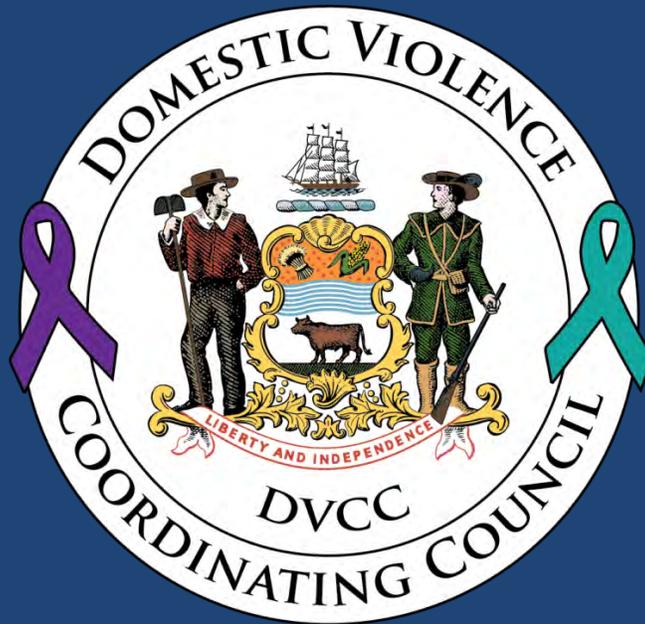


S T A T E O F D E L A W A R E

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

Fiscal Year 2018

Annual Report





1993-2018

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Domestic Violence Coordinating Council – 2018 Overview



Chair's Message

This year, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council marked 25 years since its creation as a state agency dedicated to improving Delaware's response to domestic violence and sexual assault.

The 2018 Annual Report highlights the Council's activities over the past year, and like the preceding 24 years, because of strong collaboration among Council members, their agencies, and dedicated stakeholders, the Council was able to make an impact in the community and improve Delaware's response to domestic violence.

We want to acknowledge all that has been accomplished over the past 25 years and celebrate the successes, but there is more to be done. The domestic violence statistical data in this report is only one reminder of the number of Delawareans affected by domestic violence in a year. We are also reminded of the impact when we hear of fatalities in the news and see the data reported by the Fatal Incident Review Team.

Each year, the Annual Report reminds us of the challenges many victims and survivors face, and how important this work is to those impacted by domestic violence. When we reflect on the past 25 years, we can see the expansion of resources for victims, the evolution to trauma-informed responses of system and community based programs, and the strength and resiliency of survivors. While we acknowledge the past, we know we must keep moving forward with a coordinated response with initiatives like the High Risk Team. Through the policy work of the many committees, and the outreach in the community to raise awareness about domestic violence and the resources that are available, the DVCC will continue to meet its statutory duty to improve the response to domestic violence so as to reduce the incidents thereof.

Executive Summary

The FY2018 Annual Report highlights some of the DVCC's initiatives during the past year, as well as statistical information on domestic violence incidents and services provided throughout the State.

The statistical data that begins on page 23 reflects the collective efforts of our community-based and justice-based partners in the State's response.

The DVCC has been legislatively created to improve Delaware's response to domestic violence and sexual assault. Our mission and goals cannot be achieved without a committed collaborative approach to address the complex issues that many victims and survivors face. As detailed in this report, much of the work of the Council is accomplished through the work of our various committees and support from our community partners.

A summary of DVCC accomplishments and activities for FY2018 are:

- Information and resources were disseminated to various communities at 51 outreach events.
- Over 3,250 youth, teens and adults participated in DVCC's educational sessions and awareness events.
- 800 professionals enhanced their knowledge and skills by participating in DVCC trainings.
- The "Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence Resource Guide for Advocates" was revised and published online.
- The DVCC Training Committee organized the "Recognizing Responsibility & Risk of Abusers in Court" conference and a training workshop on Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell's Danger Assessment.
- The Criminal Justice Committee continues to explore opportunities to strengthen Delaware's response to domestic violence, and address the complex issues surrounding victims' safety.
- The Council engaged in a strategic planning initiative to map out goals and objectives for the next few years.

This work would not be possible without the knowledge and dedication of the DVCC staff, Council members, Committee members, and community partners.

Thank you.

Council Members

Hon. Michael Newell,
Chief Judge, Family Court
Chair

Professor Dana Harrington Conner
At-Large Member
Vice Chair

Hon. Catherine Cloutier, Member, Senate

Hon. Nicole Poore, Member, Senate

Hon. Deborah Hudson, Member, House of Representatives

Hon. Stephanie Bolden, Member, House of Representatives

Hon. Jan Jurden, President Judge, Superior Court

Hon. Carl Danberg, Judge, Court of Common Pleas

Hon. Matthew Denn, Attorney General, Department of Justice

Hon. Brendan O'Neill, Chief Defender, Office of Defense Services

Hon. Robert Coupe, Secretary, Department of Safety & Homeland Security

Hon. Perry Phelps, Commissioner, Department of Correction

Hon. Josette Manning, Secretary, Department of Services for Children, Youth & their Families

