

## WARNING LIST

### ECONOMIC CONTROL

- Economic Abuse – Using retaliatory behavior to prevent partner from seeking work or going to work, including hiding keys or car, taking money or refusing to give money, and threatening to embarrass partner at work or to social service agencies.
- Threats – Telling about plans to hurt loved ones or companion animals.

### VIOLENT ACTS

- Cruelty to children or animals – Abusing children; killing or brutally punishing animals. Sixty-five percent of abusers who beat their partners will also abuse children in the household.
- Weapons – Keeping weapons around and using them as a means of control; threatening or attempting to kill family members, including companion pets.
- Physical violence – Slapping, punching, kicking, choking, pushing, biting, burning, stabbing, shooting, grabbing, knocking down, poking, etc.
- Destruction – Destroying property by knocking holes in walls, breaking things, throwing objects on floor, or performing other acts of destruction.
- Sexual violence – Being thrown down or held against will during sex by partner; using other forms of force, threats, or coercion to obtain sex or perform sexual acts.
- Intimidation – Using gestures that are angry, threatening or intimidating to love ones; out shouting partner; driving recklessly; or standing in the doorway during argument to prevent partner from leaving.

### EMOTIONAL ACTS

- Disrespect – Constantly criticizing or saying blatantly cruel, hurtful things; degrading and ignoring loved ones in public and private; twisting words; mocking and saying bad things about partner's friends and family members.
- Abuse of trust – Cheating with another sexual partner; acting overly jealous; lying; withholding information; manipulating children or other loved ones.
- Emotional withholding – Not respecting feelings, rights or opinions; not expressing feelings or demonstrating emotional concern; withholding compliments, attention or support; sulking.
- Breaking promises – Refusing to keep or honor promises; refusing to accept fair share of domestic responsibility.
- Self-destructive behavior – Creating circumstances that will have negative outcomes, such as telling off the boss; abusing drugs or alcohol; threatening suicide or other forms of self-harm.
- Isolation – Tracking partner's activities, including phone calls; blocking or making it difficult for spouse to see family and friends.
- Abuse of authority – Professing to have superior wisdom and insight; always claiming to be right and knowing "the truth"; and making big decisions without input from partner, but demanding their cooperation.
- Harassment – Refusing to leave when asked; following or checking up on partner; and appearing uninvited at partner's home or place of employment; constantly calling and/or embarrassing them in public.

### VERBAL ABUSE

- Abuse – Making abusive remarks, name calling, blaming, yelling and swearing.

*If you are a victim of domestic violence,  
please contact the Alabama Statewide  
24-hour hotline at 1-800-691-8426.*

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

*It's  
Everybody's  
Problem*



*Your Experts for Life*

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# WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic violence is any action that causes emotional or physical harm to one household member by another in an effort to control. It can include name calling, threats, pushing, punching, slapping, choking, deprivation, yelling, put-downs, or beatings.

Abuse can be psychological or physical, and is often a combination of both. It undermines a man’s or woman’s self-worth, fills them with fear, and leaves both emotional and physical scars.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS A CRIME!

### DID YOU KNOW?

Domestic violence is most corrosive in homes where poverty, abuse and poor health form an interlocking circle.

#### NATIONAL FACTS:

- Every nine seconds in the United States a woman is abused by her husband or partner.
- Domestic violence results in more injuries that need medical treatment than burglary, accidents, muggings or other physical crimes combined.
- Up to 40 percent of all battering starts during pregnancy.
- Violence occurs at least once in two-thirds of all marriages.
- 4,000,000+ women are abused each year by their mates.
- Injuries received by victims of domestic violence are at least as serious as those suffered in 90 percent of violent felonies.
- African-American women suffer abuse from an intimate partner at a 35 percent higher rate than other races.
- Male violence against women does much more damage than female violence against men; women are much more likely to be injured than men.
- 40-60 percent of men who abuse women also abuse children.
- More than half the homeless families said they are out on the streets due to domestic violence.
- Between one- and two-thirds of welfare recipients reported encountering domestic violence at some point in their adult lives; between 15-32 percent reported current domestic victimization.

**Sources:** U.S. Department of Justice, *Violence by intimates: Analysis of data on crimes by current spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends* (2001); and *Speakin' Out News*, Huntsville, Alabama (2003).

# DID YOU KNOW? (continued)

#### ALABAMA FACTS:

- Over 19 percent of Alabama's population is poor compared to 14 percent of the United States (US) population.
- Much of the poverty is concentrated in about a quarter of the counties in the state, which tend to have high unemployment rates.
- One in three Alabama children live in poverty – the second highest rate in the US.
- At least 75 percent of all welfare recipients in Alabama have suffered chronic episodes of abuse, including battering by a spouse or boyfriend.
- Of the 19,873 violent offenses reported in 2001, 20 percent were domestic violence incidents. Domestic violence was indicated in 4,013 offenses reported: in 40 homicides; 172 rapes; 39 robberies; and in 3,762 aggravated assaults.
- There were 24,635 domestic simple assaults, which represent 34 percent of all simple assaults reported in 2001.
- 75 percent of the domestic assault victims were females, and 25 percent were males. 60 percent of the victims were black, and 40 percent were white. In 63 percent of the offenses, the offender was black, and in 75 percent the offender was male.
- A firearm was the weapon used in 15 percent of the domestic assaults; hands, fists, or feet were used as a weapon in 37 percent; a knife was the weapon used in 18 percent; and other dangerous weapons were used in 29 percent.
- 55 percent of the domestic assault victims suffered injuries: 8 percent were injured with a firearm; 20 percent were injured with a knife; 41 percent were injured with fists, feet or hands; and 31 percent were injured with other dangerous weapons.
- In 34 percent of domestic violence offenses the victim was the wife of the offender; in 38 percent the victim was the girlfriend of the offender.

#### RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIM AND OFFENDER

Victim	Percent	Victim	Percent
Wife	27%	Husband	11%
Common-law wife	4%	Common-law husband	2%
Ex-wife	3%	Ex-husband	1%
Girlfriend	24%	Boyfriend	9%
Ex-girlfriend	14%	Ex-boyfriend	4%

**Source:** The Statistical Analysis Center of the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center (2001).