

A Guide for Survivors of Domestic Violence



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DEDICATION

To those who have struggled with domestic and sexual abuse, courageously survived and improved their lives.

To all community members who have supported, encouraged and empowered survivors.

We applaud you!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A special thank you:

To the funding sources for making the publication of this handbook possible. This crucial information is available to all survivors of domestic and sexual abuse in Clinton and Shiawassee counties because of your generosity.

To the Domestic Violence Task Force Handbook Committee for the hours of hard work and determination in putting this information together.

To everyone else who contributed their expertise, information and revisions to the handbook.

The advice in this handbook is offered to help keep you and your family safe. However, we know that you, as the victim, know your abuser best and will be able to determine what is the safest alternative in your situation.

This handbook is intended to be a resource tool. You don't need to read it all at once. Each part can stand alone. Go to the section that you're most interested in. This handbook is not intended to dispense legal advice. For legal resources, please consult the resource directory in the back of this book.

This book is also available online through Relief After Violent Encounter, Inc. (RAVE) at www.ravecs.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WHAT IS ABUSE? 1

WHY DOES ABUSE OCCUR?..... 2

HOW AM I BEING TREATED? 3

POWER AND CONTROL WHEEL 4

WHAT CAN I DO TO BE SAFE? 6

WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN? 11

CAN MY CHILDREN BE TAKEN AWAY? 12

IF YOU DECIDE TO LEAVE 14

IF YOU ARE BEING STALKED 17

HOW DOES THE LEGAL SYSTEM WORK?

 Criminal Court 18

 Circuit Court..... 20

 Family Court..... 23

PERSONAL PROTECTION ORDERS (PPOs)..... 27

COMMONLY USED LEGAL TERMS 30

LAWS..... 32

RAVE INFORMATION..... 34

RESOURCES 39

Throughout this booklet we refer to batterers as male and victims/survivors as female because the overwhelming majority of people abused in the pattern we describe are women. We hope, however, this booklet will be helpful to men who are experiencing abuse, as well as individuals in abusive gay and lesbian relationships.



WHAT IS ABUSE?

Domestic violence or abuse (also called battering) is commonly described as a pattern of behavior in which an abuser has learned to use force, manipulation and fear to control a family member or intimate partner. Partners may be married, dating, living together, have a child together, separated, homosexual or heterosexual. Abuse involves the deliberate domination and control of any of these people. Domestic abuse is a criminal offense including physical assault (hitting, pushing, shoving, strangling, etc.), sexual violence (unwanted, forced sexual activity), and stalking. Although emotional, psychological and financial abuses may not be criminal offenses, they are forms of abuse and may lead to criminal behaviors.

Domestic abuse is a serious problem plaguing our communities. Although both men and women can be abusive, abuse is overwhelmingly perpetrated by men. One out of every four women will experience domestic abuse in her lifetime. Almost one-third of female homicide victims are killed by an intimate partner, according to police records. Domestic abuse is real! For additional data on domestic abuse, go to: www.mcadsv.org.

ANYONE CAN BE A VICTIM

Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse— young, old, rich, poor, male, female, professional, unemployed, and people of any race. Typically, most victims are adult females. Children living in homes where one parent is battered are more likely to be abused themselves. Children who witness domestic abuse may be seriously affected. (See page 11 for more

information.)

WHY DOES ABUSE OCCUR?

Control and domination are always evident in abusive relationships. There can be no simple, single profile of abusers except that they are usually male.

Like victims, abusers may come from any walk of life. To outsiders, the abuser may appear to be good provider, a warm and loving person, and a law-abiding citizen. Abusers have a sense of superiority. They believe that they have the right to dominate their intimate partners and children. When confronted, abusers will often claim they were drunk, or provoked, or that the violence was "blown out of proportion". Because abusers feel justified in their behavior, and because they believe that they will get away with it, the abuse often continues.

While there can *never* be an excuse for domestic abuse, some factors can increase the likelihood and severity of such behaviors:

- A history of violence and abuse in the extended family, often during childhood
- Alcohol and/or other drug abuse
- Stressful situations (For example: job loss, financial difficulties, pregnancy)
- Disregard for others' rights and feelings
- Misuse of religious beliefs

For many years, domestic abuse was largely viewed as a family problem. Police, courts, hospitals and social service agencies hesitated to get involved. This is not the case today. Government agencies, churches and other community groups are looking more closely at the causes of abuse and can offer valuable assistance to victims.

WHY AM I BEING ABUSED?

Domestic abuse, in any form, is all about one person trying to control another person within a current or former relationship. Abusive tactics may vary from relationship to relationship, or even from incident to incident. The goal is always to dominate and control the other person. Abusers can be very creative in how they obtain and maintain control.

One of the most frequently asked questions about domestic abuse is, "Why does *she* stay?" Why isn't the question, "Why does *he* batter?"

If you are in a battering situation, it is not your fault. You are not alone.

HOW AM I BEING TREATED?

These questions may help you see if you are being abused. Check all that apply to your situation.

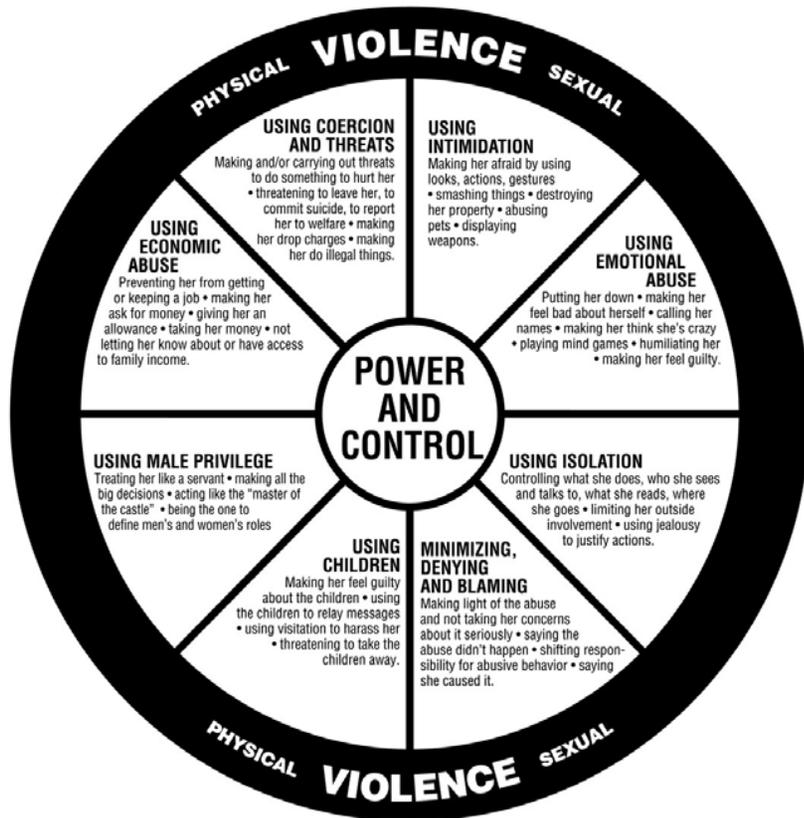
- Do you ever feel like you are walking on eggshells to avoid upsetting your partner?
- Does your partner put you down, call you names, or make you feel bad about yourself?
- Has your partner ever made you do something humiliating or degrading, or embarrassed you in front of others?
- Has your partner intentionally damaged your possessions or threatened to do so?
- Does your partner make all the big decisions and/or control the money?
- Are you afraid that if you left, you would be attacked, harassed, followed, or spied on?
- Has your partner threatened your children, family friends, or pets?
- Has your partner ever pushed, shoved, slapped, kicked, choked, restrained you physically, or hurt you in any other way?
- Has your partner ever used a weapon to threaten you or threatened to kill you?
- Has your partner forced you to have sex or do sex acts against your will?