Cpl./3 Adrienne Owen, Representative, Law Enforcement Community

Dr. Julie Silverstein, Representative, Medical Community

Diane Glenn, At-Large Member

Laura Graham, Esq., At-Large Member

Ariana Langford, At-Large Member

Jennifer Naccarelli, Ph.D., At-Large Member

Hon. Vincent Poppiti, At-Large Member

DVCC Staff

Maureen Monagle, Executive Director

Natasha Smith, Senior Administrator

Aimee String, Project Coordinator

Pat Kwetkauskie, Trainer/Educator

Karen Ewing, Administrative Specialist

Agency Main Number: 302-255-0405

<http://dvcc.delaware.gov/>

Vision Statement

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) is a state agency legislatively created to improve Delaware's response to domestic violence and sexual assault. The DVCC brings together all stakeholders including service providers, policy-level officials and community partners to eradicate domestic violence. The DVCC is committed to leading the nation through innovative legislative action, community education and an outstanding coordinated system response to violence in families and the community.

Statutory duties of the DVCC (13 Del.C. § 2103)

- Continuously study court services and procedures, law-enforcement procedures and protocol, and criminal justice data collection and analysis as it relates to domestic violence.
- Promote effective prevention, intervention, and treatment techniques which will be developed based upon research and data collection.
- Recommend standards for treatment programs for perpetrators of domestic violence to the Department Health and Social Services, Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families and the Department of Correction.
- Review and comment upon legislation relating to domestic violence introduced in the General Assembly at the request of any member of the General Assembly or on its own initiative.
- Effectuate coordination between agencies, departments and the courts with victims of domestic violence.
- Improve the response to domestic violence and abuse so as to reduce incidents thereof.

Committees

Much of our work is accomplished through committees made up of Council members, DVCC staff, first responders, service providers, policy-level officials, and community members. This collaborative approach has helped establish supportive ties in the community for victims of violence, identify areas of need, and implement policies and procedures that respond to those needs.

Children and Domestic Violence

Chair: Hon. Josette Manning

Criminal Justice

Chairs: Hon. Jan Jurden, Hon. Brendan O'Neill and Cpl. /3 Adrienne Owen

Elderly and Domestic Violence

Chair: Hon. Stephanie Bolden

Immigration

Chair: Laura Graham, Esq.

Legislative Drafting and Review

Chair: Hon. Deborah Hudson

Medical

Chair: Dr. Julie Silverstein

Public Awareness/Education

Chair: Hon. Carl Danberg

Training

Chair: Hon. Michael Newell

Treatment

Chairs: Hon. Brendan O'Neill and Hon. Robert Coupe

Additional DVCC Committees

Batterers' Intervention Certification Panel

Fatal Incident Review Team

Chairs: Hon. Jan Jurden, Professor Dana Harrington Conner and Hon. Vincent Poppiti

Children and Domestic Violence Committee

Committee Focus

The Children and Domestic Violence Committee brings together representatives from the Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families (DSCYF), the General Assembly, Family Court, the Department of Justice, law enforcement, advocates and community partners to examine services and system gaps for children experiencing domestic violence.

Fiscal Year 2018 Accomplishments

The Committee examined 13 *Del.C.* § 705A regarding perpetrators of domestic violence. The Committee continues to explore all statutes pertaining to the protection of Delaware's children exposed to domestic violence. The Separating and Divorcing Parent Education Program curriculum was reviewed and discussed. The Committee will continue to support DSCYF on this initiative.



Safe and Together Onsite Training
April 13, 2018

The DVCC received funding through the Criminal Justice Council to bring the Safe & Together™ Model Suite of Tools and Interventions to Delaware. The goal of this project was to improve the response and enhance services to victims of domestic violence who were involved with the child welfare system. The DVCC partnered with the Division of Family Services and the Domestic Violence Liaison Programs across the State to implement this project in three phases.

- Initial needs assessment and review of current practices
- Training and technical assistance
- Review and evaluation to include a final report on the outcome and any changes made

For additional information on this model please see <https://safeandtogetherinstitute.com/>

Criminal Justice Committee

Committee Focus

The focus of the Criminal Justice Committee is to continuously review the system response to domestic violence and sexual assault in order to identify and implement improvements to the criminal justice system through policy development. This Committee brings together law enforcement, the courts, the Chief Defender, the Department of Justice, the Department of Correction, DELJIS, advocates and community partners to resolve issues specific to the needs of those affected by domestic violence.

Fiscal Year 2018 Accomplishments

This Committee continued to discuss law enforcement's use of body worn cameras in domestic violence cases. Members of this Committee met with representatives from the Delaware Police Chiefs' Council and the Department of Justice to highlight best practices and discuss special considerations that should be taken into account, specifically regarding the use of this technology when responding to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. It was agreed that the lines of communication will remain open on the use of body worn cameras.

This Committee continued to explore the benefits of establishing a high risk domestic violence team in the State. The purpose of the team would be to identify and provide a coordinated, multidisciplinary response to high risk domestic violence cases. To continue this work, a DV High Risk Team Ad Hoc Advisory Board was created. The DV High Risk Team Ad Hoc Advisory Board was tasked with examining memorandums of understanding, referral forms, as well as a cost projection in order to create a successful domestic violence high risk team. The Board created a final summary that was provided to the Council. The report included the following recommendations:

1. The DVCC should support the implementation of a Domestic Violence High Risk Team.
2. The pilot site of the Domestic Violence High Risk Team should be in Kent County.
3. The DVCC should be the lead agency for a Domestic Violence High Risk Team.
4. The DVCC should be responsible for housing a full time Domestic Violence High Risk Team Coordinator.

