

treatment options for perpetrators of domestic violence; often an alternative to incarceration. In effect, they ensure quality treatment services for batterers.

The court orders and sanctions these batterer intervention programs. They have open lines of communication with the justice system. This ensures appropriate monitoring and consequences for batterers' noncompliance with the program.

These standards, which are highly recognized nationally, address primary treatment approaches and practices. They will help ensure safety for victims and their children; which is the ultimate goal.

The approved providers of Batterer Intervention Programs are posted on our website at [www.dss.sc.gov](http://www.dss.sc.gov); then follow link to Domestic Violence.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT  
SCDSS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS  
AT 803-898-7318.**

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ORGANIZATIONS**

### **CASA/Family Systems**

Orangeburg, Calhoun & Bamberg  
800-298-7228 (24-hr Toll-Free Hotline)  
803-531-6211 (24-hr Hotline)  
803-534-2448 (Admn)

### **Citizens Opposed to Domestic Abuse**

Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton & Jasper  
800-868-2032 (24-hr Toll-Free Hotline)  
843-770-1074 (Admn)

### **Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons**

Aiken, Barnwell & Allendale  
803-649-0480 (24-hr Hotline)  
803-649-0480 (Admn)

### **Family Justice Center**

Horry & Georgetown  
844-208-0161 (24-hr Toll-Free Hotline)  
843-546-3926 (Admn)

### **Laurens County SAFE Home**

Laurens, Saluda & Abbeville  
866-598-5932 (24-hr Toll-Free Hotline)  
864-682-7270 (Admn)

### **MEG'S House**

McCormick, Edgefield & Greenwood  
800-447-7992 (24-hr Hotline)  
864-227-1421 (Admn)

### **My Sister's House, Inc.**

Charleston, Berkeley & Dorchester  
800-273-4673 (24 hr Toll Free Hotline)  
843-744-3242 (24 hr Hotline)  
843-747-4069 (Admn)

### **Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault**

Florence, Darlington, Marion,  
Chesterfield, Marlboro, Dillon & Williamsburg  
800-273-1820 (24-hr Toll-Free Hotline)  
843-669-4600 (24-hr Hotline)  
843-669-4694 (Admn)

### **Safe Harbor**

Greenville, Oconee, Pickens & Anderson  
800-291-2139 (24-hr Toll-Free Hotline)  
864-467-1177 (Admn)

### **SAFE Homes – Rape Crisis Coalition**

Spartanburg, Cherokee & Union  
800-273-5066 (24-hr Toll-Free Hotline)  
864-583-9803 (Admn)

### **Safe Passage, Inc.**

York, Chester & Lancaster  
800-659-0977 (24-hr Toll-Free Hotline)  
803-329-2800 (24-hr Hotline)  
803-329-3336 (Admn)

### **Sistercare, Inc.**

Richland, Lexington, Newberry, Fairfield &  
Kershaw  
803-765-9428 (24-hr Hotline)  
803-926-0505 (Admn)

### **YWCA of the Upper Lowlands, Inc.**

Sumter, Lee & Clarendon  
877-268-9922 (24-hr Toll-Free Hotline)  
803-773-7158 (Admn)

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# **Domestic Violence**

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**South Carolina  
Department of Social Services**





## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

### Definition

**Domestic Violence:** Acts of domestic abuse under the Protection from Domestic Abuse Act (20-4-20) are defined as: “physical abuse bodily injury, assault, the threat of physical harm, sexual criminal offenses, as defined by statute, committed against a family or household member by family or household members.”

### Frequently Asked Questions and Myths About Domestic Violence

#### Are males the primary perpetrators of domestic violence?

No. Although batterers are largely male and victims usually female, men are also victims of domestic violence. However, domestic violence against men mostly goes unreported.

#### What are some of the effects of domestic violence on children?

Children exposed to family or domestic violence are at risk of injuries and bodily harm. They are also at risk of developing impaired brain functioning and cognitive development, low self-esteem, distorted images of relationships, family and gender roles, depression, display anti-social behaviors, behavioral and attention problems in school, delinquent behavior in adolescence, and violent behaviors in adulthood.