If you checked any of the questions above, you may feel confused, scared, embarrassed and unsure of where to turn. You may even feel you are to blame and that you did something to somehow cause the abuse. You are not alone! Abuse can affect women of all ages, races, ethnic groups, backgrounds, income and educational levels. You do not deserve to be abused! It can be helpful to talk things over with someone.



POWER AND CONTROL WHEEL

The Power and Control Wheel is a tool that was developed from the experiences of women who have been abused. It shows many of the ways that an abuser might go about getting and keeping control over his partner and other family members. As you can see, domestic abuse can take both obvious and more subtle forms. Typically, an abuser uses a variety of controlling behaviors which may change or get worse over time. Some abusers never physically assault their partners, but use other forms of abuse. As you look at the Power and Control Wheel, you can see how such behaviors can lead to a life filled with self-doubt and fear.



DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION PROJECT
 202 East Superior Street
 Duluth, Minnesota 55802
 218-722-2781
 www.duluth-model.org

4

WARNING SIGNS

Many abusers come across as charming and pleasant people at the beginning of the relationship. They often continue to display these qualities in public while being abusive in private. There is no sure way to identify an abuser. However, if you answer "yes" to some of the following questions, it may be a warning sign that you are in an abusive relationship.

Does your partner:

- Act very jealous or possessive?
- Want to know where you are every single

minute?

- Drive your friends and family away?
- Have extreme highs and lows? Seem like two different people?
- Act cruelly to animals?
- Have a history of abuse with a former partner?
- Believe you belong to him?
- Have a childhood history of violence?
- Blame others for his problems?
- Demand to make all the decisions?
- Say "I can't help losing my temper?"
- Tell you that the abuse is your fault?

IMPACT OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Domestic abuse and alcoholism/drug addictions are two separate problems. Alcohol or other drug use does not cause people to abuse their partners. These issues must be addressed separately. Treatment for alcohol or other drug problems will not necessarily stop the abuse.

TO PROTECT YOURSELF

Your own protection and that of your children is most important. Even if this was the first incident and you were not seriously injured, this may be the beginning of a pattern of escalating abuse.

- Seek healthy emotional support to avoid becoming isolated.
- Various services, including advocacy and counseling, are available.



5

WHAT CAN I DO TO BE SAFE?

When the victim decides to take action to protect herself and her children, there are several options. Domestic abuse victims can find powerful and supportive advocates in every community. It is very important to think about and create a plan to remain as safe as possible.

Contact the hotline counselor at RAVE (877) 952-7283 for help with exploring your options and developing a safety plan.

Basic Safety

- If an argument with your abuser cannot be avoided, try to have it in a room or area that has access to an exit and not in a bathroom, kitchen or anywhere near weapons.
- Use your own instincts and judgment. If the situation is very dangerous, you may consider giving the abuser what he wants to keep yourself safe. You have the right to protect yourself until you are out of danger.
- Decide and plan where you will go if you have to leave home even if you don't think you will need to.
- Have a packed bag ready, and keep it in an undisclosed but accessible place in order to leave quickly.
- Identify a neighbor you can tell about the abuse. Ask that they call the police if they hear a disturbance coming from your home.
- Devise a code word to use with your children, family, friends and neighbors when you need the police.
- Practice how to get out of your home safely. Identify which doors, windows, elevator, or stairwell would be best.
- You may want to plan where your pets will go.



BEFORE AN ASSAULT OCCURS

Here are some things to consider when you suspect your partner might assault you:

- Think ahead and prepare for situations where you may need to leave in a hurry.
- Try to collect and hide money.
- Put important documents in one place where they can be easily

grabbed (see list on page 14). If possible, leave copies of documents, spare clothes, spare keys to the car and the house and money with a neighbor or trusted friend.

- Trust your instincts. If you think you're in danger, take action!
- Are there any weapons in the house? Where? Can you remove the weapons? The ammunition? Lock them up?
- Can you figure out a signal for the neighbors to call the police? Can you teach your child(ren) to call the police? Or go to a neighbor's and call 911?
- Be aware of your surroundings, including all possible exits.
- How will you get out of the house? Some women take out the garbage, walk the dog, get the newspaper or offer to go get him some cigarettes.
- Where will you go when you get out of the house? Identify a place where you will be safe. Where is the nearest telephone?
- Set up a routine where it's normal for you to leave for a short period of time.
- Contact RAVE to obtain an emergency 911 cell phone.
- Reach out for help. Enlist your friends, family, co-workers, neighbors and professionals in your safety planning.
- If you are in need of shelter/safety, call RAVE at 1-877-952-7283.

IF YOU ARE ASSAULTED

Safety should be your first goal. Your safety and the safety of your children is your first priority. (See the safety planning section of this booklet on page 12 for more information.)

- You know your attacker best and can usually determine what the safest alternative is in your situation.
- Whether the attacker has left or is still in the house, a call to the police may be a good option. It may take a lot of courage to call the police. You can also ask the police to take you to a domestic violence shelter or some other safe place.
- Another option is to go to a neighbor's house or call a friend or relative to pick you up.
- You can call RAVE 1-877-952-7283 to speak with a crisis worker to explore safety options.

7

IF YOU ARE INJURED

Get medical attention. Medical assistance is available at the emergency room, urgent care center or through your doctor. What seems like a minor injury at the time could result in more serious medical problems in the future.

- Tell the medical staff what happened and where you may be injured.
- If you are pregnant and have been hit, kicked or punched in the abdomen, tell the doctor. Some abusers try to injure unborn children.
- Battered women are in danger of closed head injuries because abusers

hit them in the head. If you have received a blow to the head, seek medical care immediately. Possible symptoms of serious injury may include memory loss, dizziness, double vision, vomiting or persistent headache.

- Medical records can be important evidence in criminal or civil court cases. (See “Save the Evidence” below.)
- Medical records can also help you get a Personal Protection Order. (See page 27.)

SAVE THE EVIDENCE

Many things qualify as evidence when you are assaulted. Even if no criminal charges have been filed, you should keep proof that you were assaulted. Many kinds of evidence can be helpful in the event of divorce, child custody disputes or obtaining a Personal Protection Order.

- Ask the police, a friend or someone from RAVE to take color photographs of property damage and/or your injuries (bruising and discoloration may appear days later).
- Save any torn or bloody clothing.
- If you see a doctor, get copies of your medical records.
- Ask the police and/or the Prosecutor’s Office for a copy of your incident report.
- Your journal may be important evidence as well. Keeping a journal is recommended. Make sure you keep your journal in a safe place.
- Phone records and other technology-based communication may also serve as evidence.



CALLING THE POLICE

Calling the police will set the criminal justice system in motion. This may lead to the arrest, conviction and imprisonment of your attacker.

The police can help you in the following ways:

- Protect you from immediate danger;
- Help you and your children get out of the house safely, if needed; and

- Arrest your abuser, which may lead to his conviction and possible imprisonment.

When you call the police, explain exactly what has happened to you. For example, “My husband hit me. Now he’s threatening me with a knife.” The dispatcher may ask you some questions. Answer as clearly as you can and, in addition, be sure to say if:

- You have suffered any serious injuries.
- Your attacker is still there or has threatened to return soon.
- Your attacker has threatened to harm you or your children again.
- There is a weapon involved and, if so, what type.
- Your attacker is under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.
- You have called the police before.
- You have a personal protection order against him.

