



Gay & Lesbian Domestic Violence

Does your partner...

- ✱Threaten to “out” you to your employer, family, ex-spouse or others?
- ✱Become jealous, sick, needy or angry when you try to spend time away or with your friends/family?
- ✱Slap, pinch, shove, hit, kick, punch, or restrain you against your will?
- ✱Prevent you from sleeping or controls when and what you eat?
- ✱Threaten you, scream at you, throw things, open your mail, read your journal or break or steal your things?
- ✱Force you to have sex or hurt you during sex against your will?
- ✱Withhold affection or punish you with the silent treatment?
- ✱Threaten to have your kids taken away from you and/or hurt your kids?
- ✱Accuse you of having affairs?
- ✱Force you to use drugs and/or alcohol?
- ✱Isolate you from your family/friends and/or restrict your freedom?
- ✱Withhold your medications or put you in situations that endanger your health?
- ✱Use your race, age, sexual identity, gender identity or transition, immigration status, class, body size or appearance, religion, HIV status, etc. against you?

What is abuse?

Abuse or battering is a pattern of behavior where one person tries to control the thoughts, beliefs or conduct of an intimate partner. It can include physical, emotional, sexual, spiritual and economic abuse. Although battering is occasionally an isolated act, once it begins it often continues and escalates in frequency and severity.

Battering, also called domestic violence and dating violence, happens in lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-sexual, transgender and straight communities. It crosses all social, ethnic, racial, and economic lines. An individual’s size, strength, politics, or personality does not determine whether he or she could be considered a batterer.

If you are battered...

YOU ARE NOT ALONE. You do not deserve the abuse. There is nothing you do or say that justifies the abuser’s physical or emotional violence. There are people who can support you and understand the problems you are facing.

Pretending it does not exist allows the battering to continue and further isolates you.

Resources...

Hotlines

Domestic Violence Hotline

New Castle County.....302.762.6110
Kent & Sussex Counties.....302.422.8058

ContactLifeline Hotline

New Castle County.....302.761.9100
Kent & Sussex Counties.....800.262.9800

Child Abuse Hotline.....800.292.9582

Information & Referrals...

CAMP Rehoboth.....302.227.5620
email.....info@camprehoboth.com

AIDS, Delaware.....302.652.6776

Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence
302.658.2958

Suggested Reading...

Men Who Beat the Men Who Love Them: Battered Gay Men and Domestic Violence, David Island/Published 1991

Violence in Gay and Lesbian Domestic Partnerships, Claire Renzetti & Charles Miley/Published 1996

Violent Betrayal: Partner Abuse in Lesbian Relationships, Claire Renzetti/Published 1992

Naming the Violence: Speaking Out About Lesbian Battering, Kerry Lobel/Published 1986

Male On Male Rape: The Hidden Toll of Stigma and Shame, Michael Scarce/Published 1997