



# PARTNERS IN CRIME PREVENTION

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2010

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE- THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE CARES	1
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE- MANDATORY ARREST & PRIMARY AGGRESSOR	2
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE- WHO INVESTIGATES	3
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE- WHERE TO GET HELP	4
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE- HOW TO HELP	5
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE- HOW TO GET HELP	6

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE—THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE CARES

State law and the Sheriff's Office takes domestic violence very seriously. Victims of domestic violence suffer as much psychologically as they do physically from bruising, broken bones, or even death.

Domestic violence affects more than families in the home. Neighborhoods and workplaces suffer from violence. Medical costs increase while economic productivity goes down.

And being around violence affects children both mentally and physically.

A major problem for domestic violence victims is isolation from family, friends, and anybody who can help them with their situations. An atmosphere of fear and intimidation instilled by the abuser can immobilize the victim from taking action to protect herself or her children.

As a result, the Sheriff's Office maintains a no tolerance policy regarding

domestic violence.

State law also takes a no tolerance policy. It requires that a police officer must arrest someone that he finds has assaulted a family or household

member (more detail on this later).

Through the first 8 months of 2010, the Sheriff's Office handled over 1,200 domestic violence cases.

Within the Sheriff's Office,

both patrol deputies and Major Crime Unit detectives often get involved with domestic violence cases.

But, they can only stabilize a violent situation in the short term. For long term solutions family members need more help. That can come from community based advocates such as those from Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish County.

There is a way out of an abusive relationship. And there are people and organizations that are able to help.

"Through the first 8 months of 2010, the Sheriff's Office handled over 1,200 domestic violence cases."



John Lovick, Sheriff  
Snohomish County  
Sheriff's Office

3000 Rockefeller  
M/S 606  
Everett, WA 98201  
425-388-3393  
<http://sheriff.snoco.org>

## WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

*Domestic violence occurs when someone uses a pattern of physically, sexually and/or emotionally abusive behaviors to maintain control over an intimate partner or family member. Abusers use fear, guilt, shame and intimidation techniques to keep victims under control. Abusers often escalate from verbal abuse and threats to physical violence. Physical injury is the most immediate danger but the long-term emotional and psychological consequences are severe.*

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE- MANDATORY ARREST & PRIMARY AGGRESSOR

**Mandatory Arrest-** Deputies must arrest someone who has assaulted a family or household member.

According to RCW 10.31.100(2)(C), a police officer shall arrest and take into custody a person without a warrant when the officer has probable cause to believe the person:

- 1) Is sixteen years old or older;
- 2) Within the preceding 4 hours has assaulted a family or household member; and
- 3) Is alleged to have committed:
  - a) a felonious assault
  - b) an assault that resulted in bodily injury to the victim (physical pain, illness, or an impairment of physical condition) whether or not the injury is observable by the responding officer; or
  - c) any physical action intended to cause another person reasonably fear imminent serious bodily injury or death.

For most other crimes, a police officer has discretion about taking someone into custody. In this case, if a police officer finds that someone has committed the above actions, he/she must arrest him/her.

**Family or Household Member-** When deputies respond to domestic violence calls they need to determine if the above took place. They also have to determine the relationship of the parties involved

in the incident. The definition of family member or household member can be broad.

“Family or Household member” means:

- 1) Spouse
- 2) Former Spouse
- 3) Persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they have been married or have lived together at any time;
- 4) Adult persons related by blood or marriage;
- 5) Adult persons who are presently residing together or who have resided together in the past;
- 6) Persons sixteen years of age or older who are presently residing together or who have resided together in the past and who have had a dating relationship;
- 7) Persons sixteen years of age or older with whom a person sixteen years of age or older has or has had a dating relationship; and
- 8) Persons who have a biological or legal parent-child relationship, including stepparents and stepchildren and grandparents and grandchildren.

**Primary Aggressor-** Frequently, deputies will arrive at a domestic violence scene to find two or more parties fighting each other. In these cases, deputies must arrest the

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE- WHO INVESTIGATES

“primary aggressor”. Deputies use the following as guidance in determining who the primary aggressor is:

In making this determination, the officer shall make every reasonable effort to consider:

- 1) The intent to protect victims of domestic violence;
- 2) The comparative extent of the injuries inflicted or serious threats creating fear of physical injury;
- 3) The history of domestic violence between the parties.