When the police respond:

- Try to remain as calm as you can.
- Once the police arrive, ask to talk to an officer privately, if possible in a separate room.
- Be as specific as you can in telling the officer what happened. For example, “He grabbed me by the arm and threw me on the floor” rather than “He came at me and messed me up.”
- Show the officers:
 - Any injuries you may have.
 - Any damaged property.
 - A copy of the Personal Protection Order if you have one.
- Tell the officers:
 - If there are any witnesses.
 - If there have been past assaults even if they have not been reported.
 - If you have been sexually assaulted (even if the person who assaulted you is your spouse).
 - If there have been any injuries to the children.
 - If your abuser has been using alcohol or other drugs.
 - If there is a warrant out for your abuser.
- Ask the officers to write their names, badge numbers and the report/complaint number for you. Keep this information in a safe place.

9

THE POLICE REPORT

The police report is the official record of what happened to you. Police reports may not be created for every incident. Ask if a written report will be created. When a report is created, it contains the date, names of people involved, what happened and how the dispute was handled. This is important to you because:

- It will document the incident for possible arrest, prosecution and conviction;
- It provides a past history which may assist you in gaining the help of

- the police (and prosecutor) if you are ever threatened or hurt again; and
- It can be used to show good cause for the Court to grant a Personal Protection Order if you need one.

To ensure that the police report is complete and accurate, it is important to show the officer your injuries. Don't forget to get the name, badge number and report/complaint number from the police officer who took your report. This information will make it easier for you to get a copy of the police report later.

If your abuser is arrested, you are eligible to register with the Michigan Crime Victims Notification Network (VINE) at (800) 770-7657. This system is designed to notify victims when there is a change in custody status for an abuser (that is, when he is released from jail or prison). The Victim's Advocate at RAVE or through the county Prosecutor's Office can help you to complete and file the registration form for VINE.



WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN?

Many children who witness their mothers being abused:

- Suffer anxiety and/or depression
- Act out with parents or siblings
- Struggle with assignments or friends at school

Children are often overlooked in the statistics and discussions of domestic abuse. Children are affected by domestic abuse, whether directly or indirectly. Even if your children did not directly witness the abuse, they will experience its impact.

Victimizing the Children

Abusers use and hurt children in many ways including:

- Intentionally injuring the child.
- Unintentionally injuring the child while throwing objects at the abused parent or while the mother is holding the child.
- Hurting a child while the child is trying to intervene and protect the victim.
- Creating an environment of tension, fear and uncertainty.
- Using the children to control the abused partner, either while the couple is living together or separated.

Abusive Tactics

Abusers may use any of the following tactics:

- Isolating the children by limiting their involvement with friends and activities.
- Threatening or physically or sexually harming a child to coerce or control the mother.
- Threatening to hurt pets or favorite toys.
- Questioning the children about their mother.
- Using custody battles to control the mother.

Harmful Effects

Effects of the abuse show up in a variety of physical and psychological symptoms such as:

- Emotional neediness
- Withdrawal
- Aggressive acting out
- Eating or sleeping problems
- School difficulties
- Caretaking (of mother and siblings)
- Various physical complaints.

Symptoms vary from child to child and depend on the child's developmental stage in life, personality and overall coping skills.

Protecting the Children

Women face many dangers and great odds to protect their children from the abuser. They may:

- Directly intervene in an attack

- Teach safety plans
- Reinforce to the children they are not at fault for the abuse, and
- Remain very loving and involved with the children

Battered women work at being good mothers in spite of their own fears, depression and injuries. It is often for the sake of their children that women leave their partners.

CAN MY CHILDREN BE TAKEN AWAY?

An abuser may use threats to keep you from seeking resources and services for you and your children. A threat made by many abusers is that “your kids will get taken away”. This is scary for most mothers. This concern should not be taken lightly. However, it is a long, difficult process for the state to permanently remove children from their homes.

The state agency responsible for handling allegations of abuse and neglect is the Department of Human Services (DHS). The investigating unit is called Child Protective Services (CPS).

If suspected abuse or neglect is reported to CPS, an investigation may take place to determine any necessary steps to protect the children. The goal of CPS is not to remove children from their homes, but to ensure the safety and proper care of children. Actions that result from a CPS referral can range from a recommendation for community services, all the way to court action. Working with CPS is often in your best interest.

Anyone can report suspected child abuse or neglect to CPS. However, some people are obligated to do so by law. These people are called “mandated reporters”. If you tell a mandated reporter about abuse or neglect, or if they suspect it, they *must* report it to CPS. Mandated reporters also include domestic abuse staff, doctors, nurses, dentists, school personnel, child care providers, police officers, psychologists, social workers, therapists, counselors, clergy and others.

GETTING HELP WHEN THE BATTERER ABUSES THE CHILDREN

Children can also be victims of domestic violence. These children may face dual threats: the threat of witnessing the violence and the threat of the abuser attacking them. They often experience lingering fears and trauma.

As a parent, you have a legal responsibility to protect your children from known harm. You can be charged with “failure to protect” if you know about the abuse and don’t take steps to protect your children from the risk.

If you believe your partner has sexually or physically abused one or more of your children, what do you do?

- Believe your child. Children almost never lie about abuse.
- Tell your child you’re glad she/he told you and assure them that you will keep them safe in the future.
- Contact your county Department of Human Services. (Shiawassee County: (989) 725-3200, Clinton County: (989) 224-5500) You can also call the police. Give DHS and the police as many concrete details as you can. *If your child has been sexually assaulted or abused, he/she should be examined by a specially trained medical professional.*
- Seek support for your child and for yourself. Counseling and advocacy are available through RAVE (877) 952-7283 or at the numbers listed in the back of this book.



There are a number of things to consider when preparing to leave your situation. Violence may get worse when you try to leave OR show signs of independence. These are extra precautions that you can take to remain safe.

Safety Planning When Preparing to Leave

- Determine where you could stay and who could lend you money if necessary.
- To maintain custody, have your children with you when you leave.
- Keep the shelter phone number close at hand. Keep some change or a calling card with you at all times for emergency phone calls.
- Open a savings account in your own name and think of other ways in which you can quietly increase your independence.
- Leave money, an extra set of keys, copies of important documents such as birth certificates, marriage certificate, social security numbers, driver's license, prescription information and extra clothes in a safe place.
- Review and revise your safety plan often because leaving can be dangerous.

What to Take When You Leave:

It would be a good idea to put these things together in one place where you can get to them in a hurry. Whether you believe it will be for a short time or for good, be sure to take the following items:

- Driver's license and/or State ID
- Children's birth certificates and your birth certificate
- Money, checkbook, credit cards, Bridge/EBT card
- Vehicle and keys
- Medical/dental insurance cards and medications
- Address Book
- Social security cards
- Green card(s) (immigration documents)



If there is time, also consider taking as many of the following items as you can. You may have difficulty going back for these things later:

- Registration to your car
- Lease, rental agreement, house deed
- Bankbooks

- Insurance papers
- Pictures
- Medical records (for the whole family)
- Affidavit of parentage
- School records
- Work permits
- Passport
- Divorce papers
- Jewelry

If you were unable to take everything you needed when you left, you have the right to ask the police to escort you back to your house later to pick up items. The police will only allow you to take things that obviously belong to you or your children, such as clothing. Take a friend or relative with you. Or, you can wait until your husband or partner goes to work or leaves the home for some other reason. Then go into the house with a police escort to get what you need. However, if you do go back and your husband or partner won't let you in, the police cannot force him to let you in without a court order.

Safety When Living On your Own

If your abuser is not living with you, to insure your safety:

- Change the locks on your doors as soon as possible. If you are renting, discuss this with your landlord first.
- Purchase additional locks and safety devices to secure your windows if necessary.
- Give your children's school, day care, etc., copies of any PPO's or custody orders. Make sure that they are aware of your situation.
- Inform your children's school, day care, etc. about who has permission to pick up your children (and who does not have permission).
- Discuss and practice safety issues with your children for times when you are not with them.
- Consider renting a post office box for your mail or using the address and phone number of a friend or relative. This can be extremely important if your partner has threatened your life or you believe he will attempt to find you and abuse you further.
- Be careful about sharing your address and phone number. Be aware that addresses are on injunctions, Personal Protection Orders and police reports.

