valuing their partner's opinions; respecting their partner's right to have their own feelings, friends, activities, and opinions; communicating openly and truthfully; accepting responsibility for their own behaviors including past violence; and making financial decisions together so both partners will benefit from those financial arrangements.

NAVIGATING THE LEGAL SYSTEM: LEGAL REMEDIES FOR SURVIVORS

It is against the law for anyone to abuse or physically hurt another person. There are a number of legal steps that can be taken to protect the victim from further abuse and bring the abuser to justice. Nevada laws are contained in the Nevada Revised Statutes (hereafter cited as NRS) available online at the Nevada Legislature website and in local libraries and county courthouses.



There are two kinds of courts: CRIMINAL COURT and CIVIL COURT.

Criminal court deals with people who have committed crimes, such as assault or battery. In the state of Nevada, for example, criminal assault is unlawfully attempting to use physical force against another person; or intentionally placing another person in reasonable fear or apprehension of immediate bodily harm ([NRS 200.471](#)). In Nevada, the crime of battery is any willful and unlawful use of force or violence upon the person of another ([NRS 200.481](#)). A person who, without lawful authority, willfully or maliciously engages in a course of conduct that would cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated or harassed, or fearful for the immediate safety of a family or household member, and that actually causes the victim to feel terrorized,

frightened, intimidated or harassed or fearful for the immediate safety of a family or household member, commits the crime of stalking ([NRS 200.575](#)).

The police may arrest anyone who commits a crime and the District Attorney of each county or City Attorney in Las Vegas, Reno, or Sparks can prosecute the offender. There must always be sufficient evidence on which to base charges. If the offender pleads guilty or is convicted of the crime, they can be sentenced to jail, probation, counseling, and/or payment of fines.

Civil court handles non-criminal matters such as divorce and child custody. It can order people to do or not to do certain things. For example, it may order a parent to pay child support. It may also order the abuser to vacate a shared residence, or it may order that the children not be removed from the state without approval of the court. If its orders are not obeyed, the judge can hold the violator in "contempt of court" and either fine or jail the violator. In 1997, a civil remedy was added to allow the victim to recover money damages from the abuser. The victim may wish to hire an attorney, although one is not required. In addition, a domestic violence advocate may be available to attend court with the victim during legal proceedings.

The following sections describe in greater detail the laws affecting victims of domestic violence and how to pursue criminal charges as well as how to use the civil process to obtain relief. Before taking any legal action, it is important to understand the advantages and disadvantages of each alternative course of action. Also, it is important to know that the legal process can be lengthy, confusing, and frustrating. However, the victim is entitled to its protection and assistance, and the threat of arrest or contempt of court can be an effective way to prevent further abuse.

ORDERS OF PROTECTION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Nevada recognizes domestic violence as a serious crime. In 1985, the Nevada legislature created a new type of order, the Order for Protection Against Domestic Violence ([NRS 33.017-33.100](#)). It involves a civil court proceeding that specifically addresses domestic violence situations.

What is an Order of Protection?

An Order of Protection is a written court order, signed by a judge, which requires an abusive household or family member or dating partner to do or not to do certain things. There are two kinds of protection orders: Temporary Orders and Extended Orders.

By law, both Extended and Temporary Orders of Protection are to be available at no cost, without need for a lawyer, and within one day of application. The court clerk or other personnel should provide information regarding the procedures and be able to assist the victim in completing the necessary paperwork.

Temporary and Extended Orders of Protection must be served on an abuser before they can be enforced.

A Temporary Order is an emergency order that may be obtained just on the victim's sworn statement and court appearance; that is, the abuser is not present to tell their side of the story. Before issuing a Temporary Order of Protection, the judge must find that there is good cause to grant the Order without first notifying the abuser. The judge must also evaluate the likelihood of the victim being harmed if the abuser knows the victim is seeking legal protection. Generally, Temporary Orders of Protection can last for up to 30 days, but can last 45 days if the victim files an Extended Order of Protection at the same time the victim files for a Temporary Order.

In a Temporary Order, the judge can order any or all of the following:

- Forbid any further threats, harassment or injury;
- Order the abuser to vacate (leave) or not to enter the shared home for a period of time;
- Prohibit the abuser from entering the victim's place of employment, school, church, or other specified location;
- Award temporary legal custody (if the court has jurisdiction over the children);
- Forbid physical injury to or taking possession of any of the victim's animals; and/or
- Other relief the court considers necessary in an emergency situation.

An Extended Order of Protection is available when all of the legal requirements for notifying the abuser of the intended action have been satisfied and the applicant can document (show) the need for continued protection. This Order is also available without cost. There will be an opportunity for both parties to present their cases in a hearing. If the victim applies for an Extended Order, the Temporary Order will remain in effect until the hearing on the request for an Extended Order is held. The remedies that may be requested for an Extended Order are in addition to those that are available for Temporary Orders.

Although it is always up to the judge to determine how long any particular order will last, remember that no Extended Order of Protection may be in effect for longer than one (1) year. To obtain more permanent restraining orders, it is necessary to request such relief outside the provisions of [NRS 33.017-33.100](#) in civil or family court, (for example, in a divorce or paternity action). An Order of Protection cannot be used as a substitute for bringing a divorce action or to permanently establish child custody or visitation. Nor can an Order of Protection be used to divide property or debts, beyond making temporary allowances for the shared residence and the payment of the rent or mortgage, as noted above.

