

WHAT IS FAMILY VIOLENCE?

Family violence occurs between family members and/or people who live together or used to live together such as spouses, ex-spouses, boyfriends, girlfriends, same-sex partners and roommates. The violence is often physical, but may also be in the form of threats, isolation, emotional mistreatment or forced sexual activity.

IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OR SURVIVOR OF FAMILY VIOLENCE:

- ◆ YOU ARE NOT TO BLAME. Only the batterer is responsible for using violence.
- ◆ YOU HAVE THE RIGHT to a safe and healthy relationship.
- ◆ YOU DESERVE to be treated with respect.
- ◆ YOU ARE NOT ALONE. 1 out of 4 women is abused by a loved one. Violence crosses all cultural, ethnic, racial and economic lines.
- ◆ REACH OUT. Support is available to you.

**To ACCESS SERVICES
THROUGH FVPT, CALL
974-8535**

**HOURS OF OPERATION:
MONDAY - FRIDAY 8AM - 5PM**

WHAT CAN I DO TO BE SAFE?

- ◆ Call the police
- ◆ Make a safety plan
- ◆ Get support from friends and family
- ◆ Get a protective order
- ◆ Move out, move away
- ◆ Get medical help
- ◆ Get support from counselors and other survivors
- ◆ Stay informed on the investigation of your batterer
- ◆ **Contact the Family Violence Protection Team**



Contact the Family Violence Protection Team at 974-8535 for help with investigative, legal and/or social services.

If you are in immediate danger call 9-1-1

SafePlace Domestic Violence Crisis Line:
267-SAFE
(267-7233)

National Domestic Violence Hotline:
1-800-799-SAFE
(1-800-799-7233)



**SERVING
AUSTIN/TRAVIS COUNTY
FAMILIES & INDIVIDUALS
WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED
FAMILY VIOLENCE**

- ◆ **Investigative Services**
- ◆ **Legal Services**
- ◆ **Social Services**

974-8535

WHAT IS THE FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION TEAM?

The Family Violence Protection Team is a collaborative, community response to family violence that provides multiple services at one location. We improve access to law enforcement, counseling, crisis management and legal services for survivors of family violence and their children. We hope to increase batterer accountability, empower survivors to lead violence-free lives and lead the community's zero-tolerance on family violence.

THERE ARE STAFF MEMBERS FROM SEVERAL AGENCIES REPRESENTED ON THE TEAM THAT WORK WITHIN ONE OF THREE COMPONENTS:

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

- ▶ Travis County Sheriff's Office (TCSO)
- ▶ Austin Police Department (APD)

LEGAL SERVICES

- ▶ Travis County District Attorney's Office
- ▶ Travis County Attorney's Office
- ▶ Women's Advocacy Project
- ▶ Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid of Central Texas

SOCIAL SERVICES

- ▶ TCSO Victim Services
- ▶ APD Victim Services
- ▶ SafePlace Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Survival Center

WHAT SERVICES ARE PROVIDED AT THE FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION TEAM?

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

- ◆ Detectives investigate cases and issue warrants for the arrest of suspected batterers.
- ◆ Detectives take statements from victims, witnesses and suspects.
- ◆ Detectives take photos of visible injuries for evidence.

LEGAL SERVICES

- ◆ Attorneys help get emergency protective orders for survivors of family violence.
- ◆ Legal assistants and attorneys help family violence survivors obtain long-term protective orders.
- ◆ Legal assistants help link survivors to other legal resources that can help with divorce and child custody.

SOCIAL SERVICES

- ◆ Counselors provide crisis, short-term and on-going counseling to survivors of family violence.
- ◆ Children who witness violence in the home receive therapy.
- ◆ Counselors assist in safety planning, court advocacy, and case management.
- ◆ Assistance is also available to apply for Crime Victims' Compensation.

Please note that FVPT clients can access any or all of the services listed above.

ALL SERVICES ARE FREE!

TRAVIS COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR FAMILY VIOLENCE (MISDEMEANOR CASES)

