

# Universal Education & Screening Tips for Domestic Violence



## CONFIDENTIALITY

- Always review the limits of confidentiality before doing any assessments.
- Assess only when the patient is alone, without parents, partners, or children.



*"Before I get started, I want you to know that everything we talk about is confidential, meaning I won't talk to anyone else about it, unless it's something I'm obligated to report."*



**Reminder:** Delaware law does not require mandatory reporting of domestic violence. In most instances, dating violence between partners who are both under 18 does not require a mandatory report. Except in circumstances that require mandatory reporting, it is a breach of confidentiality to call law enforcement without the victim's consent.

## CONVERSATION & CARD

- Start the conversation by normalizing the activity to reduce stigma and promote empowerment.
- Use the safety card to make the connection. Open and review the care with all patients.



*"We have started giving this card out to all of our patients in case they need this information for themselves or to help a friend. It talks about safe and healthy relationships, and how your relationships can affect your health. The card is small and easy to hide if needed, but if you don't feel safe taking it home today, we can copy down the numbers some other way."*



**Best practice:** always give two cards to promote helping others. However, make sure it's safe for them to take the cards with them when they leave your care.

## CONNECT

- Provide a warm referral to domestic violence services if necessary.
- Follow up with the patient at their next visit.



*"I'm not an expert in controlling and abusive relationships, but I know someone who is. My kind colleague from [Name of DV Program] really understands. Their agency really "gets it" and they have supportive services to help people feel safer, whether or not a person decides to end a relationship or remain in it. Would you like to give them a call today?"*

### IF THE PATIENT DISCLOSES ABUSE, COERCION, OR OTHER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

- Thank them for sharing and validate their feelings.
- Ask if they have immediate safety concerns and discuss options.
- Refer to a DV Community Health Advocate for safety planning and additional support.

**24-HOUR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE**

**302-762-6110**

**TO MAKE A REFERRAL, PLEASE CALL  
THE COMMUNITY HEALTH ADVOCATE  
COORDINATOR AT 302-757-2137.**