An Extended Order may (in addition to remedies provided in a Temporary Order):

- Limit or prohibit the abuser's communication with the victim and the children;
- Award physical custody and the payment of child support;
- Establish visitation arrangements and require supervision by a third party, if necessary;
- Order the abuser to make rental or mortgage payments on the home in which the victim is living;
- Order the abuser to pay all or part of costs and fees incurred in obtaining the Order of Protection; and/or
- Require the abuser to surrender, sell, or transfer any firearm.

Who can get an Order of Protection?

Any household or family member who is abused by another household or family member is eligible to seek an Order of Protection. Persons who have had or are having a dating relationship are also protected by the law. Spouses, ex-spouses, persons living together, persons who formerly lived together, children of either of the persons who have lived together, stepchildren, parents, persons who share a child, or other persons related by blood or marriage are all protected by the law.

When can a victim get an Order of Protection?

Any person who is abused by a household or family member or by a dating partner can ask the court for an Order of Protection. A parent or guardian can ask for an Order on behalf of a child, an elderly person, or anyone who is unable to because of a disability to ask for one. The victim does not have to file any other civil action or pursue criminal charges in order to obtain an Order of Protection.

In order to obtain an Order of Protection, a verified (sworn) written application must normally be completed and submitted by the person requesting the order. However, in some cases where the alleged perpetrator of domestic violence has been arrested and is in custody, an Order of Protection may be requested over the phone. In any case, the court must either grant or deny an application for a Temporary Order of Protection within 24 hours, excluding weekends and holidays after the application is filed ([NRS 33.020](#)).

The victim or person requesting the Order will be asked to present evidence of abuse to the judge that domestic violence has taken place. The more evidence the victim or person requesting the Order has, the stronger the case will be.

Evidence includes such things as:

- The victim's statements as to the abuse inflicted;
- Hospital or doctor's reports of injuries;
- Photographs of injuries;
- Police reports;
- In-person statements from other family members, neighbors, or others who saw or heard the abuse;
- Weapons used;
- Torn or bloody clothing or broken household items; and/or
- Pictures of damaged furnishings and of the house or room in disarray.



While any one of these may be enough for an Order to be granted, the more evidence the victim or person who is requesting the Order has, the more likely the judge will believe the victim and grant them the legal remedies they need.

Where can someone get an Order of Protection?

An Order of Protection can be obtained in two ways:

1. In State District Court in connection with legal actions as divorce, legal separation, child support or paternity actions. If the victim is filing for divorce, they can ask their attorney to file for an Order of Protection as well.
2. In Justice Court as an action by itself. This is where the victim wants the Order of Protection to enable the legal system to help stop the violence against the victim. The victim may apply for an Order of Protection on their own without an attorney.

To obtain information about where and when to file for an Order of Protection, the victim should contact their local court clerk's office. The victim may also contact any community-based advocacy organization and request assistance.

What happens after a victim has an Order of Protection?

If the judge grants the victim an Order of Protection, obtain several copies or the victim can make their own copies. It is recommended that the victim keep one with them at all times. If the abuser was not present at the hearing, the victim should find out whether and when the abuser received a copy of the Order. The victim should try to get a copy of the "proof of service" copy from the court, or something that demonstrates whether or not the abuser has been served. The victim should not place their safety in jeopardy by attempting to give the abuser a copy. The Court may order the appropriate law enforcement agency to personally serve the abuser.

If the abuser violates the Order of Protection by hurting the victim again, by coming onto their property when the Order forbids them to do so, or by violating another provision of the Order, call the local law enforcement agency, the police, or sheriff's department. The victim should show them the Order of Protection and any proof that the abuser has been notified of the Order. If the victim does not have a copy to show them, they can try to verify its existence through their police radio. Verifying through police radio will only work if a copy has been provided to the dispatcher of that agency. The victim should make a report of each violation even when the police department says there is nothing they can do. It is recommended that the victim make the report! Under Nevada law, if the abuser violates an Order of Protection, they have committed a crime, a misdemeanor, punishable by jail and/or a fine. Alternatively, the perpetrator can be found in contempt of court for violating a court order. This can also result in a fine or imprisonment.

Nevada law requires that a law enforcement officer who has probable cause to believe that a violation of an Order of Protection has occurred or who witnesses a violation of any provision of an Order of Protection, must arrest the violator. However, an officer will not arrest a person subject to an Order of Protection unless that person has received notice of the Order. If the officer does not make an arrest, ask the officer to inform the abuser that they are now on notice of the provisions of the Order and that any violation will, in the future, result in their arrest. Obviously, if the abuser commits another crime while violating the Order of Protection, they may be arrested for that criminal conduct in itself.

Under federal law, if the abuser crosses state lines with the intent to violate the Order of Protection, penalties that are more stringent apply.

If the victim decides to go back with the spouse or partner after the court has issued an Order of Protection forbidding the abuser entry into the home, it is important that the victim go back to court to dissolve the Order. Neither the victim nor the spouse or partner can change or terminate the Order without court approval. If the victim does not obtain a modification of the Order by the court, and the abuser violates it by being in the house with the victim's permission, the police and the court may be less willing to extend their protection to the victim in the future. However, even in that circumstance, the victim should not hesitate to return for another Order of Protection rather than remain in a violent and dangerous environment.

