



**Family Violence is not just
a family problem - it's a crime!**

**In an emergency,
come to Parkland Hospital's Emergency Room.
Ask for the VIP caseworker
available day and night.**

What is family violence?

Family violence is physical or mental abuse by someone you care about. You may also have heard the word battering used as well as with family or domestic violence

What is battering?

Battering is physical or mental attacks that are meant to control or hurt. The attacks are by a family member or someone very close to you. The attacks may happen more than once.

Signs and symptoms of abuse:

You may be abused if any of these are happening to you . . .

- You are made fun of, ridiculed or put down.
- You are not free to come and go as you wish.
- Your clothes or other things are damaged.
- You are often yelled at or accused.
- You are spied on, followed or harassed.
- Your feelings are not respected.
- You feel threatened and afraid.
- You have no one to help you or nowhere to get help.
- You are left in a dangerous place.
- You are refused help when you are sick or hurt.
- You have been hit, strangled, choked, cut, burned or bitten.
- You have been yelled or screamed at.
- You have been forced to have sex.
- You have bruises, broken bones, cuts, burns, female problems or have severe emotional upsets.
- You have been hurt by hands, fists, teeth, guns, knives, shoes, furniture, cigarettes, or anything else.

(over)

How to get help:

For emergency help call **911**

For someone to talk to:

- The VIP Center: (214) 590-2926 *
- The Family Place: (214) 941-1991 *
- Salvation Army: (214) 688-4494
- Genesis Women's Shelter: (214) 942-2998
- New Beginning Center (Garland): (972) 276-0057*
- Collin County Woman's Shelter (Plano): (972) 422-7233
- Rape Crisis Center: (214) 590-0430
- Gay & Lesbian Alliance: (214) 521-5342 ext. 430

For help with alcohol and drug problems:

- Alcoholics Anonymous: (214) 823-3200 *
- Salvation Army: (214) 688-4494
- Turtle Creek Manor: (214) 871-2484 *

* **Bilingual (bilingue)**

For legal help:

- Lawyers Against Domestic Violence: (214) 941-1991*
- Legal Services of North Texas: (214) 748-1234
- Court Advocate Program: (214) 941-1991*
- Dallas Police Family Violence: (214) 670-7075 *
- Protective Order Information: (214) 653-3605
- District Attorney's Office: (214) 653-3600

Places to go to be safe:

- The Family Place: (214) 941-1991 *
- Salvation Army: (214) 688-4494
- Genesis Women's Shelter: (972) 422-7233
- Collin County Woman's Shelter (Plano): (972) 422-7233
- Brighter Tomorrow (Grand Prairie): (972) 262-8383

Remember:

- Abuse is **not** your fault.
 - **No one** has the right to hurt you.
 - **Protect** yourself and your children - call for help!
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1 (800) 799-SAFE (7233)**

Physical and mental abuse is against the law!

It is a crime for any person to cause you any physical injury or harm **even if that person is a member or former member of your family or household**. You may report family violence to a law enforcement officer by calling 911. **Please tell the investigating peace officer** if you, your child, or any other household resident has been injured; or if you feel you are going to be in danger when the officer leaves or later.

You have the right to:

- A. Ask the local prosecutor to file a criminal complaint against the person committing family violence.
- B. Apply to a court for an order to protect you. (You should consult a legal aid office, a District Attorney, or a private attorney).

For example, the court can enter an order that:

1. the abuser not commit further acts of violence;
2. the abuser not threaten, harass, or contact you at home;
3. directs the abuser to leave your household; and
4. establishes temporary custody of the children and directs the abuser not to interfere with the children or any property.

**A violation of certain provisions of court-ordered protection
(such as 1 or 2 above) may be a felony.**