

# 7. Family Violence

1. What is Domestic Violence?
  - Domestic violence, sometimes called battering, relationship abuse, or intimate partner violence, is a pattern of behavior used to establish power and control over another person through fear and intimidation, often including the threat or use of violence. Domestic violence is a crime that can include physical abuse, emotional abuse, economic abuse, and sexual abuse. Batterers use threats, intimidation, isolation, and other behaviors to maintain power over their victims. Domestic violence impacts everyone, regardless of income, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or religion.
2. What is child neglect and how you can prevent it?
  - Child neglect is characterized by the failure to provide for the child's basic needs. Child neglect refers to an act of omission, specifically the failure of a parent or other person legally responsible for a child's welfare, to provide for the child's basic needs and proper level of care with respect to food, clothing, shelter, hygiene, medical attention, or supervision.
    - a. Physical neglect includes refusal of or delay in seeking health care, abandonment, expulsion from the home or refusal to allow a runaway to return home, and inadequate supervision.
    - b. Educational neglect includes the allowance of chronic truancy, failure to enroll a child of mandatory school age in school, and failure to attend to a special need.
    - c. Emotional neglect includes such actions as marked inattention to the child's needs for affection, refusal of or failure to provide needed psychological care, spouse abuse in the child's presence, and permission for drug or alcohol use by the child.
3. What are types of maltreatment?
  - Some types of abuses include: physical abuse, emotional abuse, and sexual abuse
  - Some types of neglect include: physical, educational, medical and emotional neglect
  - Examples of maltreatment include:
    - a. Danger from partner
    - b. Physically hurting you (pushing, grabbing, slapping, hitting, choking or kicking)
    - c. Forcing you to engage in sexual behavior without your consent
    - d. Threatening to hurt you, your children or someone close to you
    - e. Constantly putting you down or telling you that you are worthless
    - f. Stalking, checking up on you or following you
    - g. Making you afraid
4. My child makes me so ANGRY! (Peaceful Discipline)
  - Peaceful discipline provides a method of encouraging desirable behavior without the use of physical violence. Rewards and penalties are used in loving manner to teach children how to behave.
  - HOW PEACEFUL DISCIPLINE WORKS:
    - a. A peaceful penalty removes attention from the child for unwanted behavior by:
      - ✓ Ignoring the child's behavior.
      - ✓ Distracting the child from the behavior you want him to stop.

- ✓ Isolating the child from the attention of others.
    - b. A peaceful reward gives attention for desirable behavior by:
      - ✓ Praising and encouraging the child's actions.
      - ✓ Physical attention: hugs, kisses.
      - ✓ Playing with the child.
  - Questions about peaceful discipline:
    - a. When should I start using this method of discipline?
 

*--Anytime. Before ten month of age, a baby should never be ignored or penalized. They should only be rewarded with loving attention. Then you can begin to use this way of discipline.*
    - b. Without spanking, won't I spoil my child?
 

*--No, you spoil a child by letting him continue unwanted behavior. Spanking is physical violence. It is always destructive. Violence only teaches violence. Children can be taught desirable behavior when the parent acts as a referee.*
    - c. How do I express my anger?
 

*--Instead of using violence to express anger, a parent (referee) may yell "I'm ANGRY," call time out. After taking a break the parent (referee) may discuss the reasons for the angry outburst.*
    - d. Can I use these techniques outside my home?
 

*--Yes. Isolating the child or ignoring the child's unwanted behavior also works in public. Isolating the child in a corner of the car or ignoring a temper tantrum in a store are valuable ways to let your child know that you are consistent with your discipline.*
  - Examples of peaceful discipline:
    - a. Fifteen month old Judy takes a toy away from Erin, who then hit Judy. Judy hits back. Judy's father...
 

*--Physically separates the two children, and says "STOP HITTING." He takes the toy away and when the children play well together, he gives the toy back to them and praises them.*
    - b. Six year old Eric has been whining all day and his father has repeatedly asked him to be quiet. Eric whines again, his father loses his temper and...
 