Other Orders of Protection

Depending on the victim's circumstances, additional types of Orders of Protection may be available to them:

- Sexual assault ([NRS 200.378](#))
- Protection of children ([NRS 33.400-33.440](#))
- Workplace harassment ([NRS 33.200-33.360](#))

To obtain information about where and when to file for these Orders of Protection, the victim should contact their local court clerk. The victim may also visit www.womenslaw.org and search for Nevada Orders of Protection. In addition, a victim can contact any community-based advocacy program.

LEGAL SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS IN NEVADA

There are several nonprofit organizations that are dedicated to helping qualified residents of Washoe, Clark, and the rural counties of Nevada (Carson City, Storey, Churchill, Douglas, and Lyon) resolve civil legal issues. Generally, these organizations provide pro bono (free) legal services and representation so residents may receive justice in civil legal matters.

Services for victims of domestic and sexual violence may vary by organization, but generally include immigration, family law including divorce and child custody cases, child advocacy programs to protect the child's legal rights and be a voice for the child while in court, housing discrimination, landlord-tenant disputes, and direct legal services for appropriate enforcement and/or extensions of Temporary Orders of Protection. Services may come in the form of a private consultation with a pro bono attorney, a selection of free legal seminars offered in both English and Spanish at many locations across the county, and self-help forms clinics. Call the organization that serves a particular county for more information regarding times, dates, and topics of legal clinics that are being offered and to verify the services that may be provided to survivors.

Organizations offering pro bono services include [Washoe Legal Services](#) serving Washoe County, [Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada](#) serving Clark County, and [Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans \(VARN\)](#). Eligibility requirements to receive pro bono services vary by organization and may include a wait period. People using their services may be responsible to pay for court costs that cannot be waived or any other out-of-pocket expenses incurred on the person's behalf.

REFERENCES FOR FEDERAL & NEVADA LAWS

Together, the [Violence Against Women Act](#) (VAWA), the [Family Violence Prevention and Services Act](#) (FVPSA) and the [Victims of Crime Act](#) (VOCA) fund, create and support comprehensive responses to the needs of victims of domestic violence.

- View the [FY 2013 Appropriations Briefing Book](#) to learn more about VAWA, FVPSA and VOCA funding.
- Click [here](#) to see the breakdown of funding for VAWA and FVPSA programs and their authorization levels.

For more information about domestic violence policy issues, visit the [National Network to End Domestic Violence](#).

Domestic Violence and Firearms:

- [Restrictions on the Possession of Firearms by Individuals Convicted of a Misdemeanor Crime of Domestic Violence](#)
- Futures Without Violence [Fact Sheet on Women, Children, and Gun Violence](#)

[Nevada Laws](#) Overview

Recent legislation in Nevada:

- Sex Trafficking in Nevada: [AB 67](#); [Nevada Attorney General's Response](#)
- [Right of tenant or cotenant to terminate lease due to domestic violence.](#)

SUGGESTIONS FOR ACCURATELY COVERING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRIMES

The section has been adapted from the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, [Covering Domestic Violence: A Guide for Journalists and Other Media Professionals](#) Revised 2008.

Place the crime in the context of domestic violence.

Include interviews with local experts to explain the crime as one means for the abuser to maintain power and control over their partner. Use the term “domestic violence” when reporting on homicides between intimate partners, as this terminology sets the context for the crime.

If writing for an audience of health care providers, the term “intimate partner violence” is more common. Using this term still makes the abuser accountable for their behaviors that establish and maintain power and control over their partner.

When writing for a teen or young adult audience, the term “relationship violence” may be used to broaden the scope of abusive behavior to include bullying. [Bullying](#) shares common characteristics with domestic violence since it is a pattern of abusive behaviors and is based on establishing and maintaining control over another individual. Bullying is “unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance.” Both children who are bullied and who bully others may have serious, lasting problems.

In order to be considered bullying, the behavior must be aggressive and include:

- An Imbalance of Power: Children who bully use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity—to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.
- Repetition: Bullying behaviors happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.
- Bullying includes actions such as making threats, taunting, name calling, teasing, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose.
- Bullying can occur during or after school hours. While most reported bullying happens in the school building, a significant percentage also happens on the playground or on the bus. It can also happen travelling to or from school, in the youth’s neighborhood, or on the Internet.

There are two sources of federally collected data on youth bullying:

- The 2011 [Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) indicates that, nationwide, 20% of students in grades 9–12 experienced bullying.
- The 2008–2009 [School Crime Supplement](#) (National Center for Education Statistics and Bureau of Justice Statistics) indicates that, nationwide, 28% of students in grades 6–12 experienced bullying.

[Bullying laws in Nevada.](#)

Acknowledge that domestic violence is not a private matter.

The crime of domestic violence impacts our community in terms of safety in the neighborhood and the workplace, millions in medical costs, lower economic productivity, and its effects on children. Include resources in the coverage, (e.g., crisis line phone numbers, websites, support groups, and batterer’s intervention groups.) Also include how community members can help stop domestic violence by hosting workshops to increase awareness of domestic violence and support organizations that help survivors by volunteering and making a financial contribution.

Educating teens and young adults on how to safely intervene in a potentially high risk for violence is a priority in Nevada. For more information about violence prevention and bystander intervention strategies for individuals, on campus, and engaging men to end violence, visit [Step Up! Stop Violence! In Nevada](#).

Look into prior history of domestic violence and let the story evolve.