With the support from the Criminal Justice Council, funding was approved to hire a Domestic Violence High Risk Team Coordinator. With that support, the DVCC is working towards the implementation of a pilot project in the fall of 2018.

Elderly and Domestic Violence Committee

Committee Focus

The Committee is comprised of representatives from the Department of Justice, law enforcement, healthcare, advocates, and community partners including the Delaware Center for Justice; University of Delaware's Center for Drug and Alcohol Studies; Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities and Adult Protective Services; as well as representation from the housing sector. The Committee continuously reviews data and information about the prevalence of domestic violence against aging Delawareans. In addition, the Committee learns from key community partners, including citizens, about existing services and programs available to elderly victims, the unmet needs of elders experiencing abuse, and elderly victims' experiences in Delaware.

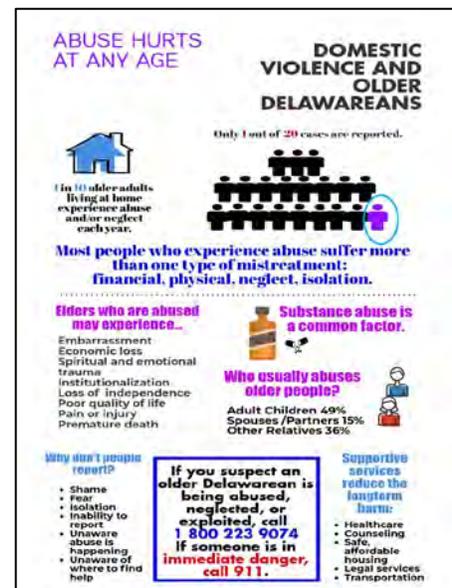
Fiscal Year 2018 Accomplishments

During Fiscal Year 2018, the Committee focused on promoting awareness of the prevalence and dynamics of domestic violence against older adults as well as resources and services available to assist older victims in Delaware. Committee activities included distributing the Committee's infographic *Domestic Violence and Older Delawareans* and companion list of *Resources for Older Delawareans*.

The Committee sponsored an informational resource table at Legislative Hall in Dover. Legislators along with members of the public had the opportunity to obtain a range of materials about domestic violence and older Delawareans; the Infographic and Resource List; other forms of elder abuse including financial exploitation; civil legal services to assist older victims, as well as information about the Delaware Aging and Disability Resource Center - a one-stop access point for information and services for older persons and adults with physical disabilities. The Committee compiled packets of similar information and delivered them to all members of the Delaware Senate and House of Representatives who were encouraged to share the materials with constituents in their districts.

In addition, representatives from the Committee conducted a workshop on responding to older victims at the 2018 Advocates Retreat and Conference hosted by the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

During the current fiscal year, the Committee will continue its outreach, education, and awareness efforts in several ways. These include distributing the Infographic and list of *Resources for Older Delawareans* to faith based organizations across the State; coordinating with local media to present education about services available to older victims of domestic violence; and maintaining contact with legislators and policy makers to ensure the needs of elderly victims are a priority.



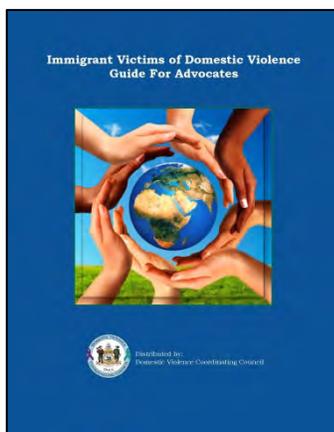
Immigration Committee

Committee Focus

Working with immigrant victims of domestic violence and sexual assault brings additional barriers and challenges. Immigrant victims often feel trapped in abusive relationships because of immigration laws, language barriers, social isolation, and lack of financial resources. In addition, the immigrant population is less likely to report violence out of fear of law enforcement and deportation. The Immigration Committee, made up of service providers, law enforcement, advocates and survivors of domestic violence, discusses the additional barriers confronting immigrant victims and works to effectuate change.

Fiscal Year 2018 Accomplishments

The past year has been robust with policy and rule changes that affect the immigrant community. The Immigration Committee has been committed to identifying changes affecting the community, educating service providers and community members, dispelling common myths and serving as a network of information exchange for service providers.



The Committee completed a revision of the Domestic Violence Resource Guide for Advocates working with immigrant victims and an accompanying resource list. The guide discusses the unique needs and signs of domestic violence for an immigrant victim. Additionally, the guide offers helpful standards of practice for advocates working with this population. The Guide and Resource List have been circulated to partner agencies and is currently available on the DVCC's website.

Legislative Drafting and Review Committee

Committee Focus

The Legislative Drafting and Review Committee reviews proposed legislation addressing domestic violence and sexual assault and considers legislative initiatives to be supported by the DVCC. Participation on the Committee includes representatives from the General Assembly, the Department of Justice, the courts, law enforcement, advocates and community partners.

