

REFERRAL NUMBERS

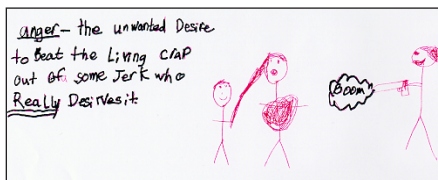
EMPACT – Crisis Hotline	480-784-1500
National Domestic Violence Hotline	1-800-799-SAFE
Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence	1-800-782-6400
Parents Anonymous	1-800-352-0528
CONTACTS (Shelter Hotline)	1-800-799-7739
PATCHS*	602-534-2120
(Ask for PATCHS Child Specialist)	
Teen Lifeline*	602-248-TEEN (8336)
Boys & Girls Town National Hotline*	1-800-448-3000
ChildHelp USA*	1-800-422-4453

* These organizations are equipped to take calls from children.

REPORTING ABUSE

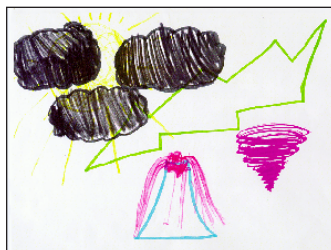
To report abuse, call:

Adult Protective Services 1-877-767-2385
 Child Protective Services 1-888-767-2445



STATISTICS & INFORMATION FOR THE NON-ABUSIVE PARENT/GUARDIAN

- ❖ Approximately 3.3 million children in the United States are exposed to domestic violence each year.
- ❖ On average, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in this country every day (Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report, October 2001).
- ❖ According to newspaper reports, 92 people died in Arizona as a result of a domestic violence related homicides (AZ Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Domestic Violence Related Homicides, 2000 and 2001).
- ❖ Most children get regular medical attention. Health care practitioners are vital in getting this information out to families and ensuring their safety.



This document is available in alternate formats. Please contact 602-254-6300 for more information. This project was supported by grant No. ADO30147-006, awarded by the Governor's Division for Women. Points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Governor's Division for Women.



CHILDREN WHO WITNESS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

A GUIDE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

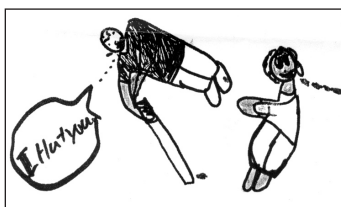


302 North 1st Avenue, Suite 300, Phoenix, AZ 85003
 Phone: 602-254-6300 ❖ www.mag.maricopa.gov/dv

CHILD DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ASSESSMENT/RISK FACTORS

- ✓ History of mental illness, previous domestic violence, or substance abuse in the parents or other family members.
- ✓ Family stresses that could lead to violence (unemployment, divorce or death).
- ✓ Lack of appropriate supervision, care and support systems.
- ✓ Extreme disciplinary attitudes and practices of the parents and caregivers.
- ✓ Frequent exposure to violence in the home, school or community.
- ✓ Frequent exposure to violent media.
- ✓ Access to firearms in their or a neighbor's home, or the community.
- ✓ Gang involvement or gang exposure in the family, school, or neighborhood.
- ✓ Situations in which a child or adolescent experiences physical assault or sexual victimization from anyone.
- ✓ Presence of signs of poor self-esteem, or depression.
- ✓ Other risk factors, such as poor school performance and physical, emotional, or developmental disabilities.

If any of the above risk factors are identified, referrals can be made for the non-offending parent or guardian.



SUGGESTIONS FOR SPEAKING WITH THE NON-ABUSIVE PARENT/VICTIM

- ❖ Believe them—many controllers are charming and gracious, making it difficult to believe that they could be abusive.
- ❖ Acknowledge and support them for talking to you—they have taken a risk by talking to you. Support their decision to talk about the issue.
- ❖ Validate their feelings—common emotions are fear, confusion, anger, sadness, guilt, numbness, and hopelessness.
- ❖ Don't blame them—let everyone in the family know that the abuse is not their fault.
- ❖ Respect confidentiality—make sure that conversations regarding abuse occur in private without other individuals present. This is essential for trust-building and safety.
- ❖ Acknowledge injustice—no one deserves to be abused.
- ❖ Respect their independence—they have the right to make decisions when they are ready. They are the experts on their lives.
- ❖ Promote access to community services for both children and adults—if you feel it is safe, give the trusted adult and/or child community domestic violence resources.
- ❖ Discuss places where their information and materials will be safe—be aware that the materials that you give the family may put them at risk of further abuse if the abuser finds it. Make sure that the family understands this and that they have a safe place to put their resources.
- ❖ Tell them it's not their fault.
- ❖ Ask the child to name a person that they can talk to whom they trust.

CHILD DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SAFETY PLAN

Everyone in the family needs a safety plan, including the children. Key questions to ask include:

1. Do you have a place where you can go that is safe?
2. Does your child have a place to go that is safe? (Avoid rooms with no exit and the kitchen)
3. Does your child know how to dial 9-1-1?
4. Do you have all of the resources that you need to find shelter if you need to escape?

If victims have to escape, they will need:

- ✓ ID: Driver's license, birth certificates
- ✓ Money: ATM card, credit cards, checkbook
- ✓ Legal Papers: Protective order, medical records
- ✓ Important Personal Items: Keys, medicine