Ask the police if the crime matches the legal definition of domestic violence. Look for patterns of controlling behavior in the relationship, and place the crime in this context. These may or may not include a prior documented history of domestic violence – talk to police, check criminal history and court documents for Orders of Protection or Restraining Orders for stalking. Talk to domestic violence advocates from local domestic violence organizations for relevant statistics in their communities or visit the [NNADV website for statewide statistics](#). Avoid treating domestic violence homicides and homicide-suicides as inexplicable, unpredictable tragedies. They are not.

Convey that domestic violence is a pattern of behavior that often escalates when a victim is trying to leave, or has left, the relationship.

When one partner is killed or seriously injured, it is usually because the abusive partner has begun to lose control. Any efforts on behalf of the survivor to seek help or become independent, such as calling 9-1-1 in time of emergency, obtaining an Order of Protection or Restraining Order, exploring options for education or employment, speaking with an advocate either in-person or calling a crisis line using a phone that may be monitored by the abuser, speaking with an attorney about divorce or custody of the children, visiting websites that can offer support or information about abusive relationships may result in an escalation of violence toward the victim, their children, or a beloved pet. The importance of safety planning ahead of time for potentially violent situations at home, at work, at school, or at a place of worship, is of utmost importance for survival.

Illustrate the warning signs of an abusive relationship.

Ask: Were there any warning signs of domestic violence? Ask family/friends/co-workers: Was the abuser a jealous person? Had the abuser and victim gotten involved too quickly? Did the victim ever have bruises or black eyes, broken bones and other marks that were explained away? Did the victim seem withdrawn or depressed? If the victim ended the relationship, what was the abuser’s reaction to this?

Because abusers tend to isolate their partners from the outside world, ask: How did the abuser feel about their partner working? Was the victim allowed to see family and friends? How did the abuser act around family and friends? Did the abuser call or drop by the victim’s workplace frequently? Was the couple always together? Was the victim able to see friends, family or co-workers without the abuser?

Another difficulty experienced by survivors is that some of these signs may be viewed positively by friends or family, indicative of a close and loving relationship, and not recognized as controlling tactics that are warning signs of potential abuse.

Understand the distinction between choking and strangulation.

Portraying abuse accurately reflects your concern for both the victim’s experience and public’s response to domestic violence. Choking is an *accidental internal obstruction of the airway*, and strangulation is a *tactic of control and abuse* and is an expression of the abusers’ ability and willingness to take their victim’s lives at any time. For more information, Jane Doe Inc. has developed a quick reference [Media Guide](#) on this topic.

When interviewing a domestic violence survivor, consider their safety and confidentiality needs.

“Survivors of domestic violence play a major role in providing firsthand account of their experiences to the public. Survivors can paint a realistic picture of how domestic violence impacts women, their families, and the society at large. The passion, energy, and commitment survivors possess, to achieve systematic change, is a powerful force which has been instrumental in bringing about crucial legislative changes beneficial to families

experiencing domestic violence nationwide.” ([Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Media Guide, 2006](#))

TIPS FOR INTERVIEWING SURVIVORS

If a reporter is interested in interviewing a survivor of domestic violence, contact the local domestic violence advocacy organization (page 35) and speak with the media representative or the executive director. There is no guarantee that a survivor will agree to an interview particularly if they are in emergency shelter. Share openly the reasons for the interview request and review the tips below to ensure their privacy and safety.

Preparing for the Interview:

- Make sure the survivor is treated with dignity and respect at all times. The survivor’s safety, physical and emotional well-being depend on it.
- Always consider confidentiality issues when interviewing survivors. Ask the survivor if it is safe to use their real name or if a fictitious name or omitting their name would protect them and their family more effectively.
- Ask the survivor if they would like to speak to an advocate from the local domestic violence program prior to being interviewed to discuss the potential safety and confidentiality concerns of sharing their story with the media. Advocates can help prepare the survivor by discussing the potential impact on their children, family members, friends, co-workers, and the community in general.
- Respect the survivor’s right to decline being interviewed or photographed. If the survivor declines an on-camera interview, a journalist may offer the survivor to submit a written statement prepared by them instead of doing an interview. Offering options may help the survivor maintain confidentiality and increase their comfort level.
- Consider telling the survivor what the story is about, how will the interview be used, who else will be interviewed, what questions will be asked, and will a television or radio interview be live or taped. Providing all of this information will help the survivor develop a comfort level prior to the interview. They will be more comfortable with a journalist who they know will be thorough, accurate, objective, sensitive, and compassionate.
- Consider the time and place for the interview. When traumatized, the home may become a refuge. If the survivor wishes to protect the privacy of their home, encourage them to select another location such as a church, meeting hall, office setting, etc. It helps if the survivor is familiar and comfortable with the surroundings.
- When considering an on-camera interview, be cautious about photographs. Even if the survivor is no longer living with the abuser, they may still not want to be identified. Offer to show the survivor using a silhouette. Do not photograph any identifying characteristics, such as a unique ring or showing the survivor with their family pet. Stalking following leaving an abusive relationship is part of the survivor’s new reality.
- Consider excluding children from interviews. Children suffering from the trauma of crime are often re-traumatized by exposure to the media. Children lack the means to verbalize their emotions and may be misinterpreted by both the media and the public.
- If the survivor is grieving, allow them to grieve in private. You can say you are sorry for the survivor’s loss, but never say, “I understand.” or “I know how you feel.”
- Caution when interviewing potentially vulnerable populations: children; the elderly; people with disabilities; people from diverse cultures; survivors dealing with posttraumatic stress disorder or other mental health issues; survivors of human trafficking; and people who identify with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community.
- Check the accuracy of facts such as dates, names, and places several time before printing the article. If possible, allow the survivor to read your work beforehand so that any misinformation can be corrected. Give the survivor contact information in case they have further questions or would like to clarify any printed errors.