Fiscal Year 2018 Accomplishments

During FY2018, the Committee proposed legislation to amend the DVCC statute. [House Bill 301](#) with House Amendment 2 and Senate Amendment 1 allows the six at-large members to be elected for three year terms and clarified the roles and/or disciplines represented on the Council. Legislation was signed by the Governor on May 9, 2018.

Training Committee

Committee Focus

The Training Committee was established in April of 2017 as a result of a need identified by the Family Court Enhancement Project. The Committee’s goal is to identify domestic violence and sexual assault training needs throughout the State.

Fiscal Year 2018 Projects

In the fall of 2017, the Committee coordinated a multi-disciplinary statewide conference in partnership with Emerge, a nationally recognized domestic violence training and technical assistance provider. The two day conference, “Recognizing Responsibility & Risk of Abusers in Court”, provided training to over 200 judicial officers, court personnel, attorneys, law enforcement, victim service providers, offender treatment providers and other stakeholders.

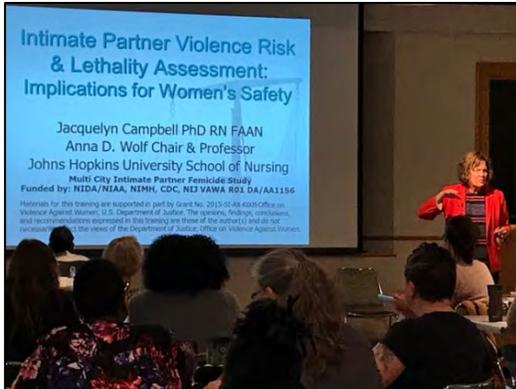


Emerge Conference
September 20 & 21, 2017

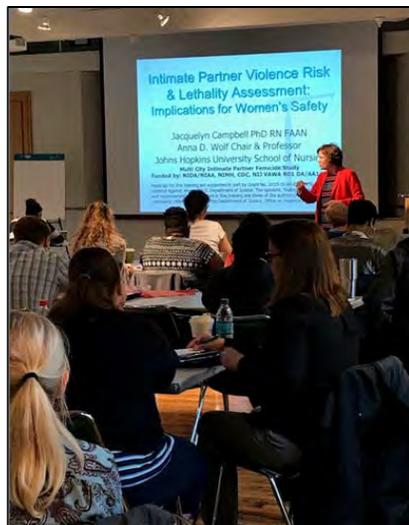


At the conclusion of the Emerge conference, participants were asked to complete a survey which helped to identify further training needs and topics. Training topics identified include Predominate Aggressor, Vicarious Trauma, Strangulation and more. The Training Committee will continue to work towards addressing identified training needs.

In May of 2018, the Training Committee held a one-day training on the Danger Assessment. The training, provided by Dr. Jacqueline Campbell, educated sixty-five community partners including hotline workers, shelter staff, Intervention Program Supervisors, police based advocates, DOJ, SANE and other relevant community partners on the use of the Danger Assessment.



Danger Assessment
May 17, 2018



The Danger Assessment is an instrument that helps to determine the level of danger an individual has of being killed by his/her intimate partner. The tool was originally developed with consultation and content validity support from domestic violence survivors, shelter workers, law enforcement officials, and other clinical experts on abuse.

Treatment Committee

Committee Focus

Ensuring the quality and effectiveness of offender treatment is essential to promoting violence-free behavior and enhancing victim safety. The Treatment Committee develops and reviews batterers' intervention policies and procedures (Domestic Violence Intervention Standards) which mandate specific credentials, education and training for treatment service providers as well as outlining the components required for program content. The Intervention Standards seek to increase victim safety by eliminating violence in intimate relationships. Interventions focus on holding offenders accountable for their behavior by teaching new skills and monitoring behavior while participating in intervention programs. The Committee continuously monitors changes in the field and is committed to providing the best treatment programs possible.

Fiscal Year 2018 Accomplishments

In Delaware and nationally, there has been much conversation around domestic violence treatment programs and their ability to effectively treat domestic violence offenders. In 2017, the Treatment Committee completed a meaningful, precise and accurate evaluation that documents the successes, identifies areas for improvement and makes recommendations for the certified treatment programs. In collaboration with Catholic Charities, CHILD, Inc., and Turning Point at People's Place II, the DVCC contracted with Barbara Goldberg & Associates, to conduct an assessment of batterer treatment programs. The DVCC received funding through the Delaware Criminal Justice Council to implement the project. The evaluation project utilized a combination of qualitative and quantitative measures. The evaluation was used to identify strengths and key challenges of existing treatment programs. Four recommendations were identified to strengthen Delaware's Domestic Violence Treatment Programs:

1. Focus on strengthening communication among the providers, courts, probation and parole, and the DVCC. Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy that:
 - Provides timely follow up to judges and commissioners about the status and participation of each person they have referred to a provider.
 - Disseminates information annually on key indicators of program participation and success for each provider.
 - Creates an online link that offers resources about the Batterers' Intervention Program and includes evaluation results, presentations, and other easy to access information about the program.
 - Includes a plan for providing judges and commissioners with information about the program model through presentations, short fact sheets and other easy tools.
 - Encourages stronger communication between the providers and Probation and Parole.
2. Identify strategies to increase enrollment in the Batterers' Intervention Program by:
 - Revisiting the issue of costs and sliding scales, in an effort to find ways to communicate more clearly at every step of the process about the costs. Communicate in a uniform manner at every step that the sliding scale is available, so that judges, probation officers, and facilitators are offering the same, clear message about program costs.