**Who Investigates-** Several units within the Sheriff’s Office may get involved in a domestic violence investigation. They include Patrol, the Detective/Investigations Unit and the Major Crimes Unit.

Usually, Patrol is the first to respond to a domestic violence complaint. Reports of domestic violence can come from many sources including 911 calls from a victim or a witness to a domestic violence incident; a “walk-in” to a precinct after an incident; a deputy can view a crime in progress; a friend or relative may be concerned about a victim and call on their behalf.

Also, a hospital may report a suspected case of abuse. For example, a patient may come to an ER with injuries that look like the result of violence but says that they fell. A school may make a report after a child confides in a staff

member. Child Protective Services often reports domestic violence. And fire districts will come across domestic violence victims during aid calls.

Detectives will get involved in follow up investigations.

- Major Crimes Unit– assaults, homicides. The Major Crimes Unit receives a copy of every domestic violence report that takes place within unincorporated Snohomish County. Every report is entered into a independent data base that allows the Sheriff’s Office to track crime statistics and the legal process of each report.
- Special Investigations Unit– sexual assaults
- Internal Affairs– if a member of the Sheriff’s Office staff is involved
- Precinct Detectives

Often domestic violence victims feel isolated and lost. And getting out of an abusive relationship is not easy. But, with the laws of the State of Washington and the resources of the Sheriff’s Office, you can get a start out.

As Detective Larry Cole once said, “I can find a place for you to stay.” You can get out.

## HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU ARE IN AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP?

### *Does your partner :*

- *Act excessively jealous and possessive?*
- *Control where you go or what you do?*
- *Keep you from seeing family and friends?*
- *Limit your access to money, computer, phone, or car?*
- *Constantly check up on you?*
- *Have a bad and/or unpredictable temper?*
- *Hurt you, or threaten to hurt or kill you?*
- *Threaten to take your children away or harm them?*
- *Threaten to commit suicide if you leave?*
- *Force you to have sex?*
- *Destroy your belongings?*
- *Humiliate or yell at you?*
- *Criticize and put you down?*

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TELEPHONE HELP

Domestic violence victims can get help from a variety of hotlines for their immediate needs:

- **911**– If you are being assaulted by your family or household member call 911 for a deputy and/or for immediate medical aid
- **Crisis Hotlines**– Hotlines can provide counseling and support. They can be the initial contact for you to get to a place of safety. 3 Hotlines are:
  1. **DVS 24 Hour Crisis Hotline**– (425) 25-ABUSE
  2. **WA State Domestic Violence Hotline** (800) 562-6025
  3. **National Domestic Violence Hotline** (800) 799-SAFE (800) 799-7233

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE– WHERE TO GET HELP

Police can provide first line assistance for domestic violence victims. However, a police response cannot solve the problem totally. Several organizations can help a victim get out of an abusive relationship and start a new life.

### Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish County (DVS)-

Domestic Violence Services is a private, non-profit organization that provides Snohomish County with emergency shelter and comprehensive, confidential services to victims of domestic abuse no matter their age, gender, race, religion, culture, national origin, sexual orientation or income level. DVS also provides individual and community awareness programs with the goal of affecting the social change necessary to eliminate domestic violence throughout Snohomish County.

DVS services are free of charge and are financially supported by donations and grants. This includes information and referral for victims of domestic violence, their families and friends, and other service providers.

**Emergency Shelter**- DVS provides temporary shelter in a confidential location for victims of domestic violence and their children. This includes food and clothing, counseling, support groups, and domestic

violence education, information and referral, children's counseling and support.

**Transitional Housing**- DVS leases 20 apartment units where families may reside for up to two years. It provides transitional residents sliding scale rents, case manage-

ment, support groups, children's counseling and support, information and referrals to needed services.

**Legal Advocacy**- DVS also provides legal in-

formation and education, referral for legal representation, assistance with protection orders criminal processes, civil processes and other legal issues.

**Community Support Groups**- DVS provides support groups for those who are or have been physically or emotionally abused.