Legal Considerations:

- It is recommended that survivors with an open court case (criminal, custody, divorce) not share their story publicly – the unintended consequences for them and their children could be too great. The information they share could be used as evidence.
- If there is a pending criminal trial or civil action, the survivor may wish a legal advocate or attorney review their statement to be sure they are not exposed to retaliatory actions by the abuser who is still a threat to them or their children.
- Generally it is better not to publicly identify the abuser or describe the abuser in a way that makes them easily identifiable unless that person has been convicted of domestic violence in a court and/or has been issued an Order of Protection or other findings that the abuser committed violence against them. Be aware of potential hurtful stereotypes, sensationalism, and possible response from the perpetrator's family.

Sample Questions:

Here is a list of sample questions that are not victim-blaming and are non-judgmental.

- What made it hard for you to leave? (Rather than why did you stay?)
- What advice would you give someone in a situation similar to the one you were in?
- If a victim is not ready to leave, what should they do to get ready?
- Ask the survivor about their strengths as well as abusive experiences. How did they become a survivor rather than a victim – what obstacles did they overcome?
- Whom did you call for help, where did you find help, or did anyone try to help you? (Rather than why didn't you call for help?)
- Were the police involved in your case; and if not, could the police have helped you? (Rather than why didn't you call the police?)

Interview Logistics:

- Make the survivor as comfortable as possible. People in trauma often do not want to be touched, especially by strangers. It is better to hand the lavalier microphone to the person and verbally instruct them how to attach it. Bright lights can be particularly intrusive when people are in trauma. Offer the survivor a guided tour of the newsroom ahead of time – familiarity fosters comfort. Journalists may want to come prepared with water and/or tissues and allow them an opportunity to freshen up prior to a live/taped interview.
- Establish some ground rules on what may be covered in the interview and ask the survivor if there is anything that is “off limits” or they would prefer not to discuss.
- Avoid using any offensive pictures, graphic footage, or asking for the “gory” details. Questions about specific traumatic events can trigger intense, painful flashbacks for the survivor.
- Even if you have a pressing deadline, try not to rush the interview. Allow time for breaks, if necessary. If the survivor becomes overwhelmed, give them enough time to compose themselves before asking more questions.

The crime of domestic violence is a complicated issue, over-simplification will not serve the survivor, the abuser, the media audience, and the community in which the crime occurred.

“In her book, **Surviving the Silence**, Charlotte Pierce Baker attests that “the way out is to tell: Speak of the acts perpetrated upon us, speak the atrocities, speak the injustices, and speak the personal violations of the soul.” Speaking out publicly can produce many healing effects as shame, isolation, fear, and the carrying of a “secret” begin to diminish. Giving voice to the pain and suffering, as well as to the strength, resilience and recovery that many survivors experience is powerful.”

[*From the Front of the Room: An Advocates Guide to Help Prepare Survivors for Public Speaking*](#), NRC DV

WHAT TO AVOID WHEN COVERING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES

Avoid calling domestic violence a “relationship problem.”

Refrain from using words like: “violent relationship” or “troubled marriage;” “domestic dispute;” “quarrel;” “argument;” or “love triangle” as they detract from the violent and criminal nature of the behavior. These phrases inaccurately describe abuse as an issue between two people and obscures the fact that the abuser bears the responsibility for the violence. Accurate coverage describes domestic violence as an abuser committing a crime against another person.

Partner violence continues when abusers are not held accountable for their crimes. Being accountable involves owning responsibility for their violence in all of its forms. It requires honest self-examination and directly, openly naming their violent behaviors. It includes acknowledging the impact the violence has had on their partner, the children, and other family members. True accountability requires accepting the consequences of their behavior and making significant changes in their belief systems and behaviors based upon nonviolence and respect. Systems accountability is also needed and involves creating and enforcing laws, policy, procedure and protocol that provide safety and resources to victims as well as upholding abuser accountability. Both levels of accountability are needed to end domestic violence.

Do not focus on the victim’s behavior or use victim-blaming language.

The victim in an abusive relationship is not responsible for the crime of domestic violence. Questions that imply that a victim could have done something to prevent the violence are misleading and imply that the abuser was somehow justified in committing the violent crime. It is more accurate to focus on the abuser, recurring patterns of abuse, threats, violation of Orders of Protection and court-ordered visitation. Address how our communities can hold abusers accountable for their crimes and improve the safe options available to victims of domestic violence. Be aware that questions or comments can be phrased in such a way as to imply blame, and that this is unbiased, non-judgmental coverage. For example, don’t ask: “Why did she stay?” but rather: “What were the barrier she faced in leaving the abusive relationship?” or “In what ways did the community try, or fail, to hold the abuser accountable for prior abuse?”

CAUTIONS WHEN COVERING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-RELATED HIGH PROFILE CASES

This information is adapted from [Media Guide: Reporting on Domestic Violence Related Homicide](#), Jane Doe Inc.

ADDRESSING A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-RELATED HOMICIDE

The key elements of a domestic violence homicide:

- The homicide victim and perpetrator were current or former spouses or intimate partners, adults or teens with a child in common, or adults or teens in a current or former dating relationship;
- The motive for the murder was reported to have included emotions in the context of an intimate partner or dating relationship; or
- A relationship existed between the homicide perpetrator and adult or teen victim that could be defined as exhibiting a pattern of power and control.