- To the extent possible, strive to insure that facilitators reflect the population that the provider is serving through the program.
 - Address the issue of why only 17% of those enrolled in the program in 2015 and 2016 are there because of PFAs and develop strategies to expand their enrollment in the program.
 - To the extent possible, consider transportation and scheduling barriers when planning orientations and group sessions.
3. As part of capacity building efforts, form a DVCC Research and Accountability Committee comprised of DVCC staff, judges or commissioners, and agency representatives to meet on a regular basis to develop and implement a more rigorous plan for ongoing data collection, analysis and dissemination. To build on this first evaluation effort:
- Design and implement a study that is focused on victims. While including victims was outside the scope of this evaluation, a pilot study that includes interviews conducted with victims of batterers enrolled in the program would have great value.
 - Continue the two outcome components of this evaluation: the analysis of DELJIS data and the utilization of the Batterers' Intervention Program Proximal Outcome Survey (BIPPOS) pre-test/post-test tool.
 - In the long term, conduct a cost-effectiveness analysis for the program.
4. In light of current budget difficulties in the state, seek external funding to expand capacity-building efforts, with a particular focus on data collection and future evaluations, designed to address local, state, and national interest in the efficacy of Batterers' Intervention Programs.

For more information, you can review the full report [“Evaluation of the Batterer's Intervention Program \(BIP\) of the Delaware Domestic Violence Coordinating Council \(DVCC\)”](#) on the DVCC website.

Since the release of the full evaluation report, the Treatment Committee has dedicated time to reviewing the recommendations to identify how we can improve our treatment programs and practices within the State. As a result of the evaluation we have improved communications between treatment programs and members of the judiciary, educated members of the judiciary and the Attorney General's Office about the Domestic Violence Intervention Programs and improved communications between treatment programs and Probation and Parole. Additionally, the DVCC's Treatment Committee has been identified as an existing committee that is equipped and able to address data collection as identified in Recommendation #3.

Batterers' Intervention Certification Panel

Committee Focus

The Batterers' Intervention Certification Panel (Panel) is a subcommittee of the Treatment Committee. The Panel is responsible for overseeing and ensuring that treatment programs meet all specified requirements of the Domestic Violence Intervention Standards prior to being added to the list of Certified Treatment Programs. The Panel is made up of eleven members from designated agencies as prescribed by the Certification Rules and Procedures. The panelists include a representative from three of the certified treatment programs, a victim advocate from an agency or organization that works

directly with domestic violence victims, as well as a representative from Family Court, the Attorney General’s Office, Probation and Parole, Youth Rehabilitation Services, the Office of Defense Services, the Department of Correction’s Treatment Unit and a representative from Delaware Prevention and Behavioral Health Services with experience in adolescent development.

The Panel meets yearly and as needed to review Certified Treatment Programs’ Annual Reports to ensure that programs remain in compliance with the Intervention Standards including compliance with all continuing education requirements for facilitators. The annual review process helps Delaware maintain high quality and streamlined treatment services statewide.

As of February 2018, the DVCC has four certified programs which offer intervention treatment groups in numerous locations statewide.

Catholic Charities

2601 West 4th Street
Wilmington, DE 19805
Phone: 302-655-9624
Fax: 302-654-6432

CHILD, Inc.

507 Philadelphia Pike
Wilmington, DE 19809
Phone: 302-762-8989
Fax: 302-762-8987

Dover Air Force Base

436 MDOS/SGOW
Family Advocacy Program
300 Tuskegee Blvd.
Dover AFB, DE 19902
Phone: 302-677-2711

Turning Point

(Peoples Place II)
1129 Airport Road
Milford, DE 19963
Phone: 302-424-2420
Fax: 302-424-2402

The Domestic Violence Intervention Standards can be found at: <http://dvcc.delaware.gov/treatment-certification-documents/>

Public Awareness/Education Committee

Committee Focus

The Committee brings together representatives from the courts, law enforcement, healthcare, Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families, advocates and community partners to promote awareness and education about domestic violence, sexual assault and resources available to victims.

Fiscal Year 2018 Accomplishments

The Committee promoted DVCC’s outreach by attending the 2017 Delaware State Fair. The DVCC’s staff was able to disseminate literature and develop new contacts for future outreach events.

In addition, with the partnership between the Committee and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware - Teen Services Program, a theme and contest rules were established for the 2nd Annual *Healthy Relationships Through Your Eyes* poster contest.

The Committee also discussed a recommendation received from the Fatal Incident Review Team: “The DVCC should explore implementing and sustaining large scale awareness campaign on domestic violence and sexual assault in multiple languages.” The Committee identified a universal message “Respect Every

Day ... Every Way” that will be tailored to different observances such as Stalking Awareness Month in January, Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month in February, and Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April. In addition, the Committee will utilize the same message to promote awareness about diversity and cultural heritage.

During 2018, a marketing strategy will be developed and implemented to create a universal message in both English and Spanish through social media and traditional methods. The Committee will work to secure funding, if needed.

