

Abuse is NEVER acceptable and is NEVER your fault!

It is the choice of the abuser.

Abuse is not CAUSED by alcohol or drug abuse, stress, financial pressures, depression or jealousy.

THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR ABUSE!

Domestic Violence is a CRIME!

You have legal choices. You can file criminal charges against your abuser. You may also get the court to order your abuser to stop hurting you and your children. This is called a "Protection From Abuse Order" (PFA).

A judge may assist you by:

Granting a PFA that will keep your abuser out of your home, away from you and your family, and away from where you work.
Give you temporary custody of your children; and/or make your abuser pay support.

Protections from Abuse Orders are available seven days a week.

KNOW YOUR OPTIONS!



The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County can help.

The center has advocates available to help you understand these procedures and help you to make the best decision for your circumstances. We can accompany you to court and support you during the legal proceedings.

Domestic Violence Center of Chester County

Agency Services

24-Hour Hotlines
Emergency Shelter
Bridge Transitional Housing
Phase IV Transitional Housing
Legal Center
Court Accompaniment
Counseling
Support Groups
Case Management
Medical Advocacy
Children's Programs
Education Programs
Community Education and Training
Information and Referrals
Bilingual (Spanish/English) Services
Bilingual (Spanish/English) Outreach



The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County works to assure safety and justice for victims of domestic violence regardless of sex, race, age, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or political affiliation.

Outreach Locations

Kennett Square, PA
610-444-7550 Ext. 233 & Ext. 243

Oxford, PA
610-932-8557, ext. 211

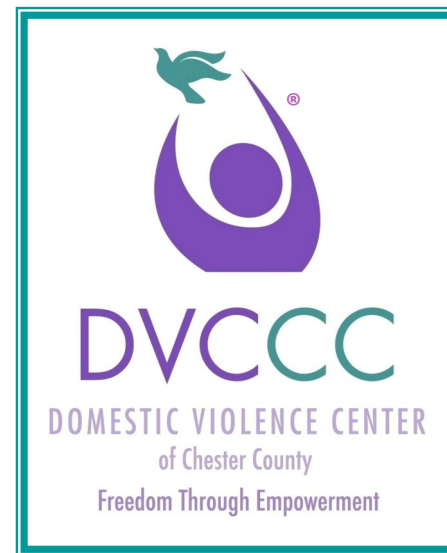
Coatesville, PA
610-384-2774

West Grove, PA
610-444-7550 ext. 2001

Phoenixville—by Appointment Only

Member agency
United Way of Chester County
United Way of Southern Chester County

The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County, Inc. is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization. A copy of the official registration may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling, toll-free in Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999.
Registration does not imply endorsement.



What is Domestic Violence?

Fast Facts & Resources

www.DVCCCPA.org

24-Hour Toll-Free Hotline

1-888-711-6270
610-431-1430



PO Box 832
West Chester, PA 19381-0832
Office: 610-431-3546
Fax: 610-431-2462

SAFETY FIRST!

Living with a violent person can be life-threatening. It's hard to make decisions when you are afraid.

Call our hotline! Advocates and counselors are available to help to get you to a safe place. Sometimes family and friends can be helpful, but if you are afraid to tell them about what happened, call us—we are here to listen. We are a safe haven where you can find protection, understanding and support.

During the violence (if possible), call the police or have someone call 9-1-1

After the violence – Seek medical help as soon as possible and tell them what really happened. Have the doctor, nurse or a friend take pictures; save any torn or bloody clothes. Talk to someone there about what you can do next.

SERVICES ARE FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

Anyone can be a victim of domestic violence. Victims come from ALL backgrounds and neighborhoods.

PLEASE CALL!

Don't wait until it happens again.

24 Hour Toll-Free Hotlines:

1-888-711-7270

610-431-1430

610-431-7262 (TTY)

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic violence is a specific and deliberate pattern of behavior for the sole purpose of establishing and maintaining power and control over another person in an intimate relationship.

1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced some sort of physical violence in a relationship.

Domestic Abuse can include any or all of the following:

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Hitting, slapping, shoving, kicking, punching, burning, choking, being restrained from getting away, use of objects to cause injury, etc.

EMOTIONAL & VERBAL ABUSE

Words that are degrading, or hurtful; threats to hurt you, himself/herself or your children; telling you what you can and cannot do; Isolating you from family & friends; ongoing use of manipulation, guilt, and Intimidation, etc.

SEXUAL ABUSE

Rape, unwanted touching, forcing sexual acts against your will, etc.

ECONOMIC ABUSE

Stealing or destroying your personal belongings; putting all your money or assets in their name; keeping you from getting basic needs; withholding money, keys to car, or keeping you from working or an getting Education, etc.

USING CITIZENSHIP OR RESIDENCY PRIVILEGE

Failing to file papers to legalize the immigration status; withdrawing or threatening to withdraw papers filed for Residency, making you fearful that you will be deported if you contact the police, etc.

Is your relationship unhealthy?



Ask yourself, does my partner:

- ◇ Make fun of me or put me down?
- ◇ Embarrass me in front of others?
- ◇ Try to tell me what you do, who I can see or talk to, or where I can go?
- ◇ Keep me from seeing my friends or family members?
- ◇ Take my money, make me ask for money, or refuse to give me money to meet my basic needs?
- ◇ Make all of the decisions?
- ◇ Tell me that I am a bad parent or threaten to take away or hurt the children?
- ◇ Prevent or discourage me from working or attending school?
- ◇ Act like the abuse is no big deal, is my fault, or even deny doing it?
- ◇ Destroy my property?
- ◇ Constantly look through my phone and question me about what they see?
- ◇ Shove, slap, strangle/choke, or hit me?
- ◇ Force me to drop charges?
- ◇ Threaten to commit suicide?
- ◇ Threaten to kill me?

If you answered "yes" to even one of these questions, you may be in an abusive relationship.