Do not paint the situation as unpredictable, isolated acts. Investigate behaviors that illustrate a pattern of control, intimidation and other escalating violence leading up to the homicide instead of the alleged perpetrator “just snapping.” Questions that will help clarify the situation: “Was the perpetrator acting jealous or protective of the victim?” “Did the victim seem isolated from family or friends?” “Had there been threats to kill or did the victim seem fearful?”

Accurately represent the psychology of the abuse. It is common to report that alcohol and substance abuse, economic stress, mental illness or jealousy was the cause or motive for the homicide. Be aware that abusers skillfully put forth a positive public image to relatives, friends and co-workers as well as neighbors and distant acquaintances. While it is important to interview family, friends, and co-workers, keep in mind that they may be reluctant to speak negatively about the abuser and may not present an accurate picture of a history of violence. Sources may be hesitant to speak negatively of the dead.

[Frequently, domestic violence is a risk factor for homicides that become homicide-suicides.](#) Often people know about the abuse, but do not want to say anything negative about a person who has just committed suicide. Make sure the sources journalists use know the victim or perpetrator well. If not, the journalist may wish to consider not using the information they provide to ensure accuracy of reporting.

Look for the warning signs and risk factors leading up to the homicide: Were there guns or other weapons in the house and is familiar with their use; previous reports of police intervention/response; threats to hurt the victim, self, children or pets; violence during pregnancy, history of strangulation, stalking or sexual abuse; and the relationship to the children in the household. These signs and risk factors are associated with an increased risk of domestic violence-related homicides. Danger assessment is by no means an exact science. There are documented killings by perpetrators whose previous profile did not involve the potential for severe or cruel violence. Knowing the risk factors that are present or may be absent, all victims should be encouraged to work with a trained advocate on creating a safety plan.

Do not assume some cultures or classes are violent, and others are not.

Focusing on the economic status or ethnicity of the victim or abuser confuses the point that domestic violence crosses all lines of race, class, and culture. These factors may influence the specific tactics an abuser uses in order to maintain power and control in the relationship; however, blaming class, race or culture when an abuser kills their partner reinforces myths that some groups are more violent than others.

Explore policy implications and “system” practices. What role did systems/policies play that may have escalated the situation to homicide, (e.g., law enforcement, the legal system, the judicial system, CPS, etc.)

MEDIA INQUIRIES

For media inquiries with a statewide focus, contact Sue Meuschke, executive director of NNADV. She can be reached by calling the Network 775.828.1115 ext. 11 or by email suem@nnadv.org.

For media inquiries with a community-based focus, contact the executive director or public relations staff person from the [local domestic violence programs](#).

REFERENCES

Bonnie Bucqueroux and Anne Seymour, [*A Guide for Journalists Who Report on Crime and Crime Victims*](#), Washington D.C., Justice Solutions, NPO, September 2009.

Dart Center for Journalism & Trauma, [*Tragedies & Journalists: a Guide for More Effective Coverage*](#), 2003. This resource has a chapter on vicarious trauma that may occur among journalists covering violent crimes and includes tips for self-care.

Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, [*Domestic Violence Media Guide: Breaking the Cycle of Violence*](#), September 2006. On page 46 of this document, there is information gathered from the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence's survivors' group- [Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships](#) (SOAR). Survivors share their experiences with journalists that include tips for interviewing survivors beginning with terminology, questions that will preserve confidentiality, tips on protecting children's privacy, promote safety, and accountability for the perpetrator's behavior.

Jane Doe Inc. The Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, [*Media Guide: Reporting on Domestic Violence Related Homicides*](#).

National Advisory Council on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, [*Toolkit to End Violence Against Women*](#), November 1, 2001.

This web-based publication is updated as issues evolve and includes 16 chapters that provide recommendations for strengthening prevention efforts and improving services for victims. The format is designed to help readers quickly pinpoint topics of interest, and each chapter is relevant to more than one group of individuals.

National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, [Domestic Violence Awareness Month-Engaging the Media](#). New information is posted annually in preparation for DVAM in October.

Starr, Kelly for the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. [*Covering Domestic Violence: A Guide for Journalists and Other Media Professionals*](#); June 2002, Revised January 2008.

NATIONAL RESOURCES

DOMESTIC, SEXUAL, AND DATING VIOLENCE AND STALKING

The following resources are current as of June 2014.

[American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence](#)

The mission of the ABA Commission on Domestic Violence is to increase access to justice for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking by mobilizing the legal profession. Lists resources for attorneys and offers training.

[ASISTA](#)

ASISTA's purpose is to centralize, enhance and expand assistance for advocates and attorneys facing complex legal problems in advocating for immigrant survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

[Battered Women's Justice Project](#) (BWJP) 1.800.903.0111

BWJP provides training and technical assistance on civil, legal, and criminal justice system issues relating to violence against women, including survivors who have been charged with crimes.

[Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence](#)

The Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing the costs and consequences of partner violence at work – and eliminating it altogether. It is the only national organization of its kind founded by business leaders and focused on the workplace.

[FaithTrust Institute](#)

FaithTrust Institute is a national, multi-faith, multicultural training and education organization with global reach working to end sexual and domestic violence. It provides communities and advocates with tools to address the religious and cultural issues related to abuse. FaithTrust Institute works with many communities, including Asian and Pacific Islander, Buddhist, Jewish, Latino/a, Muslim, Black, Anglo, Indigenous, Protestant, and Roman Catholic.

