

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Are you the victim of domestic abuse?

Does the person you love throw you down, slap, punch, kick or hit you?

Does the person you love choke you force you to have sex when you don't want to?

Does the person you love abuse the family pet?

If your answer is yes to any of these questions it means you are involved in an abusive relationship. You don't have to remain in the relationship if you choose not to. Report domestic abuse to the law enforcement agency in your area. They can take you to a shelter for domestic abuse victims.

Plan for a Safe Departure

Pack a bag ahead of time and keep it with a friend or neighbor you can trust. Include credit cards, cash, extra clothes for your children and a favorite plaything for each.

Be sure to hide a set of car keys and house keys in a safe place in case you have to leave in a hurry.

Take important papers when you leave, such as birth certificates for you and your children. Take medicine, health insurance cards, the deed/lease to your residence, a checkbook and extra checks and your social security card, green card/work permit.

Take any court papers or court orders, your drivers license or photo ID and pay stubs.

Document injuries and property damage with photographs and seek medical attention for injuries.

The policy of the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office is to provide immediate assistance and protection to the victims of domestic violence.

Who, What, Where?

Domestic abuse knows no economic, ethnic, religious or racial boundaries. It can be emotional as well as physical.

Children who witness domestic abuse are affected and may become abusers or victims in adulthood.

Alcohol and drug abuse are not causes of domestic abuse. However, they are often a contributing factor.

Domestic violence is a criminal act and needs to be reported.