Strategic Planning

P.E.A.C.E. (Prevention* Education*Advocacy*Collaboration*Engagement)

On November 14, 2017, the DVCC contracted the services of the Center for Court Innovation to facilitate a strategic planning day with the Council and key community partners. Participants in this event articulated a broad vision for enhanced statewide coordination on domestic violence cases in order to better promote victim safety and offender accountability. Participants reviewed previously identified goals and generated new ideas for fulfilling the broader vision. The Council then prioritized new areas of focus and developed several achievable initiatives that would further enhance cross-court communication, coordinate and address high risk domestic violence cases, promote resources for offenders and develop strategies for education, prevention and awareness.

Members voted on a name for the new strategic plan. Aptly named “P.E.A.C.E (Prevention * Education* Collaboration* Engagement),” this strategic plan emphasizes the Council’s commitment to the mission. The goals and objectives lay out a plan for the next few years that will focus on the safety and needs of victims; offender accountability; and supportive efforts towards a collaborative community response to violence in families and the community.



Community Impact

The DVCC collaborates extensively with community partners statewide by participating in public awareness events. Community outreach fulfills an important function by increasing public awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault while distributing resources available to assist victims and their families. The DVCC promoted resources and information to various communities by participating in 51 outreach events. Over 3,250 youth, teens and adults participated in the DVCC's educational sessions and awareness activities.



Child Welfare and Community Training

DVCC staff created two 20-minute training modules that are now available on-line. *Domestic Violence Is Everyone's Business* includes basic information about the dynamics of domestic violence, barriers to leaving an abusive partner, assistance available to survivors and their families, and ways to help a friend or family member who may be experiencing abuse by their intimate partner. *Stalking by Intimate Partners* was developed to provide additional information about intimate partners' stalking tactics including the use of technology and stalking safety plans.



The on-line training was developed for child welfare professionals in addition to the general public. The training will be available in 2019 at: <https://ocade.server.tracorp.com>.

Professional Trainings

From July 2017 through June 2018, a total of 800 professionals were trained. The DVCC provided 57 trainings for healthcare professionals, peace officers, victim advocates, court volunteers, schools and members of the community. DVCC training and education activities included:

- Delaware Constable Academy
- Beebe HealthCare
- Sussex County Health Unit, DE Public Health
- Mary Mother of Hope House 1
- Career TEAM Wilmington
- DCADV Advocates Retreat
- Baylor Women's Correctional Institution
- ContactLifeline, Inc. Crisis Intervention Volunteers
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) – Kent, New Castle and Sussex Counties

2017 Annual Law Enforcement Training Conference

The 2017 Annual Law Enforcement Training Conference took place on November 6, 2017, at Polytech Adult Education Center in Woodside, DE. There were 156 attendees from law enforcement agencies, judicial officers, SANE nurses, various advocates and community stakeholders from across the State. This conference included two national speakers presenting on the use of technology in domestic violence and sexual assault cases. Sherri Peak shared her story of being stalked by her ex-husband by his use of technology. Alejandro Palacios (Technology Specialist, National Network to End Domestic Violence) covered information on intimate partner violence in a digital age. In addition to the national speakers, Tia Tucker (CHILD, Inc., Coordinator of the Family Visitation Centers) shared the services that Family Visitation Centers are able



to provide across the State. We also had Detective Sergeant Michael Watson (Newark Police Department) present a local case review of a domestic violence case in which technology was used to abuse the victim. The conference was funded by a subgrant from the Delaware Criminal Justice Council through a federal grant from the US Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Proclamation Signing

This year marked the 30th Anniversary of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an opportunity for citizens to learn more about preventing domestic violence and to show support for the agencies and organizations who provide critical advocacy, services and assistance to victims.



Maureen Monagle,
Chief Judge Michael Newell and
Governor John Carney

DVCC – Outstanding Community Service Award



Governor John Carney, Linda Shannon and former
co-workers Division of Family Services

Linda Shannon began her career with the State of Delaware in November 1974 and in 1988 Linda was promoted to her final position as the Program Manager for Intake and Investigation. Linda was integral in helping to transform Delaware’s child welfare system to one of the nation’s best. She developed a concept paper that eventually led to the co-location of Domestic Violence Liaisons with DFS staff. This coordinated effort between DFS and the non-profit DV Providers continues to improve the Department’s capacity to provide effective assessment and intervention for families in domestic violence situations. This program has been instrumental in increasing safety, stability and well-being for children

and their non-offending parents in domestic violence situations. Since 2003, Linda has implemented and managed the new Child Protection Registry. As part of the Outcomes Matter initiative to adopt best practices in Delaware, Linda implemented Structured Decision Making® for the Report Line and Investigation. She was integral in the creation and implementation of the DFS Differential response and Safety Organized Practice. We are pleased to recognize Linda Shannon as the 2017 DVCC Outstanding Community Service Award recipient.

“Shine the Light” Campaign

How can we raise awareness of domestic violence? We can “Shine the Light” on the issue, and bring it out of the darkness. During the week of October 15-21, 2017, the DVCC worked with community partners to illuminate buildings, streetlights and sidewalks with the color purple. Purple is the color chosen to represent the fight against domestic violence. The goal of the lights is to get everyone talking about “purple” as a way to discuss domestic violence, and to let victims know they’re not alone and that resources are available.