Safety with a Personal Protection Order (PPO)

If you have obtained a Personal Protection Order, it is important to:

- Keep a copy of your PPO with you at all times.
- Make several copies. Keep one in your purse, glove box and with your emergency backup kit.

- Inform family, friends and neighbors that you have a PPO in effect.
- Inform neighbors and landlord that your partner no longer lives with you. Ask them to call the police if they see him near your home.
- Call the police if your partner violates the PPO.
- Think of alternative ways to stay safe while waiting for the police to arrive.

Safety on the Job and In Public

In order to remain safe in your work setting:

- Decide on a safe person at work to inform about your situation. This should include office or building security. (Provide a picture of your batterer if possible.)
- Arrange to have someone screen your telephone calls if necessary.
- Devise a safety plan for when you arrive and leave work.
- Have someone escort you to your car.
- Use a variety of routes to work and home. Think about how you would handle unforeseen situations while commuting.

Safety When Dealing Directly With your Abuser

If circumstances require that you communicate with your abuser, determine the safest way to do so. This may include meeting in a public place or having a neutral third party present.

If you are thinking of reestablishing a relationship with a previously abusive partner, assess the risks with someone you trust and redevelop a safety plan.



IF YOU ARE BEING STALKED

Stalking is intentional, repeated harassment that results in emotional distress or

fear. A stalker can be a former romantic partner, a casual acquaintance or even a stranger. Stalkers typically harass others through unwanted attention, such as repeated phone calls, sending mail or gifts, following people, appearing at the workplace or residence, threatening individuals and/or their family, or entering onto their property without permission.

Some people think that stalking is harmless because there may be no physical violence. However, stalking is serious, is against the law, and frequently escalates into physical violence. Turn to page 22 to find out how to get an anti-stalking personal protection order (PPO).

If you are being followed by a stalker, go to a public place such as a police station. Carry a cell phone so that you can call 911 if you need help. Make sure that you provide your location. Cell phones available for emergency use are available at no charge from RAVE.

Stalking is a crime that can be prosecuted. It can be a misdemeanor or a felony depending on the severity of the behavior. You can report to the police that you are being stalked, and build your case by documenting the stalker's activities. You can document by keeping a journal, taping phone calls or messages, saving letters the stalker sent you, and noting basic identification information about the stalker, such as appearance, type of car, license number.

Call RAVE for more information about stalking and safety planning (877-952-RAVE).



Call RAVE

1-877-952-7283

HOW DOES THE LEGAL SYSTEM WORK?

There are several types of courts that serve the citizens in each community. The duties of these courts are based on the type of legal action taken.

CRIMINAL COURT

DISTRICT COURT

District Courts handle misdemeanors. (Crimes are misdemeanors if the punishment is one year or less of imprisonment.) Many domestic assault cases (assault, domestic violence, assault and battery, aggravated assault and stalking) are handled in District Court.

District Court handles the initial arraignment, setting bond and preliminary examinations for felony cases. The abuser (the “defendant” or “assailant”) may then be “bound over” to Circuit Court for further proceedings, including trial and sentencing.

District Courts also issue arrest warrants and search warrants.

District Courts handle civil cases such as landlord tenant matters, and lawsuits under \$25,000. District Courts do NOT handle divorces or Personal Protection Orders (PPO’s).

If your spouse/partner has been charged with a MISDEMEANOR Assault and Battery or Domestic Violence, here’s what will happen:

Arraignment in District Court

After your abuser has been charged and arrested, he is arraigned. The arraignment will usually take place before the abuser is released. You do not need to be present (although you can be there if you want to be).

At the arraignment, the abuser is given notice of the charges against him and advised of his constitutional rights. The conditions and amount of bail are determined, and a date is set for the pretrial.

At the arraignment, bond conditions will be set, including a “No Contact Order.” This is intended to prevent your abuser from contacting you in any way or returning to the residence which you may share.

Your abuser can enter a plea of guilty, not guilty or nolo contendere (no contest), or stand mute. He can request a court appointed defense attorney at the arraignment.

If your abuser pleads guilty, or nolo contendere, a sentencing date is set (It is possible but not likely that the Judge could sentence him immediately). If he pleads not guilty or stands mute, then a pre-trial date is set. All these proceedings take place in District Court.

The Prosecutor's office may send you a brochure or letter which includes:

- An explanation of the prosecution process
- Information about the crime victim's compensation application
- Suggested procedures if you are subjected to threats
- A contact person for further information.

The Pre-Trial

The case will be set for a pretrial if your abuser pleads not guilty or stands mute. At the pretrial, the Court may hear motions to determine what types of evidence will be admitted. The Prosecutor and Defense Attorney may meet to discuss whether your abuser will plead guilty to the crime charged or some other offense (that is, make a "plea bargain"). You may want to be present. Contact the Victim Rights Coordinator at your local Prosecutor's Office. See the resources pages at the back of this booklet for telephone numbers or call RAVE.



The Trial

The abuser will be allowed to choose between a trial by jury or a bench trial. (In a bench trial, there is no jury and the Judge makes the decision.) At the trial, the Prosecutor will try to prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, that your abuser is guilty of committing the crime. Your abuser is not required to call witnesses, nor is he required to testify. You need to be present, and you will need to testify.

(In the trial, your role is actually to be a witness for the Prosecutor's case. The Prosecutor is acting on behalf of the People of the State of Michigan.)

If your abuser is found guilty, the Judge will set a date for sentencing.

Sentencing

After your abuser is convicted and before the Judge sentences him, the District Court Probation Department may make a pre-sentence investigation report. You, and other persons such as friends or family, are permitted to send written statements to the probation department about the crime, including the impact it had on you or others. (This is commonly called the Victim's Impact Statement.)

You may also state what sentence you would like the Judge to order (although of course the Judge will make the final decision). At sentencing, the Judge will have considered the probation department's report, and their recommendation. At sentencing the victim has the right to tell the Judge how the crime affected her and what she thinks the punishment should be. A Victim's Impact Statement should be submitted if you want restitution (for example: lost wages, damaged property, medical or counseling expenses). The Judge may order your abuser to go to jail, be on probation, do community service, enter counseling, and/or pay restitution to you.

If your abuser receives probation and violates the conditions of his probation, he could be sent to jail.

Remember, you are eligible to register with the Michigan Crime Victims Notification Network (VINE) at (800) 770-7657. This system is designed to notify victims when there is a change in custody status for an abuser (that is, when he is released from jail or prison).

Appeal

After he is found guilty by a judge or jury, your abuser has the right to appeal to the Circuit Court.

CIRCUIT COURT

The Circuit Court handles felony criminal cases (such as assault with intent to maim), or high misdemeanors (such as Criminal Sexual Conduct in the 4th Degree). Felonies and high misdemeanors are crimes that could result in more than one year of incarceration.

The Circuit Court also hears all divorce and custody cases (discussed in this handbook under "Family Court"), personal protection orders, and civil lawsuits over \$25,000.

If your spouse/partner has been charged with a FELONY Crime, here is what will happen:

Arraignment

An arraignment is the first hearing after your abuser has been charged and arrested. (All arraignments take place in District Court.) Most often, the arraignment will take place before the abuser is released. You do not need to be present, but have a right to be present if you wish. At arraignment, notice of the charges and constitutional rights is given to the abuser. The conditions and amount of bond are determined, and a date is set for the preliminary examination. If you are being harassed by your abuser, the prosecutor can ask the judge to revoke bond. One of the bond conditions may include a No Contact

Order, prohibiting the abuser from contacting you in any way or returning to the residence which you may share.

