

Domestic Violence

What Is It?

Is it Happening to
You or Someone
You Know?

**THERE ARE LAWS TO
PROTECT YOU!**



“Domestic Violence”

means any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another family or household member.



“Family or Household Member”

means spouses, former spouses, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who are presently residing together as if a family or who have resided together in the past as if a family, and persons who are parents of a child in common regardless of whether they have been married. With the exception of persons who have a child in common, the family or household members must be currently residing or have in the past resided together in the same single dwelling unit.

LEGAL RIGHTS AND REMEDIES

IF YOU ARE THE VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, you may ask the state attorney to file a criminal complaint. You also have the right to go to court and file a petition requesting an injunction for protection from domestic violence, which may include, but need not be limited to:

- provisions which restrain the abuser from further acts of abuse;
- direct the abuser to leave your household;
- prevent the abuser from entering your residence, school, business, or place of employment;
- award you custody of your minor child or children; and
- direct the abuser to pay support to you and the minor children if the abuser has a legal obligation to do so.

Remember...

The most difficult step for you to take is to admit that you are being, or have been, abused by your partner. Remember, your partner’s violence is the problem, not you.

You did not provoke it.

You do not deserve it.



SAFETY PLAN

- If an argument seems unavoidable, try to have it in an area that has access to an exit.
- Practice how to get out of your home safely.
- Devise a code word to use with your children, family and friends when you need the police.
- Leave money, extra car keys, copies of important documents and extra clothes with someone you trust.
- Your situation may change, so always plan for a safe place to go, even if you may not think you need one now.

**For help with your Safety Plan contact the
Melbourne Police Department
Domestic Violence Unit**

SAFETY CHECKLIST

What To Take When You Leave:

Remember, this is the most dangerous time.

Drivers License or Identification
Children's Birth Certificates
Social Security Cards
Money
Lease, Rental Agreement, Deed
Check/Savings Books
Insurance Papers
House and Car Keys
Extra Clothing
Medication/Medical Records
Address Book
Picture of Abuser

Melbourne PD Can Help

- Referrals for counseling and community resources
- Assistance in filing domestic violence injunctions
- Accompany victims to injunction hearing
- Provide 911 Telephones
- Safety planning
- Assistance with Victim Compensation Claims



**A PARTNER IS BEATEN
EVERY FEW SECONDS**

For domestic violence victims seeking relocation to escape the violence, there is help. For relocation assistance contact the nearest domestic violence center. For information on the address confidentiality program contact the Attorney General's Office at 1-800-226-6667.

If the abuse (a crime) caused you to incur uncovered medical expenses and/or lost wages, you may be eligible for compensation. To qualify for these services, you must be willing to prosecute and cooperate with law enforcement officials. **Contact the Melbourne Police Department Domestic Violence Unit for additional information.**

**Florida Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-500-1119**

**EMERGENCY
9-1-1**

Alcoholics Anonymous	(321) 724-2247
Circles of Care	(321) 722-5200
Clerk of Court	(321) 633-1924
Family Counseling Center	(321) 632-5792
Legal Aid	(321) 631-2500
Salvation Army DV Center	(321) 631-2764
Serene Harbor DV Center	(321) 726-8282
State Attorney	(321) 617-7510
Women's Center	(321) 242-3110



Melbourne Police Department
650 Apollo Blvd.
Melbourne, Florida 32935
(321) 608-6731

Domestic Violence Unit
Detective: (321) 608-6356
Victim Advocate: (321) 608-6359