*--yells I'm ANGRY, then like a referee says "TIME OUT" and carries him into his room where he makes him stay for ten minutes. Afterwards, father and son discuss the reason for the penalty.*
5. I am under stress and I may do violent harm to my child
- To locate a parenting program that can provide guidance and support or referrals to counseling and treatment, call:
    - a. [Preventive Information and Parent Helpline](#) (800) 342-7472
    - b. [Prevent Child Abuse America](#) (312) 663-3520
    - c. [Bronx Aids Services](#) (718) 295-5605
    - d. [Jewish Board for Family & Children Services](#) (718) 882-5000
    - e. [Sanctuary for Families](#) (718) 293-0538
    - f. Violence Intervention Program (212) 360-5090
    - g. [LifeNet](#) (800) LIFE-NET
    - h. [National Mental Health Association](#) (800) 969-NMHA
    - i. [Child Abuse and Maltreatment Hotline](#) (800) 342-3720
    - j. [Administration for Children's Services Division of Neighborhood Based Services](#) (212) 341-3060
    - k. Copy of *Parent's Guide to NYS Child Welfare Laws* (212) 341-3060

6. How can I contact my local police?
  - If it is an emergency, call **911**. If you wish to contact your local police precinct or Domestic Violence Prevention Officer (DVPO).
7. How can the City help a domestic violence victim?
  - There are government agencies that oversee various citywide domestic violence programs and initiatives. A list of domestic violence, anti- violence and public services are available at [Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence](#).

### Safe Horizon

8. Who they are?
  - Safe Horizon is the nation's leading nonprofit victim assistance, advocacy, and violence prevention organization with more than 80 programs throughout New York's five boroughs. Safe Horizon partners with others who help crime victims: the New York Police Department, the New York State Crime Victims Board, the Office of the Mayor, other social service agencies, hospitals, corporations, and more to ease the burden on victims and enhance the aid that is available to them.
9. What they do?
  - Safe Horizon's mission is to provide support, prevent violence, and promote justice for victims of crime and abuse, their families and communities. Their 108 programs are located throughout the five boroughs of New York City in court houses, police precincts, schools, shelters, and community offices. Safe Horizon's first priority is the safety of those who seek assistance. Their programs work with clients to meet their needs so they can look ahead to a safe horizon.
10. Safe Horizon Hotlines
  - You can call Safe Horizon's hotlines 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The calls are free, and counselors are able to help you no matter what language you speak. Counselors provide crisis counseling, safety planning, assistance with finding shelter, referrals to Safe Horizon programs or other organizations, advocacy with the police, and other crucial services.
  - [Safe Horizon's Domestic Violence Hotline](#)  
(800) 621-HOPE (4673)  
(212) 233-3456 TDD or (800) 810-7444 TDD
  - [Safe Horizon's Crime Victims Hotline](#)  
(212) 577-7777
  - [Safe Horizon's Rape, Sexual Assault & Incest Hotline](#)  
(212) 227-3000
  - [Safe Horizon's September 11th Support Hotline](#)  
(866) 689-HELP (4357)
11. Counseling for children and adults
  - If you or someone you know has experienced trauma, due to a crime, a violent relationship, childhood sexual abuse, or other past abuse, they can help you to recover your emotional health and strength. The Safe Horizon Counseling Center, which began in 1988, is the only New York State licensed mental health clinic that works exclusively with those who have suffered from violence, abuse, and other traumas.

- Who is eligible?  
Their clients are children and adults who have witnessed or experienced violent and emotionally charged events. They provide individual, family and group therapy.
- Contact Safe Horizon  
They are located and easily accessible in downtown Brooklyn. They maintain clinic hours Monday through Saturday, and most weeknights until 9:00 pm. Call 347-328-8110 and ask for the Intake Coordinator. Bilingual (Spanish-English) staff is available.