20

The prosecutor's office may send you a brochure or letter which includes:

- An explanation of the prosecution process
- Information about the crime victim's compensation application
- Suggested procedures if you are subjected to threats
- A contact person for further information.

If you are afraid that your abuser may use further violence against you, the Prosecutor may ask the court to protect you by not disclosing your address, place of employment, or other identification.

You must keep the Victim Rights Unit of the Prosecutor's Office informed of your address and telephone numbers. In Shiawassee County call: (989) 743-2468; in Clinton County call: (989) 227-6424. Call RAVE if you have questions about this.



Call RAVE

1-877-952-7283

Preliminary Examination in District Court

This is a hearing before the Judge. The Prosecutor presents witnesses to convince the District Court Judge that a crime was, in fact, committed and that there is probable cause to believe that your abuser has committed that crime. Your abuser may be represented by an attorney who can cross-examine the witnesses and present evidence. If probable cause is established, your abuser is sent (bound over) to Circuit Court for trial. The right to the preliminary examination can be waived and the case will be "bound over" to Circuit Court.

Arraignment in Circuit Court

After the case is sent to Circuit Court, your abuser is arraigned again. (It is also possible for the Circuit Court Arraignment to be held in District Court immediately after the completion of the preliminary examination or waiver.)

The Pretrial

The Circuit Court Judge may hear motions to determine whether evidence will be admitted or whether there is some legal reason why your abuser should not be tried (prosecuted). The Prosecutor and abuser's defense attorney will often meet to determine whether your abuser will plead guilty to the crime charged or some other offense (a "plea bargain").

The Trial

The abuser will be allowed to choose between having a trial by jury or a bench trial. In a bench trial there is no jury. The Judge makes the decision. The Prosecutor will provide evidence and witnesses to prove that your abuser committed the crime and is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Your abuser is not required to call witnesses nor take the witness stand. However, you need to be present and will need to testify. As a witness, you may be sequestered (to be sequestered means that you are not allowed in the courtroom until it's your time to testify). If you want support with this process, call RAVE or the Victim's Rights Advocate.

If your abuser is found guilty, the Judge will set a date for sentencing.

Prior to your abuser's sentencing, upon your request, the Prosecuting Attorney must let you know:

- What crime(s) the abuser was convicted of;
- Your right to make a written or oral statement to the Probation Department for their use in the pre-sentence investigation report. Your statement can include the nature and extent of any physical, psychological or emotional harm you've suffered, the extent of any economic loss or property damage you have suffered, your opinion of the need for restitution, and your recommendation for an appropriate sentence. Your statement will be available to your abuser.
- The address and telephone number of the probation office which is preparing the pre-sentence investigation report;
- The time and place of sentencing;
- Your right to make a statement at the abuser's sentencing.

Sentencing

After your abuser is convicted and before sentencing, the Michigan Department of Corrections Parole/Probation Department makes a pre-sentence investigation report. At the time of sentencing, the Judge will have considered the probation department's report and their recommendations. You (and other people such as friends or family) may send written statements (Victim's Impact Statements) to the parole/probation department about the crime, including the impact that it had.

The Judge may order your abuser to go to jail or prison, be on probation, do community service, enter counseling, and/or pay restitution to you. If your abuser receives probation and violates the conditions of probation, jail or prison time could be ordered.

Remember, you are eligible to register with the Michigan

Crime Victims Notification Network (VINE) at (800) 770-7657. This system is designed to notify victims when there is a change in custody status for an abuser (that is, when he is released from jail or prison).

22

Appeal

After the abuser is found guilty by a Judge or jury, he has the right to appeal to the Michigan Court of Appeals

Upon your request, the Victim Rights Unit of the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney will notify you if any of the following occurs:

- That your abuser has filed an appeal
- That your abuser is out on bail
- The date, time and place of any appeal court proceedings
- The result of the appeal

FAMILY COURT

Family Court is separate from criminal court and serves many functions including matters involving divorce, juvenile justice, personal protection orders and child abuse and neglect.

Divorce

You have to be living in Michigan for six months before you can file for divorce in Michigan. You must be living in the county for at least ten days before filing for divorce.

Michigan is a “no fault” divorce state. This means that you don’t have to prove adultery or cruelty to get a divorce in Michigan. You only have to show that your marriage has broken down [MCLA 552.6, MSA 25.86]. The Judge can look at fault when deciding how the property will be divided and whether the spouse is entitled to alimony.

The spouse who files is called the plaintiff. The other spouse is called the defendant. After the complaint is filed and before the divorce is final, court orders for temporary custody, parenting time (formerly called visitation) and child support can be requested.

The procedures to get temporary custody, support and parenting time orders are different from county to county. Temporary orders are often established at a conference (called a “conciliation”) held at the Friend of the Court. In some counties, you have to request a conciliation conference. If you prefer to meet separately from your abuser you may request a separate meeting.

A divorce can become final in several different ways:

- A hearing to finalize the divorce can be scheduled after a default (A default means that the other party did not file an answer to the complaint.) OR
- The two parties sign a consent judgment OR
- After a trial. (Trials in divorces are rare.)

Ultimately, the divorce becomes final when the court enters a written judgment.

23

The judgment contains the information about property division, the custody arrangement, the parenting time schedule, child support and, in some cases, alimony.

A divorce may be granted after 60 days if there are no minor children. When there are minor children, the waiting period is 180 days.

Separate Maintenance

Separate maintenance cases are not common. Separate maintenance allows the parties to live apart, legally separated and free from the responsibilities of marriage, but still technically married. A separate maintenance action may provide for the support of a spouse who requires it [MCLA 552.7, MSA 25.87].

Separate maintenance is available only if both parties are willing to accept it. If the defendant files a counterclaim for divorce, the court can grant a divorce but not separate maintenance. There is no such thing as 'legal separation' in the State of Michigan.

Custody

A custody order specifies legal and physical custody. The child lives with the parent who is granted physical custody. Legal custody refers to which parent or parents have decision making authority for the child. The Judge can give custody to one parent (sole custody) or to both parents (joint custody). Either parent may file a motion to obtain custody. Until there is a court order, both parents have equal rights to the custody of their child.

The Friend of the Court is the arm of the Family Court that conducts investigations and makes recommendations to the Court regarding child custody, parenting time and support. It also enforces the court's orders relating to child support, custody and parenting time.

If custody is disputed, you may need to file a new case, schedule a conciliation conference, file a motion, or file a parenting time complaint. Consult with your attorney or other legal professional on the best action for your circumstances.

Either parent can request temporary custody of the children. Sometimes, the Judge will grant such an order 'ex parte' (without a hearing or notice to the other party). In some counties, the parent who files first and is in possession of the children may get temporary custody without a hearing.

If the other party has an order for temporary custody of the children, then the time frame in which you can request a hearing to challenge the custody order may be short.

Unmarried Parents

Paternity can be established in one of the two following ways:

- The father has signed an affidavit acknowledging that he is the father; or
- The Judge has signed an order, including a child support order, declaring that he is the father (often based on a blood test).

Without the establishment of paternity, the mother has full custody. However, the father may initiate custody proceedings. Even though the mother has full custody, law enforcement officers may not help if there is a custody dispute. They may tell the mother (or the father) that a judge's order is needed before they will get involved.

If the man is legally the father, then any existing court case should be reviewed (including a child support case) to see if a custody order already exists. Consult with your attorney or other legal professional on the best action for your circumstances.

Parenting Time

The Friend of the Court decides how parenting time will be structured. The law assumes that it is in the best interest of the child to have strong relationships with both parents, unless it is shown by 'clear and convincing evidence' that parenting time or visitation would endanger the child's physical, mental or emotional health.

