

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE...
IN THE UNITED STATES**

- A woman is battered every 9 seconds
- Over 3 million incidents of domestic violence occur every year
- Domestic violence causes more injuries to women between the ages of 15 to 44 than car accidents, assaults, & rapes combined
- 1/3 of all homicides are related to domestic violence & over 4000 victims are killed every year
- Approximately 40% of all homicides committed against females are committed by husbands or boyfriends
- Domestic violence is not connected to age, profession, wealth, race, religion, or education level
- Domestic violence is not caused by the victim, stress, alcohol, or drugs

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AFFECTS YOUR FAMILY

- lowers self-esteem & self-respect
- Causes you to live in fear for your and/or your children's safety
- Causes feelings of helplessness, guilt, shame, self-blame, anger, & the ability to trust
- May cause learning & behavioral problems in children
- Children suffer emotionally & psychologically from seeing & hearing violence
- Even children who never see a violent act sense their abused parent's pain & fear
- Being exposed to violence in the home can affect children in the same way as being sexually or physically abused
- Children may grow up believing violence is natural & normal & may become batterers
- 70% of those who batter may physically or sexually abuse their children. If you knowingly allow your children to be abused, you could be charged with cruelty to children.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SIGNS &
THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE
IN RELATIONSHIPS**

PHASE 1 - TENSION BUILDING

Tension starts to build. The abuser increases threats of violence & name-calling. Pushing & shoving may start. During this phase, the victim often makes extra efforts to please & calm the abuser.

PHASE 2 - ACT OF VIOLENCE

The violence occurs. The abuser explodes & may throw objects at his/her partner, hit, kick, choke, sexually abuse, or use weapons against his/her partner.

PHASE 3 - HONEYMOON

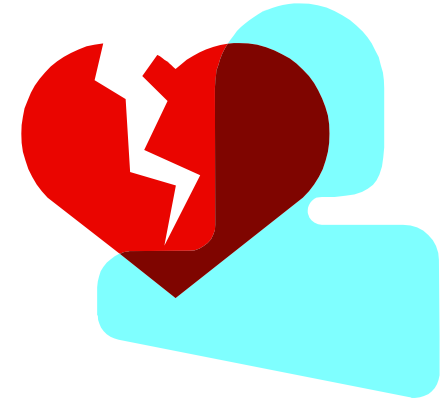
The abuser apologizes repeatedly & may even purchase "I'm sorry" gifts. He/she expresses guilt & shame for the abuse. He/she promises that it will not happen again & says things will be different. He/she may even cry & promise to attend counseling. (Begging for forgiveness is part of the method used to control the victim. Batterers rarely stop battering.) The abuser may blame the violence on his/her partner, saying it would not have happened if he/she had not done something to make them angry.

NOTE: PHASE 1 STARTS OVER & THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE CONTINUES....

HELPFUL RESOURCES

- Newton Co. District Attorney's Office Victim Services
770-784-2070
- Newton County Sheriff's Office/Jail
678-625-1400
- Covington Police 770-786-7605
- Oxford Police 770-788-1390
- Porterdale Police 770-786-2266
- Family & Children Svcs. 770-784-2490
- GA Comm. Family Violence 404-657-3412
- GA Legal Services 1-800-498-9469
- GA Coalition Against Domestic Violence
404-209-0280

**NEWTON COUNTY
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
TASK FORCE**



**BREAK
THE
CYCLE**

The Victim Services Program in Newton County has designed this brochure to answer some of the most frequently asked questions and provide a list of resources that you may find helpful.

**IF AN ARREST WAS MADE -
OFFICERS WILL FILE CHARGES**

The defendant (abuser) will be taken to jail & processed. At this point, you, the victim, cannot "press" or "drop" charges. The defendant may make bail shortly after being arrested & be released on bond. If you wish to be notified of the defendant's release, you must call the jail & give your personal information to a detention officer to be placed in the defendant's file so it will be accessible to them when needed.

In most cases, a condition of bond is that the defendant has no contact with the victim. This means that he/she cannot come back to the family home if that is where the victim is residing, nor is the defendant to call, fax, page, email or approach the victim. If you fear that you may be harmed by the defendant because of previous action or threats made directly to you & a "no contact" provision has not been listed on the bond, you may be eligible for a Temporary Protective Order. This service is available Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**IF AN ARREST WAS NOT MADE -
and YOU FEEL YOU ARE IN
DANGER**

You may be eligible for a TPO. (Please see TPO section of this brochure) If at all possible, remove yourself & your children from the situation & call 770-860-1666. This is an emergency crisis

line available to you 24 hours a day. You may also go to the Magistrate Court office in the Newton County Judicial Center & file a warrant application for a citizen warrant. Citizens in Newton County may file criminal warrants if there exists enough evidence to do so. After your application is filed, you must appear before a Magistrate Judge on a specified date & offer evidence & testimony to the Judge. The Judge will also question the defendant. If the Judge finds there is sufficient evidence to issue an arrest warrant, he/she will sign the warrant at that time & the defendant will be taken into custody. The Judge may list as a condition of bond that there shall be no contact with the victim. If a no contact provision is included in Magistrate Court proceedings, there is no further need for a TPO to be issued. If the Judge does not find enough evidence to issue a warrant, you may still have other legal options. Please contact an attorney & schedule a consultation.

TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE ORDERS (TPO's)

**TPO's are issued to help the
Petitioner (victim) by:**

- Protecting him/her from the abuser

TPO's are not issued to settle:

- property disputes
- marital problems
- visitation issues
- child support (although some relief regarding support may be addressed)

**ANGER OR REVENGE IS NOT VALID
REASON FOR REQUESTING A TPO**

TPO's are serious emergency orders issued by a Superior Court Judge after reading sworn statements made by the Petitioner. There will be a court hearing for both the Petitioner & the Defendant to appear before a Superior Court Judge within 30 days. At this hearing the Judge will decide whether cause exists to issue the order for six months or to dismiss the order. If a TPO is not warranted, there may be other legal procedures available to you. You should contact an attorney to explain you options. If you have questions regarding protective orders, call Leslie Smith or Kelly Rising at the District Attorney's Office at 770-784-2070.

Once an arrest has been made, the case will be given to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution. It is very important that the District Attorney's Office be able to contact you as we ready the case for prosecution. Please call Leslie Smith or Kelly Rising at 770-784-2070 if you change your address or phone number. It would also be helpful if you could give us the contact information of a friend or family member who would be able to contact you in six to twelve months from the arrest date.

The Office of Victim Services at the Newton County District Attorney's Office is available to victims of crime to provide education on the court process as well as answer questions concerning court dates & sentencing, along with referrals to social service agencies in the community & surrounding areas.