## 12. Community Programs

- Since 1979, Safe Horizon has operated Community Programs in New York City to support, educate, and advocate for victims of crime and abuse. Currently Safe Horizon has six Community Programs throughout the five boroughs serving more than 4,000 individuals each year. Safe Horizon's Community Programs offer the following services: Crisis Intervention, Case Management, Practical/Emergency Assistance, Information and Referrals, Individual Counseling, Support Groups, Advocacy, and Community/Public Education Presentations. Please call the Community Program for further information and/or to make an appointment.
- Manhattan Family Assistance Center  
575 Lexington Avenue, 9th Floor (at 51st Street)  
Population Served: Victims of 9/11  
Phone: (212) 729-5500  
Hours: Please call for hours of operation.  
Directions: V, E, or 6 trains to 51st Street station. Office is on the northeast corner of 51st Street and Lexington Avenue (near Staples).
- Manhattan Community Program  
2090 7th Avenue, 2nd Floor  
Population Served: Victims of crime and abuse, including domestic violence, rape and sexual assault, stranger crimes and other.  
Phone: (212) 316-2100  
Hours: Please call for hours of operation.  
Directions: Take the 2, 3, A, or C train to 125th Street station. Walk 2 blocks towards the Apollo Theater and make a right on 7th Avenue/Adam Clayton Powell Blvd. Office is between 124th & 125th Streets (next to a White Castle restaurant).
- Brooklyn Community Program  
180 Livingston Street, Suite 305 (between Hoyt & Smith Streets)  
Population Served: Victims of crime and abuse, including domestic violence, rape and sexual assault, the WTC attacks, stranger crimes and other.  
Phone: (718) 928-6950  
Hours: Please call for hours of operation.  
Directions: Take the 4, 5 train to Borough Hall station. Walk 3 blocks south on Court Street (towards Fulton Street Mall) and make a left on Livingston Street, then walk 3 long blocks; OR  
Take the 2, 3 train to Hoyt Street-Fulton Mall station. Walk 1 block on Hoyt Street (past Macy's) and turn right on Livingston Street. Office is in the middle of the block; OR  
Take the M, R train to Lawrence Street station; OR  
Take the A, C or F to Jay Street-Borough Hall station. Exit onto Fulton Street and walk south 1 block to Livingston Street. Make a left and then walk 2 blocks.

- Bronx Community Program  
2530 Grand Concourse, Seventh Floor  
Population Served: Victims of crime and abuse, including domestic violence, rape and sexual assault, the WTC attacks, stranger crimes and other.  
Phone: (718) 933-1000  
Hours: Please call for hours of operation.  
Directions: D, B or 4 train to Fordham Road station. The D and B trains exit onto Fordham Road and Grand Concourse. Walk 2-3 blocks up Grand Concourse to office. The 4 train exits on Fordham Road. Walk east and make a left on Grand Concourse to office. The Bx1 and Bx2 buses stop right in front of the building at the Fordham Road-Grand Concourse stop.
- Queens Community Program  
74-09 37th Avenue, Room 412  
Population Served: Victims of crime and abuse, including domestic violence, rape and sexual assault, the WTC attacks, stranger crimes and other.  
Phone: (718) 899-1233  
Hours: Please call for hours of operation.  
Directions: Take the E, F, R, or V trains to Roosevelt Avenue station. Ride in the back of the train. When you exit, walk towards 74th Street and make a left, then walk one block to 37th Avenue.
- Staten Island Community Program  
358 St. Marks Place, Fifth Floor  
Population Served: Victims of crime and abuse, including domestic violence, rape and sexual assault, the WTC attacks, stranger crimes and other.  
Phone: (718) 720-2591  
Hours: Please call for hours of operation.  
Directions: From the Staten Island Ferry Terminal walk to Hyatt Street. Continue to top of hill and make a left on St. Marks Place. The office is a big brown building on the right side across from the municipal parking lot. It is a 5-10 minute walk.

### 13. Legal assistance

- Safe Horizon's [Domestic Violence Law Project](#) and [Immigration Law Project](#) provide free legal information and advice to domestic violence victims with family and immigration law-related matters. Additionally, they provide direct legal representation to low-income and indigent domestic violence victims in family and supreme court proceedings and immigration matters throughout New York City.
- They can provide help in the following matters:
  - ✓ Orders of Protection
  - ✓ Child and Spousal Support
  - ✓ Child Custody and Visitation
  - ✓ Divorce
  - ✓ Immigration
- If you have any legal questions or concerns about a domestic violence-related issue, please call them Monday-Friday from 9:30 am - 5:30 pm at (212) 577-3220 x109. If their answering machine picks up, please let them know if it is safe for them to call you back or leave a message. If you cannot talk during those hours, exceptions can be made to talk at a later time.