[Futures Without Violence](#) 415.252.8900

Futures Without Violence works to end domestic violence and help women and children whose lives are affected by abuse. Their website offers articles and information on relationship abuse and domestic and sexual violence, press releases and story archives, information on public policy efforts, and other resource materials. This organization supports the [National Health Resource Center](#).

[Legal Momentum](#) (Women's Legal Defense & Education Fund)

Legal Momentum is the nation's oldest legal advocacy organization dedicated to advancing the rights of women and girls through its advocacy, litigation, and educational initiatives. Legal Momentum focuses on five priority areas to ensure that its work will advance the economic and personal security of the most vulnerable women, especially poor, immigrant and low-wage working women.

[National Alliance to End Sexual Violence](#)

The National Alliance to End Sexual Violence educates the policy community about federal laws, legislation and appropriations impacting the fight to end sexual violence. Its team of experts and advocates, donating time away from their state and local groups, publish written analysis, track legislation, provide media interviews, and advise members of Congress and the executive branch. Its mission is to provide a missing voice in Washington for state coalitions and local programs advocating and organizing against sexual violence and for survivors. [Media representative](#).

National Center for Victims of Crime

Through collaboration with local, state, and federal partners, the National Center:

- [Advocates for Stronger Rights, Protections, and Services for Crime Victims](#)
- [Provides Education, Training, and Evaluation](#)
- [Serves as a Trusted Source of Current Information on Victims' Issues](#)

Media Outreach: The National Center regularly provides national, regional, and local media with victim-related data and statistics, analyses on current issues, and commentary on breaking news stories. The National Center is available for media interviews on a variety of victims' issues, contact Kath Cummins: kcummins@ncvc.org, 202.467.8743.

National Center for Children Exposed to Violence

The National Center for Children Exposed to Violence (NCCEV) works to increase the capacity of individuals and communities to reduce the incidence and impact of violence on children and families; to train and support the professionals who provide intervention and treatment to children and families affected by violence; and to increase professional and public awareness of the effects of violence on children, families, communities, and society. NCCEV is a resource center for anyone seeking information about the effects of violence on children and the initiatives designed to address this problem. It is also a provider of training, technical assistance, and consultation to a variety of collaborative community programs across the country.

National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA)

The NCEA provides up-to-date information regarding research, training, best practices, news and resources on elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. The Center provides information to policy makers, professionals in the elder justice field, and the public.

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life

Through [advocacy](#) and [education](#), the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL) works every day to improve [victim safety](#), increase [abuser accountability](#), expand [coordinated community response](#), and ultimately, put an end to abuse in later life.

National Criminal Justice Reference Service 301.519.5500 or 1.800.851.3420

The National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) is a federally-sponsored information clearinghouse for people in the United States and the world involved with research, policy, and practice related to criminal and juvenile justice and drug control. NCJRS disseminates publications, grant information, and other resources for the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Bureau of Justice Statistics, and Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, National Institute of Justice, and other partner agencies. Publications can be accessed from the website or copies can be requested by phone, fax, or email.

The National Dating Abuse Helpline

The Helpline is a national, 24-hour resource specifically designed for teens and young adults. The Helpline offers real-time, one-on-one support from peer advocates by phone or Internet. They train these young leaders to offer support, information and advocacy to those involved in dating abuse relationships as well as concerned friends, parents, teachers, clergy, law enforcement and service providers. For media inquiries, please contact Liz Bradford of Bradford Public Relations, Inc. at lbradford@bradfordpr.com or 512.685.6298.

National Indigenous Women's Resource Center

The National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Inc. (NIWRC) is a Native nonprofit organization that was created specifically to serve as the National Indian Resource Center (NIRC) Addressing Domestic Violence and Safety for Indian Women.

National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)

NNEDV is the leading voice for domestic violence victims and their advocates. As a membership and advocacy organization of state domestic violence coalitions, allied organizations and supportive individuals, NNEDV works closely with its members to understand the ongoing and emerging needs of domestic violence victims and advocacy programs. NNEDV makes sure those needs are heard and understood by policymakers at the national level.

National Resource Center on Domestic Violence 1.800.537.2238

The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRC) is a valuable resource for information, training, and technical assistance regarding domestic violence issues. NRC is also a clearinghouse for the domestic violence resources and statistics that may be used to enhance policies and publications.

National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) 1.877.739.3895

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) is a clearinghouse for resources and research about all forms of sexual violence. The NSVRC works with its partner agency, the University of Pennsylvania, to provide new policies for establishing sexual violence intervention and prevention programs.

National Sisters of Color to End Sexual Assault 860.693.2031

The National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault (SCESA) is an advocacy organization of Women of Color dedicated to working with our communities to create a just society in which all Women of Color are able to live healthy lives free of violence. Their purpose is to give voice and develop action strategies that incorporate and address the experiences and realities of Women of Color and Communities of Color.

The Northwest Network of Bisexual, Transgender, Gay and Lesbian Survivors of Abuse

The NW Network increases our communities' ability to support the self-determination and safety of bisexual, transgender, lesbian and gay survivors of abuse through education, organizing and advocacy. This organization works within a broad liberation movement dedicated to social and economic justice, equality and respect for all people and the creation of loving, inclusive and accountable communities.