#### What are some of the impacts of domestic violence?

Domestic violence tremendously impacts the family. It results in physical injuries or death, stress related illness, self neglect, low self esteem, post traumatic stress disorders, anxiety related disorders, depression, distorted sense of reality, suicidal ideations, and alcohol and drug abuse.

#### Is domestic violence prevalent to any particular ethnic groups?

No. Perpetrators of domestic violence do not fit any specific profile, and neither do their victims. Domestic violence transcends ethnic, economic, educational and social boundaries. Perpetrators tend to deny or minimize the seriousness of the violence, show extreme jealousy and possessiveness, and refuse to take responsibility for their violent behavior. They are also rigid in their views of sex roles and have negative attitudes towards women in general. Perpetrators often fail to recognize their abnormal use of power and control.

#### What are the causes of domestic violence?

Domestic violence has been theoretically blamed on such factors as drug and alcohol, and stress. Victims of domestic violence have sometimes been blamed for the attacks against them. However, it has become increasingly clear that domestic violence is about power and control over the victim. It is a learned pattern of behavior.

*Everyone should know the warning signs of domestic violence.*

They may include a pattern of:

- Constant criticism of a person’s abilities
- Overprotective behavior and extreme jealousy
- Threats of harm to an individual, family members, pets or friends
- Controlling behaviors
- Preventing visits with family and friends
- Destruction of personal property

It is important for you to know it is **NEVER** your fault if you are a victim of domestic violence.

### What is elder abuse?

Elder abuse (S.C. Code Section 43-35-5) is any form of mistreatment that results in harm or loss to an older person. It is generally divided into the following categories:

- **Physical abuse** is physical force that results in bodily injury, pain, or impairment. It includes assault, battery, and inappropriate restraint.
- **Sexual abuse** is non-consensual sexual contact of any kind with an older person.
- **Domestic violence** is an escalating pattern of violence by an intimate partner where the violence is used to exercise power and control.
- **Psychological abuse** is the willful infliction of mental or emotional anguish by threat, humiliation, or other verbal or nonverbal conduct.
- **Financial abuse** is the illegal or improper use of an older person’s funds, property or resources.
- **Neglect** is the failure of caregiver to fulfill his or her care giving responsibilities. Self-neglect is failure to provide for one’s own essential needs.

#### How Big A Problem Is It?

Although estimates vary, it is generally believed that 4-6% of the elderly are abused.

According to the National Incidence Study on Elder Abuse, approximately 450,000 elderly experienced abuse in 1996 nationwide. If self-neglect is included, the number is 551,000.

#### How Serious A Problem Is It?

The personal losses associated with abuse can be devastating and include the loss of independence, homes, life savings, health, dignity and security.

### When Creating A Safety Plan

- Think about all possible escape routes: doors, first-floor windows, basement exits, elevators, stairwells. Rehearse if possible.
- Choose a place to go: to the home of a friend or relative who will offer unconditional support, or a motel or hotel, or a shelter – most importantly somewhere you will feel safe.
- Pack a survival kit: money for cab fare, a change of clothes, extra house and car keys, birth certificates, passports, medications and copies of prescriptions, insurance information, checkbook, credit cards, legal documents such as separation agreements and protection orders, address books, and valuable jewelry, and papers that show jointly owned assets. Conceal it in the home or leave it with a trusted neighbor, friend, or relative. Important papers can also be left in a bank deposit box.
- Try to start an individual savings account. Have statements sent to a trusted relative or friend.
- Avoid arguments with the abuser in areas with potential weapons: kitchen, garage, or in small spaces without access to an outside door.
- Know the telephone number of the domestic violence hotline. Contact it for information on resources and legal rights.
- Review the safety plan monthly.

### Domestic Violence Batterer Intervention Program “Standards of Care for Batterers Treatment Services”

The Domestic Violence Law of 2003 mandated South Carolina Department of Social Services to approve the batterers treatment program for providers serving the batterer. The purpose of this program is to assist in the reduction and elimination of domestic violence. It is supporting treatment services which establish that domestic violence is a crime and will not be tolerated. Services are recognized as one of the most effective