The Court has the power to restrict parenting time by:

- Requiring that the visits occur in the presence of a third party or agency (supervised parenting time);
- Requiring that a party post a bond to assure compliance with the visitation order; and
- Establishing any other reasonable conditions determined to be appropriate in the particular case.

The Court is more likely to decide in favor of supervised parenting time if there is evidence that a parent has abused or neglected the children, or poses a risk to the child because of drug or alcohol use, or other potentially threatening circumstances.



PERSONAL PROTECTION ORDERS (PPOs)

There are two kinds of Personal Protection Orders: Domestic and Non-Domestic Stalking. Non-Domestic Stalking orders are not common. The information below deals with Domestic Personal Protection Orders.

What is a Personal Protection Order?

A Personal Protection Order (PPO) is an order issued by the Circuit Court. (It is not the same thing as a No Contact Order which is issued when your abuser is charged with a crime.) It is meant to protect you from harassment, threats, assault, beating, molesting, wounding or stalking by another person. The order could prohibit your abuser/stalker from entering your premises, interfering with you at your place of work, contacting you or threatening you.

Who can get a PPO?

1. Anyone who has been, or is in danger of being, physically, emotionally or sexually abused, or harassed by a spouse, former spouse, partner or former partner, current or former roommate, other parent of their child, or person in a current or former dating relationship.
2. Anyone who has been stalked or repeatedly harassed to the point of being terrorized, intimidated or threatened.

What do I need to have to file a PPO?

1. While it is best to have as many supporting documents as you can, a PPO can be granted solely upon your sworn statement. Remember that it is ultimately up to the Judge to issue the order.
2. Provide any information that supports the facts such as police reports, medical records, photographs and/or witness statements.
3. Have as much information about your abuser/stalker as you can. This includes the address, date of birth, hair color, eye color, height, weight, Social Security number, driver's license number, etc.
4. Provide any court documents you have such as custody orders, lease agreements, divorce papers, criminal action records, etc.



Call RAVE

1-877-952-7283

26

Where can I go to get a PPO?

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY - The forms are available at the County Clerk's Office on the 2nd floor of the Shiawassee County Circuit Courthouse at 208 N. Shiawassee Street in Corunna.

CLINTON COUNTY - The forms are available at the County Clerk's Office in the Courthouse at 100 East State Street, St. Johns. Forms and assistance for both counties are also available through the RAVE offices and at the shelter.

What should I expect when I decide to request a PPO?

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY:

1. Pick up the forms at the Clerk's office. They will direct you to complete the forms and take them up to the third floor of the courthouse to begin the interview process.
2. It will take an hour or so to fill out the forms and go through the interview process. You must be prepared to give a complete narrative (dates and times) of the incidents leading you to be fearful of the abuser. The paperwork will be left for the Judge for consideration.
3. The Clerk's office will usually have a response within 24 hours on whether the PPO can be signed. Please try to be at the Courthouse no later than 4:00 p.m. to start the process.

**If you would like assistance with completing the PPO,
call RAVE at (989) 723-9716. Appointments are recommended.**

4. If the PPO is signed by the judge, it will be filed with the clerk's office. The clerk will keep your original PPO for their Court file and give you one signed copy (You can make more copies to keep in your possession). The Sheriff's Department will serve your PPO on your abuser/stalker if the service address is in Shiawassee. (If your abuser is out of the county, contact RAVE for service options.)
5. The Circuit Court Clerk will send a certified copy of your PPO to the Shiawassee Sheriff's Department for them to enter into the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN).
6. The PPO is in effect as soon as it is signed by the Judge. However, it is enforceable once it is served.

7. If you have a visitation or parenting time order, make alternate arrangements for pick up and drop off of the children so that there is no contact between you. (See safety section on pages 14 - 16.)
8. If the PPO has been signed and the abuser violates it, call the police immediately. It is best to keep a copy of your PPO with you at all times; one on your person, in your car, at home and another safe place, such as with a neighbor. It is important to be vigilant and maintain your safety plan.

CLINTON COUNTY

1. Pick up the forms at the Clerk's office. Paperwork must be filled out completely. You must be prepared to give a complete narrative (dates and times) of the incidents leading you to be fearful of the abuser.
2. Make four copies of all documents and return them to the Clerk's office.
3. The Clerk will stamp the documents and return some of them to you. Make sure to keep these papers and bring them back when you pick up the signed order.
4. If a Judge is available, he/she can sign the order at that time. If a Judge is not available, you will need to call the Clerk's office (989-224-5142) at 8 a.m. the next business day to see if the order has been signed.
5. If the PPO has been signed by the Judge, you need to pick up the order from the Clerk's office.
1. The PPO is in effect as soon as it is signed by the Judge. However, it is enforceable once it is served. There are a variety of ways to serve the abuser/stalker. Contact RAVE or ask the Clerk's office for help with this.
2. Once the Defendant is properly served, the Proof of Service ***must*** be completed and returned to the Clerk's office. They will need three (3) copies with original signatures on the correct forms.
3. If you have a visitation or parenting time order, make alternate arrangements for pick up and drop off of the children so that there is no contact between you. (See safety section on pages 14 - 16.)
4. If the PPO has been signed and the abuser violates it, call the police immediately. It is best to keep a copy of your PPO with you at all times; one on your person, in your car, at home and another safe place, such as with a neighbor. It is important to be vigilant and maintain your safety plan.

**If you would like assistance with completing the PPO,
call RAVE at (989) 224-4462. Appointments are recommended.**

COMMONLY USED LEGAL TERMS

<i>Aggravated assault</i>	When a person batters another person (without a weapon) and inflicts serious injury without the intent to commit murder or to cause great bodily harm.
<i>Assault</i>	Assault means intentionally or recklessly placing another person in fear of immediate battery. There are many types of criminal assaults listed in Michigan law including felonious assault (with a weapon), assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder, etc.
<i>Alleged</i>	This word is used by the legal system to indicate that there has not yet been a conviction. You may hear the "alleged" assailant, or even the "alleged" victim.
<i>Battery</i>	Is the intentional touching of a person, without their consent (including by an object).
<i>Complainant</i>	The person who files a suit, or makes a complaint. In a police report, the victim of domestic violence is often called the complainant.
<i>Defendant</i>	This is the person who is charged with a crime, or the person against whom a case is filed (as in a divorce case). Once arrested, your abuser becomes the defendant.
<i>Defense Attorney</i>	This is a lawyer who represents the suspect/defendant in a criminal case. If the suspect/defendant has no money for an attorney, the Court may appoint one for him.
<i>Domestic assault</i>	This means an assault committed against a spouse, a former spouse, person residing or having resided with the abuser or a person with whom the abuser has had a child in common or a dating relationship.
<i>Plaintiff</i>	The person who brings an action. The person who sues or files the complaint. If you file for divorce, you are the plaintiff.
<i>Plea</i>	The person who has been arrested will at some point "enter a plea." They tell the Court they are guilty or not guilty. They can also stand mute or plead "nolo contendere" (no contest). If they plead nolo contendere, which means "I will not contend", it is similar to a guilty plea. However, the nolo contendere plea cannot be used against them in a civil trial.

<i>Prosecutor</i>	This is an attorney employed by the county or city whose job is to prove that the suspect/ defendant committed the crime he was charged with. If there are criminal charges against your abuser, it is the prosecutor who will prepare the case and present the evidence against him.
<i>Stalking</i>	This means a willful course of conduct involving repeated or continuing harassment of another individual that would cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed, or molested and that actually causes the victim to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed, or molested.
<i>Subpoena</i>	This is an official order of the Court which tells people that they must come to Court. You may be subpoenaed as the victim/ witness.
<i>Suspect</i>	This is used to refer to the person who the police suspect committed a crime. In assault and battery cases, it would be your abuser.
<i>Venue</i>	The neighborhood, place or county in which an action or crime is declared to have occurred. It also can refer to the location of the trial.
<i>Victim</i>	Refers to the person who has been abused.