#### 14. What is elder abuse?

- Elder abuse is the maltreatment of an elderly or disabled person by a family member or caretaker. Elder abuse can include physical, sexual, or psychological abuse; financial exploitation, and/or neglect, including the denial of basic necessities like food and medical care.
- No one, not your caretaker, not a family member is allowed to:
  - ✓ Deny you meals or medication
  - ✓ Hide or break your eyeglasses, hearing aid, or false teeth
  - ✓ Threaten to hurt you or your children, your pets, or friends
  - ✓ Humiliate, be cruel, or speak harshly to you
  - ✓ Keep you away from friends and family
  - ✓ Take your Social Security checks
  - ✓ Spent your rent or food money
  - ✓ Steal your belongings
  - ✓ Hit, beat, push or restrain you
  - ✓ Force you to have sexual contact
  - ✓ Keep you locked up
- If you are over 60 and any of these things are happening to you, call Safe Horizon's 24-hour hotline. Remember, you are not to blame. You have a right to be safe and feel secure in your own home.

#### 15. What is child abuse?

- Child abuse, or child maltreatment, is an act by a parent, caretaker, sibling, family member, or other person that results in the physical or emotional harm or death of a child. Emotional abuse, neglect, physical abuse and sexual abuse are all different forms of child abuse.
- To report suspected child abuse, call the New York State Child Abuse Hotline: (800) 342-3720.
- How Does Safe Horizon Help Abused Children?  
Safe Horizon's [Child Advocacy Centers](#) (CAC) are child-friendly, safe spaces with colorful murals and toys that help children feel at ease. At the CAC's, child protective caseworkers, police detectives, pediatricians, prosecutors, victim advocates, and mental health professionals work as a team to collect evidence, minimize the number of times the child is interviewed, and ensure that the child receives appropriate medical examinations and mental health support. Safe Horizon's collaboration with the New York Police Department, the Administration for Children's Services, the local District Attorney, and local medical providers, ensures that a coordinated investigation begins immediately and makes every effort to ensure that there is no further abuse.
- Brooklyn Child Advocacy Center  
320 Schermerhorn Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11217  
(718) 330-5400
- Queens Child Advocacy Center  
112-25 Queens Boulevard  
Forest Hills, NY 11375  
(718) 275-3948

- Staten Island Child Advocacy Center  
280 Richmond Terrace  
Staten Island, NY 10301  
(718) 556-0844

16. Homeless youth

- Young people involved in New York City's street culture are often victims of abusive parents and unstable homes. They have often run away or been thrown out of their homes or foster care. Their lives on the street may involve substance use, crime, "survival sex" and prostitution. Street-involved youth are also disproportionately vulnerable to HIV infection. If you or a young person you know is living on the street, Safe Horizon has programs that can help.
- Streetwork Program Philosophy  
The Streetwork Project is committed to reaching out to the homeless and disenfranchised youth of New York City, offering them respite from hunger, cold, loneliness and fear and the opportunity to reclaim for themselves a sense of dignity and self-worth. Our goal is to extend ourselves to these young people through our presence on the streets, through the services we provide and through the love we are willing to express. With every bag lunch, medical appointment, referral, condom and group we offer, we communicate to our clients our concern for their lives and our belief in their potential. Our mission is to act as a catalyst for their self-empowerment.
- Streetwork Program Components  
Streetwork clients (ages 13-23) are provided with the following free services: legal, medical and psychiatric services, long-term counseling, individual and group therapy, case management, advocacy, help in obtaining identification, emergency and transitional housing, GED (General Equivalency Diploma) preparation and support, help in obtaining Medicaid and other benefits, hot meals, bag lunches, showers, clothing, wellness activities including acupuncture, yoga, nutritional counseling, HIV prevention counseling, parenting groups, drop-in groups and the opportunity to socialize in a safe, non-judgmental setting. All clients are assigned a primary counselor who can assist them in accessing needed services, including referrals when necessary.
- **Streetwork's Drop-In Center Locations**
  - a. Streetwork Midtown Drop-In Center  
545 Eighth Avenue, 22nd floor  
New York, NY 10018  
Phone: (212) 695-2220  
Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday (12:00 pm - 5:00 pm)  
Saturday and Sunday (1:00 pm - 5:00 pm). Evening groups are also offered.  
Intakes are conducted each day.
  - b. Lower East Side Drop-In Center  
33 Essex Street  
New York, NY 10002  
Phone: (646) 602-6404  
Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (2:00 pm - 9:00 pm)  
Friday (12:30 pm - 5:00 pm)