#PurpleThursday Campaign



October is nationally recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In an effort to connect men and women across the nation and Delaware, we asked people to wear purple on Thursday, October 19, 2017 and to post their pictures to the DVCC social media outlets. Organizations that participated took pictures of their group wearing purple and shared them with national and DVCC's social media platforms.

Community Outreach

- Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month - Carvel Building
- Delaware State Fair – Harrington
- Health & Wellness Fair - Gateway House Wilmington
- New Directions/Early Head Start, Camden
- Recovery Rally - Rick Van Story Resource Center
- Annual Safety Day - Houston Volunteer Fire Department
- Mini Health Fair - Kent County Levy Court
- Energy Assistance & Resource Fair Wilmington, Newark, and Georgetown
- National Night Out – New Castle County
- Health Fair - 7th Day Adventist Church, Millsboro
- Nanticoke Indian Women's Luncheon, Georgetown
- Upward Bound – DTCC Georgetown
- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day - Lewes & Milford Senior Centers
- Health Fair Delaware State Fair
- First State Community Action Agency, Georgetown
- Southbridge Youth Farm Stand, Wilmington
- Safe Summer Day - Kent County Levy Court
- Freedom Festival - Middletown Action Network
- DV Awareness Month Event - Carvel Building
- HQ Wellness Fair - DE National Guard Joint Force
- Sexual Assault Resource Fair – DTCC Wilmington, Newark and Terry Campuses
- 2018 Victim's Rights Awareness Week Tribute - Dover
- DE School Based Counselors Conference
- Resource Table – Legislative Hall

Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention

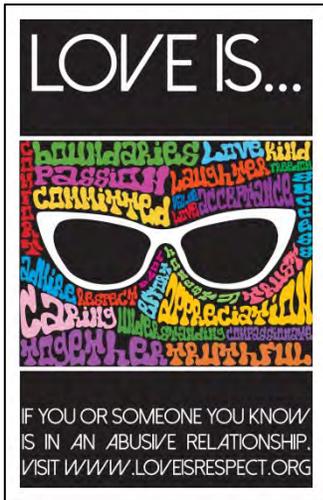
Proclamation Signing – February 6, 2018



Governor John Carney, Sue Ryan,
Chief Judge Michael Newell and
Maureen Monagle

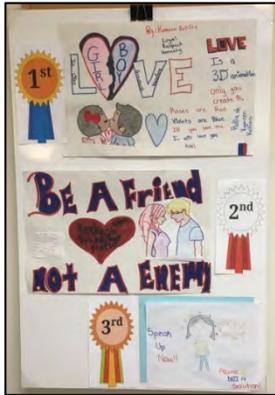
On February 6, 2018, the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the DVCC worked together to proclaim the month of February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. By providing young people with relationship skills and by changing attitudes that support violence, we recognize that dating violence can be prevented, and every person has the right to optimal health and safe and respectful relationships free from abuse.

Poster Distribution - *Healthy Relationships Through Your Eyes*



We live in a world where one in three teens report experiencing some form of abuse in their dating relationships. We know that teen dating violence can result in less attention to academics, increased exposure to drugs and alcohol, greater likelihood of teen pregnancy, growing isolation, and sexual assault. Just one of these events can have a profound impact on the physical, social and emotional growth of a young person. Collectively, they create a perfect storm that not only affects victims of abuse, but also their friends, families, schools and surrounding communities. The DVCC continuously endeavors to promote awareness of the perils of dating violence and the importance of healthy relationships. One way this was accomplished was by reproducing and distributing posters and sharing a message created by a Delaware teen. The DVCC reproduced a winning poster and distributed copies to 250 public and private schools, public libraries, and organizations that provide youth focused activities such as Police Athletic Leagues.

Boys & Girls Club of Delaware Collaboration



Boys & Girls Club
Delaware

Youth who participate in the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware's Teen Services programs had the opportunity to participate in the 2017 *Healthy Relationships Through Your Eyes* poster contest.

The poster contest was offered statewide during October and November. The contest occurred as a result of a partnership between the DVCC, the DVCC Public Awareness/Education Committee and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware. The Beau Biden Foundation, Christiana Care Health System, Department of Family and Community Medicine, and the Psi Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., in affiliation with the H.O.P.E. Foundation, sponsored the contest prizes. Judges included a representative from the DVCC Public Awareness/Education Committee, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware, and the contest prize sponsors.

First, second and third place winners, along with staff from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware, were present during the December Quarterly meeting of the DVCC and winners received recognition for their efforts. Representatives from the organizations who sponsored prizes were present to give their respective awards to the winners of the 2017 *Healthy Relationships Through Your Eyes* poster contest.