**Community Education**- DVS also offers speakers, training, and workshops for the community.

For more information about DVS go to:

<http://www.dvs-snoco.org/index>

**DVS 24-hour  
Crisis Hotline**  
(425) 25-ABUSE  
(425) 252-2873



**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE- MORE PLACES FOR HELP**

**Snohomish County Human Services**

**web site-** Human Services’ Domestic Violence web page ([http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/departments/human\\_services/divisions/admin/dv/](http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/departments/human_services/divisions/admin/dv/)) provides links to several resources where you can get help. The resources include:

- VINE: Victim Information and Notification Everyday
- Domestic Violence Hotlines
- Legal Information
- Safety Planning
- Teen Dating Violence
- Child Abuse Prevention
- Domestic Violence Perpetrator Treatment Facilities
- And more

**Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV)-**

WSCADV provides advocacy support to member domestic violence programs in Washington State. It also provides general information for victims.

It’s web site is <http://www.wscadv.org/index.cfm>

It gives an overview about getting help:

- What to expect when you call a program

- What to expect if you go to a shelter
- What to expect from a legal advocate

It gives some information about what domestic violence is.

It also gives information about how to handle finances and find a safe place to live while getting out of an abusive relationship.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF VIOLENT CRIME VICTIMS**

Family and Friends of Violent Crime Victims provides assistance to victims of crimes such as homicide, assault, kidnapping, robbery, gang violence and home invasion.

It provides it’s assistance through a 24 hour crisis line- (800) 346-7555, crisis intervention, information, and referral, advocacy, and medical advocacy.

For more information call:

- 425-252-6081
- 1-800-346-7555
- 425-259-1730 (Fax)
- 425-259-0784 (TTY)
- Email: [contactus@fnfvcv.org](mailto:contactus@fnfvcv.org)
- <http://www.fnfvcv.org/>

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE- HOW TO HELP**

*You might have a friend, co-worker, or relative who you fear is a victim of domestic violence. You can help:*

- *Encourage them to call one of the hot lines listed on page 4.*
- *Be supportive. Listen to what your friend has to say. Let them know that you will help them whenever they need it.*
- *If you hear a loud argument or screaming from your neighbor’s house or apartment call 911.*
- *Call 911 every time you hear screaming. You might save someone’s life.*

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE- HOW TO GET HELP

When you have had enough, Domestic Violence Services recommends the following:

In an emergency, call 911 for the police, get yourself and your children to a safe place, seek medical attention and call DVS for assistance.

Be sure to take the problem seriously, it can happen again.

Create a safety plan for you and your children (see below). For information or assistance call 425-252-2873 (425-25 ABUSE). Collect calls are accepted and ALL calls are free and confidential

The Domestic Violence Prevention Act allows victims to get legal protection without an attorney. Contact DVS or the court nearest you for assistance.

Consider filing a police report. If no arrest is made, you may consider filing charges in a citizen's complaint.

Save evidence such as photographs of bruises and other injuries, ripped clothing, etc.

**Safety Plan-** Plan ahead. Develop a plan with your children.

- Arrange to have a place to go
- Make copies of important papers and hide them

- Have available important phone numbers
- Pack and hide an overnight bag
- Put aside money, spare keys, and other important items

### During an incident-

- Call the police for help (dial 911)
- Get out if you can
- Bring important items
- Avoid rooms with only one exit
- Avoid the kitchen

### When you've decided to get out of an abusive situation, but stay in your home-

- Change the lock, secure doors and windows
- Arrange to have someone stay with you
- Change your phone number
- Obtain a Protection Order
- Notify trusted friends and family

### At the workplace, school, and public places-

- Inform your work, daycare, and schools
- Contact your Human Resources department at work
- Change your daily routine
- Plan ahead for unexpected contact

## CRIME PREVENTION COORDINATORS

### OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

neighborhoodwatch@snoco.org

### NORTH PRECINCT COMMANDER

Lt. Susy Johnson  
425-388-5201

### SOUTH PRECINCT COMMANDER

Lt. John Flood  
425-388-5252

### EAST PRECINCT COMMANDER

Lt. Jeff Brand  
425-388-6262

## NEWSLETTER INFO

### EDITOR

Steve Moller

If you have questions regarding this newsletter or any articles that appear in it, please contact the editor at neighborhoodwatch@snoco.org.

## TIP LINES



Snohomish County Sheriff's Office: 425-388-3845

<http://www.snoco.org/app/ssh/anonymoustips/>

Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound: 1-800-222-8477