LAWS

In Michigan, it is a crime for any person to beat, sexually assault or otherwise harm another person even if they are married. (This includes the attempt to do any of these things to another person.) The following laws relate to domestic violence cases between adults. (Child abuse encompasses another set of laws.)

The complete text of all Michigan law is available at:
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>.

Contact RAVE or your local library for additional information.



Call RAVE

1-877-952-7283

DOMESTIC ASSAULT [MCLA. 750.81] is an assault and battery; on a spouse, former spouse, a person residing or having resided in the same household, or a person with whom the offender has a child in common.

AGGRAVATED DOMESTIC ASSAULT [MCLA 750.81] is an assault on a spouse, former spouse, a person residing or having resided in the same household, or a person with whom he or she has had a child in common, without a weapon and without the intent to commit murder or great bodily harm less than murder, and is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than one year or a fine of not more than \$1,000.00 or both.

FELONIOUS ASSAULT [MCLA 750.82] is an assault upon another person involving a gun, revolver, knife, iron bar, club, brass knuckles or other dangerous weapon, but without intending to commit murder or great bodily harm less than murder.

CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT [MCLA 750.520B-750.520G] is an act of sexual assault or battery defined by law as occurring in the first, second, third or fourth degree. The degree depends upon whether there was force or coercion, penetration or sexual contact, the age of the victim and whether the rapist is a member of the family or in a position of authority. Spouses [MCLA 750.520] may be charged and convicted under sections 520.b-520.g for criminal sexual conduct even though the victim is their legal spouse.

STALKING [MCLA 750.4] is a willful course of conduct involving repeated (two or more) or continuing or unconsented contact of another individual that would cause a reasonable person to suffer emotional distress and would further cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed or molested, and that actually causes the victim to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed or molested. Stalking consists of the following elements:

Two or more willful acts, of unconsented contact:

- that would cause a reasonable individual to suffer emotional distress;
- that actually causes the victim to suffer emotional distress;
- that would further cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed or molested; or
- that actually causes the victim to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed or molested.

AGGRAVATED STALKING [MCLA 750.411i] is a felony offense. Stalking becomes aggravated stalking when it occurs under any of the following circumstances:

1. Violation of a restraining order which the stalker has received actual notice of,
2. Violation of an injunction or preliminary injunction,
3. Violation of probation, pretrial release, or release on bond appeal,
4. Involves one or more credible threats of violence against the victim, the victim's family, or a member of the victim's household,
5. Offender previously convicted of Stalking or Aggravated Stalking.



RAVE INFORMATION
DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICES

RAVE provides the following services all free of charge for victims of domestic and sexual violence in Clinton and Shiawassee Counties.

- A safehouse for emergency shelter
- Individual crisis counseling and advocacy
- 24-hour confidential crisis line
- Group counseling
- Child sexual assault/abuse counseling
- Court accompaniment
- Personal Protection Order assistance
- Legal advocacy
- Referrals
- Transportation
- Housing assistance
- Community education

The RAVE Philosophy

Domestic and sexual violence is damaging to those individuals directly involved and to society as a whole. It is criminal conduct, which cannot be tolerated. Prevention through education, advocacy and appropriate intervention is the ultimate goal. All victims should be provided safety and must be treated with dignity, respect and confidentiality.

Interventions that blame the victim and do not hold the abuser accountable for the violence are ineffective and inappropriate. This organization will encourage and advance the empowerment of victims and seek social change that addresses the existing imbalance of power within violent relationships.

As an organization, RAVE believes that to make informed choices for themselves and their children, victims should have access to safety, information about domestic and sexual violence, available options and community resources. To carry out their decisions, survivors of domestic and sexual violence may require support and advocacy that respects their right to self-determination.

RAVE strives to:

- Eliminate domestic and sexual violence through programs that promote social change.
- Support and advocate for the adult and child victims of domestic and sexual violence.
- Develop programs of empowerment that respect victims' rights to self determination.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES: AN INTRODUCTION

There are four major areas of resources that women often access as they work to order their lives after experiencing domestic abuse. These categories are all dependent upon safety...safety in your immediate surroundings, your shelter, health, employment and ability to parent.

Your safety is the foundation of domestic abuse support. In this booklet, we have explained how to develop a safety plan and use your safety partners including RAVE, law enforcement, legal help and other community professionals. Your health and overall welfare, and the well being of your children, may depend on the resources you employ.

RAVE has been serving survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault in Clinton and Shiawassee counties for over 25 years. RAVE has many years of experience helping women and guiding them to community resources.

SAFETY RESOURCES

Emergency Phone Numbers

Emergencies Only	9-1-1
Mental Health Emergencies (Clinton, Eaton & Ingham)	(800) 372-8460
Mental Health Emergencies (Shiawassee)	(800) 488-5498
Poison Control	(800) 222-1222

Law Enforcement Agencies: Clinton County

Clinton County Sheriff	(989) 224-5200
Bath Township Police	(517) 641-6271
DeWitt City Police	(517) 669-9131
DeWitt Township Police	(517) 669-6578
Elsie City Police	(989) 862-4273
Laingsburg City Police	(517) 651-5355
Maple Rapids	(989) 682-4901
Ovid City Police	(989) 834-5335
St. Johns City Police	(989) 224-6721

Law Enforcement Agencies: Shiawassee County

Shiawassee County Sheriff	(989) 743-3411
Michigan State Police (Owosso Post)	(989) 723-6761
Bancroft	(989) 634-9771
Byron	(810) 266-4383
Corunna	(989) 743-6170
Durand	(989) 288-3113
Laingsburg City Police	(517) 651-5355
Lennon	(810) 621-4591
Morrice	(517) 625-3430

Law Enforcement Agencies: Shiawassee County

New Lothrop (810) 638-5767
Owosso (989) 725-0580
Perry (517) 625-3535
Vernon (989) 743-3411

Legal Help

Clinton County Friend of the Court (989) 224-5136
Clinton County Juvenile Court (989) 224-5195
Clinton County Prosecutor Office (989) 224-5260
Victim's Rights Advocate (989) 227-6424

Shiawassee County Family Court (989) 743-2372
Shiawassee County Friend of the Court (989) 743-2397
Shiawassee County Prosecutor Office (989) 743-2373
Victim's Rights Advocate (989) 743-2468

Legal Services of South Central Michigan
Lansing (517) 394-3121
Toll-Free (800) 968-0044
Fax (517) 394-4276
Website: <http://www.lsscm.org/>

Legal Services of Eastern Michigan (Flint) (810) 234-2621
Website: <http://www.lsem-mi.org/>

Sexual Assault, Rape & Domestic Violence

RAVE (Relief After Violent Encounter)
Toll-Free 24-Hour (877) 952-7283
Clinton Office (989) 224-4662
Shiawassee Office (989) 723-9716
Website: <http://www.ravecs.org/>

Child Abuse Prevention Council/Child (989) 723-5877
Advocacy Center (Shiawassee County only)

Eve's House & Violent Encounters (517) 372-5572

Family Violence (Vulnerable Adult) Helpline (Toll Free) (800) 996-6228

Groundwork Counseling (for Assailants) (517) 763-6969
Website: www.groundworkcounselingllc.com

National Domestic Violence Hotline (Toll Free) (800) 799-7233

For further information on domestic violence and sexual assault resources,
go to: <http://www.mcadsv.org/>

Child and Adult Protective Services

Clinton County Child Protective Services
(Normal business hours) (989) 224-5500
(After 5:00 p.m. & weekends) (989) 224-7684

Shiawassee County Child Protective Services
(Normal business hours) (989) 725-3200
(After 5:00 p.m. & weekends) (989) 743-3411

