

DOMESTIC ABUSE

Domestic abuse occurs in families of all ages and races regardless of social, economic or religious background. Abuse can be emotional and sexual as well as physical; ranging from being verbally harassed, pushed or slapped to being punched, stabbed or having your life threatened. In Minnesota an estimated 132,000 women are assaulted each year.

Laws in Minnesota are meant to hold the abuser accountable. Police departments do make an arrest when they have probable cause that an assault occurred. The victim is **not** responsible for pressing charges. Charges are pressed by the state usually based on the information in the police report, including the victim's and witnesses' statements to the police.

The majority of assault charges are misdemeanor assaults. These cases vary a great deal. The assault may be the most recent in a long history of abuse or the very first incident. There may be few visible signs of injury or there may be need for medical attention or there may be fear of physical injury.

Battering is part of a system of behaviors used to establish and maintain power and control over another person. **Many women report that the emotional, verbal, and economic abuse hurts worse than the physical assaults and heals more slowly.**

Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women also provides the following services:

- * 24-hour emergency assistance
- * temporary shelter for battered women and their children
- * support/education groups for battered women
- * Latina Advocacy Program
- * iM o.K.® Children's Visitation Center
- * community education
- * opportunities for volunteers

What is battering?



Developed by DAIP

Battering, or the use of physical force, is part of a system of behaviors used to establish and maintain power and control over another person.

Intimidation

Putting her in fear by using looks, actions, gestures, loud voice, smashing things, destroying her property.

Isolation

Controlling what she does, who she sees and talks to, where she goes.

Emotional Abuse

Putting her down or making her feel bad about herself, calling her names. Making her think she's crazy. Playing mind games.

Economic Abuse

Trying to keep her from getting or keeping a job. Making her ask for money, giving her an allowance, taking her money.

Sexual Abuse

Making her do sexual things against her will. Physically attacking the sexual parts of her body. Treating her like a sex object.

Using Children

Making her feel guilty about the children, using the children to give messages, using visitation as a way to harass her.

Threats

Making and/or carrying out threats to do something to hurt her emotionally. Threatening to take the children, commit suicide, report her to welfare.

Using Male Privilege

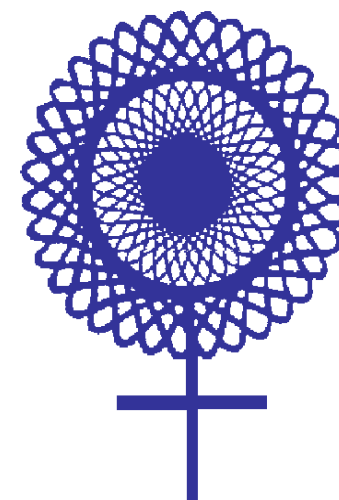
Treating her like a servant. Making all the "big" decisions. Acting like the "master of the castle."

These behaviors are more powerful because they are reinforced by the threat or use of physical abuse.

For help or information, call
**Southern Valley Alliance
for Battered Women
952.873.4214**



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SOUTHERN VALLEY INTERVENTION PROJECT

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A program of...
**Southern Valley Alliance
For Battered Women**

NO CONTACT ORDERS

A Domestic Abuse No Contact Order (NCO) tells a defendant charged with assault not to call, write, see, touch or get someone else to contact the victim. A NCO also prevents a defendant from going to a victim's residence.

HOW DOES A NO CONTACT ORDER GET ISSUED?

Following an arrest, a defendant appears before a judge for a bail hearing. The prosecutor asks the judge for conditions to be placed on the defendant to protect the victim and to guarantee the defendant's future court appearances.

Prosecutors frequently request no contact orders even when the victim requests that contact be allowed. Only the judge can change the order. It remains in effect while the criminal case is pending. **Minnesota law requires victim notification of release and release conditions.** If you have not received notice, contact the Scott County Jail at 952.496-8314 or the Carver County Jail at 952-361-1278.

WHAT IF THE DEFENDANT DOES CONTACT YOU?

If the defendant assaults you, threatens you, or contacts you in violation of the court order, call the police (911) immediately. Police will be able to arrest, especially if the defendant is at the victim's home. It is a crime to violate a NCO. When the police cannot arrest, a pretrial court services agent may bring the violation to the attention of the judge and an arrest warrant can be issued.

Southern Valley Intervention Project can assist you in contacting the prosecuting attorney or court agent about violations of No Contact Orders. **For help, call 952.873.4233.**

SOUTHERN VALLEY INTERVENTION PROJECT

WHO WE ARE

We are a branch of Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women, a non-profit organization founded in 1983 by community women and dedicated to providing the battered women and other victims of domestic abuse with support, referrals, protection and advocacy.

Southern Valley Intervention Project contacts victims of domestic violence crimes in Scott and Carver Counties to provide information and support. We know that victims of violence can have a wide range of feelings about the incident, the person who was arrested and the criminal process.

The court process can be confusing, frustrating and time-consuming. Advocacy helps overcome these barriers so that the victims of battering get the support they need to end the cycle of abuse.

We can provide:

- * information about your rights as a crime victim;
- * assistance to you to understand the criminal court process;
- * transportation to and from court;
- * attendance at hearings with you or on your behalf;
- * advocacy for you with prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, probation officers and police officers;
- * assistance with filing an Order for Protection.

ORDERS FOR PROTECTION

An Order for Protection (OFP) is a specific kind of restraining order which can be requested from the court to protect you from domestic abuse. The OFP may direct the person who has abused you to:

- * stop threatening or abusing you;
- * have no other contact with you;
- * stay away from your residence, school or place of employment;
- * pay support;
- * pay restitution;
- * enter a counseling program.

An OFP may also establish temporary custody of your children and set up conditions for visitation. OFP's are usually granted for a period of one year and can be renewed.

Who is eligible?

You may file an OFP if you are a victim of domestic violence, defined as any act of **physical** abuse (assault or threat of assault) committed by:

- * a current or former spouse, or someone you live/lived with;
- * a blood relative;
- * the parent of your child even if the child is still unborn;
- * someone you've had a significant sexual relationship with.

Minnesota law requires police to arrest a person found at an address excluded from by an Order for Protection.

If the abuser assaults you, threatens you, or violates the order, call the police (911) immediately. These violations are crimes and carry criminal penalties.

Where to get an Order for Protection

You may file an Order for Protection at the courthouse. If you want further information or help in filing, call Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women at 952.873.4214.