The Polaris Project hosts the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC)

The NHTRC is a national, toll-free hotline, available to answer calls and texts from anywhere in the country, 24/7. The NHTRC is operated by Polaris Project, a non-profit, non-governmental organization working exclusively on the issue of human trafficking. The Polaris Project is not a government entity, law enforcement or an immigration authority.

Call: 1.888.373.7888

- To [report a tip](#);
- To [connect with anti-trafficking services in your area](#); or,
- To [request training and technical assistance, general information](#) or [specific anti-trafficking resources](#).

Rape Abuse Incest National Network (RAINN)

RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) is the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization. RAINN created and operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline 800.656.HOPE and online.rainn.org in partnership with more than 1,100 local rape crisis centers across the country and operates the [DoD Safe Helpline](#) for the Department of Defense. RAINN also carries out programs to prevent sexual violence, help victims and ensure that rapists are brought to justice. **Media Inquiries:** Meredith Ritchie, Communications Manager, meredithr@rainn.org; 202.544.5537.

Stalking Resource Center 202.467.8700

The National Center for Victims of Crime's (NCVC's) mission is to help victims of crime and their families rebuild their lives. The Stalking Resource Center provides resources, training, and technical assistance to criminal justice professionals and victim service providers to support locally coordinated, multidisciplinary anti-stalking approaches and responses.

Women of Color Network (WOCN)

The Women of Color Network (WOCN), a project of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV) is a national grassroots initiative dedicated to building the capacity of women of color advocates and activists responding to violence against women in communities of color. Through trainings, technical assistance, and advocacy, WOCN helps foster women of color in the advancement of their anti-violence work and leadership.

RESOURCES FOR SURVIVORS

National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC)

Call: 1.888.373.7888 or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733).

The NHTRC is a national, toll-free hotline, available to answer calls and texts from anywhere in the country, 24/7 and is operated by Polaris Project, a non-profit, non-governmental organization working exclusively on the issue of human trafficking. This organization is not a government entity, law enforcement or an immigration authority.

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1.800.799.7233 (voice); 1.800.787.3224 (TTY)

This 24/7 hotline can assist victims of domestic violence with safety planning as well as link other community members to resources around the United States.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

1.800.273.TALK (800.272.8255) English; 1.888.628.9454 Spanish; 1.800.799.4TTY (800.799.4889)

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24/7. [Newsroom](#).

The National Dating Abuse Helpline 1.866.331.9474; text “loveis” to 22522

The Helpline is a national, 24-hour resource specifically designed for teens and young adults. The Helpline offers real-time, one-on-one support from peer advocates by phone or internet.

Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network 1.800.656.HOPE (1.800.656.4673)

RAINN created and operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline. This nationwide partnership of more than 1,100 local rape treatment hotlines provides victims of sexual violence with free, confidential services around the clock. In 2007, RAINN expanded its hotline services with the National Sexual Assault [Online Hotline](#), the nation's first secure web-based hotline that provides live and completely confidential help to victims.

NEVADA STATEWIDE RESOURCES

Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence

This website lists all [15 domestic violence organizations in Nevada](#) that assist survivors of domestic violence and their children. These community-based advocacy organizations provide crisis intervention through a hotline, emergency shelter, assistance with Orders of Protection, help with safety planning, individual counseling and support groups. Please contact each organization to learn about all the services they provide to survivors.

Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence Resource Center

The Resource Center offers links to the Network's publications, brochures, handbooks, toolkits, and resource lists for adult survivors, teens and advocacy professionals including healthcare providers. [Request a Resource](#).

Nevada's Rape Prevention and Education Resources

www.health.nv.gov.BFHS_RapePrevention.htm; www.preventsexualviolencenv.org

Nevada's Bystander Intervention Resources – Building Awareness & Strategies to Safely Intervene to Prevent Violence www.stepupstopviolence.org.

Crisis Call Center 800.273.8255 or 775.784.8090; [Online Directory](#)

Nevada 2-1-1 service is available statewide. Service is available 24/7. Offers resources from basic needs to any health and human service program.

APPENDIX

POWER & CONTROL AND EQUALITY WHEELS

- The history behind the creation of the Power & Control and Equality Wheels
<http://www.theduluthmodel.org/training/wheels.html>
- For an extensive collection of wheels in English and other languages, customized wheels for professionals that are providing services to survivors and specific audiences, visit
http://www.ncdsv.org/publications_wheel.html

NEVADA'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ORGANIZATIONS

SAFETY PLAN TEMPLATES & RESOURCES FOR SURVIVORS

National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence Publications

http://www.ncdsv.org/publications_safetyplans.html

SAFETY AND TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES, TIP SHEETS, AND TOOLKITS

[Safety Net Project](#), National Network to End Domestic Violence.

- [Assistive Technology for People who have Disabilities or who are Deaf](#)
- [Cell Phones](#)
- [Databases & Data Retention \(for Agencies & Programs Working With Survivors\)](#)
- [General Technology Safety & Information](#)
- [Safety Net Journal Articles & Publications](#)
- [Online Safety & Privacy Tips](#)
- [Technology Safety Planning](#)
- [Spyware](#)
- [Tech Savvy Teens](#)
- [Sexting](#)
- [Social Networking & Privacy](#)
- [Online Privacy & Safety Tips](#)
- [Survivor Confidentiality](#)
- [Identity Change](#)
- [High-Tech Twist on Abuse: Technology, Intimate Partner Stalking & Advocacy](#)
- [Technology & Confidentiality Toolkit](#)
- [Survivor Privacy](#)