Child Abuse Help Line (Toll Free) (800) 942-4357

Runaway Assistance

Covenant House (Toll Free/24 hour) (800) 999-9999

Gateway Community Services (Clinton-Eaton-Ingham) (517) 351-4000

Listening Ear (24 hour) (517) 337-1717

REACH
(Runaway Assistance for Shiawassee & Genesee) (989) 725-9511

Runaway Assistance (RAP Line) (Toll free) (800) 292-4517

SHELTER RESOURCES

Emergency Housing and Shelter

American Red Cross of Shiawassee County (989) 743-6118

Capital Area Community Services (CACS)
Clinton County (989) 224-6702
Shiawassee County (989) 723-3115

Department of Human Services
Clinton County (989) 224-5500
Shiawassee County (989) 725-3200

Gateway Community Services (Youth only)
(Clinton-Eaton-Ingham) (517) 351-4000

RAVE (Relief After Violent Encounter)
Toll-Free 24-Hour (877) 952-7283
Clinton Office (989) 224-4662
Shiawassee Office (989) 723-9716

REACH (Runaway Assistance) (989) 725-9511

Salvation Army (Owosso) (989) 725-7485
(Lansing) (517) 484-4424

Emergency Housing and Shelter

Shiawassee County Housing Rehab Program (989) 743-2270
Volunteers of America (Michigan) (517) 484-4414

Utility Assistance

Capital Area Community Services (CACS)
 Clinton County (989) 224-6702
 Shiawassee County (989) 723-3115
Department of Human Services
 Clinton County (989) 224-5500
 Shiawassee County (989) 725-3200
Salvation Army
 Owosso (989) 725-7485
 Lansing (517) 484-4424

Other Housing Help

Bath Housing Commission (517) 641-6244
Capital Area Community Services (CACS)
 Clinton County (989) 224-6702
 Shiawassee County (989) 723-3115
Department of Human Services
 Clinton County (989) 224-5500
 Shiawassee County (989) 725-3200
Perry Citizen LDHA (989) 625-6055
Salvation Army
 Owosso (989) 725-7485
 Lansing (517) 484-4424

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) also has a Housing Locator website. It may be found at:
<http://www.michiganhousinglocator.com/>

HEALTH RESOURCES**Health Services**

Clinton Memorial Hospital (989) 224-6881
Cristo Rey Health Clinic (517) 372-4700
Mid-Michigan District Health Department
 Clinton County (989) 224-2195
Owosso Memorial Healthcare (989) 723-5211
Planned Parenthood (989) 723-6420
Poison Control (Toll Free) (800) 222-1222
Pregnancy Resource Center (Shiawassee County) (989) 723-4025
Shiawassee County Health Department (989) 743-2355

Mental Health

Clinton-Eaton-Ingham CMH	(517) 346-8200
24 Hour Crisis Services	(800) 372-8460
Clinton County Counseling Center	(989) 224-6729
Shiawassee CMH	(989) 723-6791
Capital Area Child & Family Services (Lansing)	(517) 882-4000
Catholic Charities (Owosso)	(989) 723-8239
McMathis Counseling Services (St. Johns)	(989) 224-5065
Memorial Health & Hospice (Owosso)	(989) 725-2299
Memorial Healthcare Stress Unit (Owosso)	(989) 725-8101
MI Self-Help Clearing House (Toll Free)	(800) 777-5556
REACH(Owosso)	(989) 725-9511
St. Johns Counseling Services	(989) 227-9000
Trinity Counseling Services (Owosso)	(989) 723-0330

Substance Use and Abuse

Alcoholics Anonymous (Shiawassee County)	(989) 723-5711
Alcoholics Anonymous (Greater Lansing Area)	(517) 377-1444
Catholic Charities (Owosso)	(989) 723-8239
Clinton County Counseling Center	(989) 224-6729
Cross Roads (Corunna)	(989) 743-1007
DOT Caring Center (Owosso)	(989) 725-2229
Living Well Professional Services (Owosso)	(989) 729-0300
St. Johns Counseling Services	(989) 227-9000
Trinity Counseling Services (Owosso)	(989) 723-0330

OTHER COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

Community Outreach Programs

Catholic Charities of Shiawassee County	(989) 723-8239
Christ Episcopal Outreach Center (Owosso)	(989) 723-2495
Laingsburg Food Bank	(517) 651-5345
Mid-Michigan Health Department (Clinton County)	(989) 224-2195
St. Vincent DePaul (Owosso)	(989) 723-4277
St. Vincent DePaul (St. Johns)	(989) 224-8852
Shiawassee County Emergency Services	(989) 743-3411
Surplus Commodities Program (CACS, Owosso)	(989) 723-3115
(CACS, St. Johns)	(989) 224-6702
Trinity Counseling Services (Owosso)	(989) 723-0330

Employment

Kelly Services (Owosso)	(989) 723-2600
Michigan Works (Clinton County)	(989) 224-2000
(Shiawassee County)	(989) 729-6663
Westaff (Owosso)	(989) 729-8866

Nutrition/Food

Baby Pantry (Shiawassee County)	(989) 723-5877
Capital Area Community Services (Shiawassee County)	(989) 723-3115
(Clinton County)	(989) 224-6702
Christ Episcopal Church (Owosso)	(989) 723-2495
Department of Human Services (Shiawassee County)	(989) 725-3200
(After Hours)	(989) 743-3411
Department of Human Services (Clinton County)	(989) 224-5500
(After Hours)	(989) 224-7684
MSU Cooperative Extension (Clinton)	(989) 224-5240
MSU Cooperative Extension (Shiawassee)	(989) 743-2251
Nutrition Education Program (St. Johns)	(989) 224-5240
Salvation Army (Owosso)	(989) 725-7485
St. Vincent DePaul (Owosso)	(989) 723-4277
USDA Surplus Commodities Program (CACs, Clinton)	(989) 224-6702
(CACs, Shiawassee)	(989) 723-3115
Women, Infants & Children (WIC) (Clinton)	(989) 224-7734
(Shiawassee)	(989) 743-2383

Parenting Classes

Capital Area Child and Family Services (Lansing Area)	(517) 882-4000
Catholic Charities (Owosso)	(989) 723-8239
Clinton County Counseling Center	(989) 224-6729
Clinton County Great Start Coordinator	(989) 224-6831
Living Well (Owosso)	(989) 729-0030

Special Needs

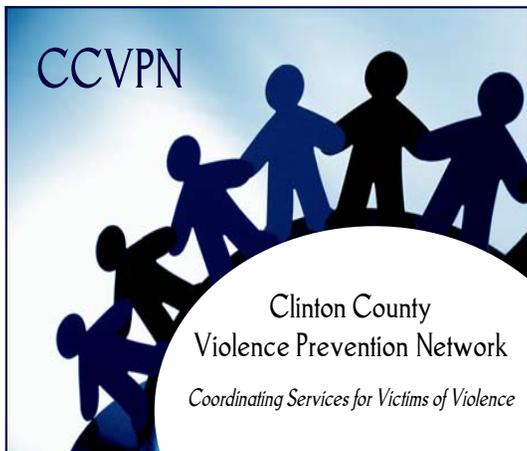
The ARC (Owosso)	(989) 723-7377
Capital Area Community Services (Shiawassee)	(989) 723-3115
(Clinton)	(989) 224-6702
<i>Early On</i> ® of Michigan (Toll Free)	(800) 327-5966
Project Find (Toll Free)	(800) 252-0052

General community resource information may be obtained by dialing 2-1-1 in **Clinton County** or by going to the following website:
<http://www.centralmichigan211.org/> .

In **Shiawassee County** contact First Call for Help at (888) 866-4566.

If you need further assistance with resources, please contact RAVE.





Shiawassee
County
Domestic
Violence
Task Force