High School and Middle School Awareness & Prevention Education Activities

The DVCC conducted 51 teen dating violence awareness and prevention education activities that reached more than 2,886 tweens, teens and young adults throughout Delaware. DVCC's school-related activities were hosted by:

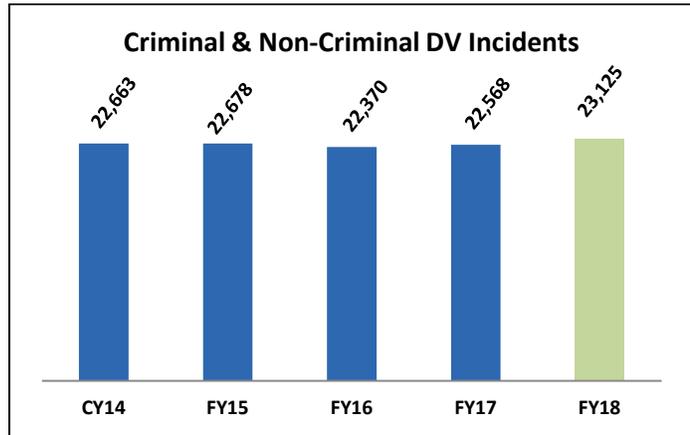
- A.I. DuPont High School
- Brandywine High School
- Caesar Rodney High School
- Christiana High School
- Glasgow High School
- Hodgson Vocation Technical High School
- Howard High School
- Indian River High School
- Lake Forest High School
- McKean High School
- Mt. Pleasant High School
- Newark High School
- Polytech High School
- Seaford High School
- Smyrna High School
- St. Georges Technical High School
- St. Mark's High School
- Sussex Tech High School Health Classes
- Woodbridge High School
- Woodbridge Middle School

Domestic Violence Statistics*

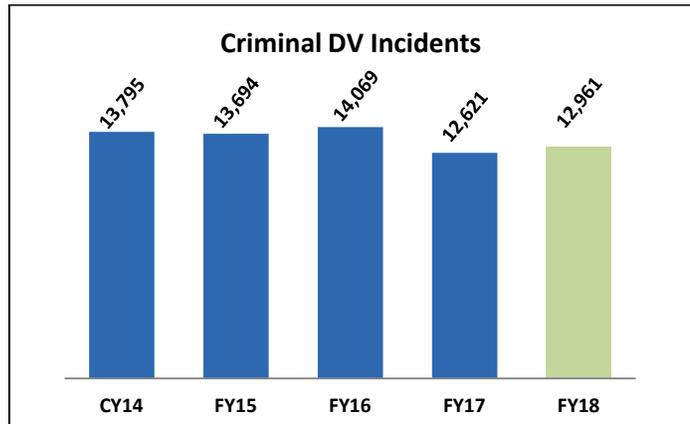
In FY2018, there were a total of 23,125 combined criminal and non-criminal domestic violence incidents reported in Delaware.

Criminal domestic violence incidents are those in which a crime is committed or alleged.

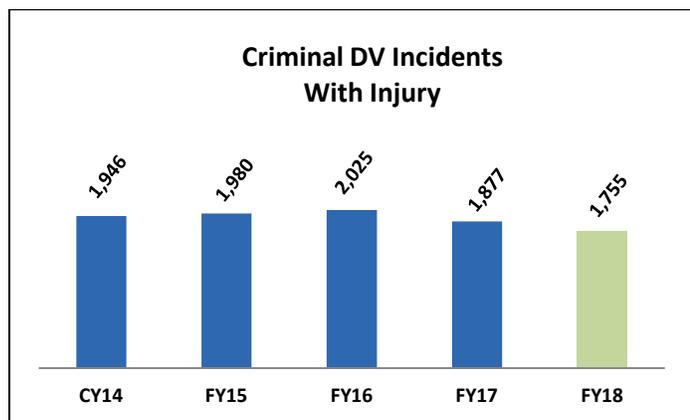
Non-criminal domestic violence incidents are those in which there is police contact, but no crime was alleged, e.g., a verbal argument without any threats.



In FY2018, the total number of reported domestic violence criminal incidents was 12,961.

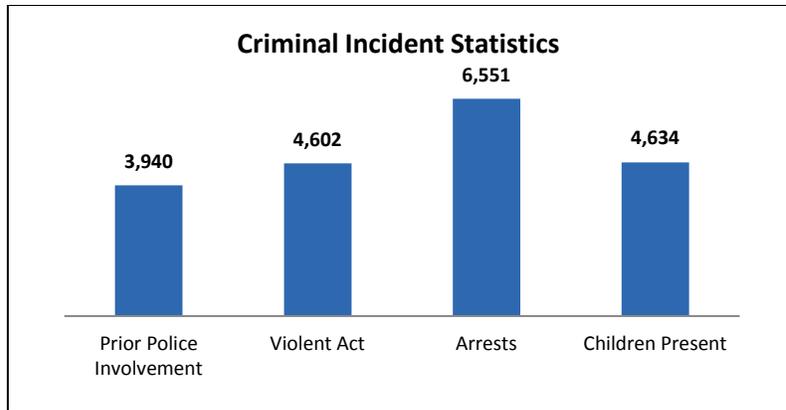


Of the 12,961 reported domestic violence criminal incidents in FY2018, 1,755 resulted in physical injury to the victim.



*Domestic Violence statistics are captured through DELJIS reporting.

- In FY2018, 30% of domestic violence incidents had prior police involvement.
- In FY2018, 36% of domestic violence incidents involved a violence act.
- In FY2018, 51% of domestic violence incidents resulted in an arrest.
- In FY2018, children were present in 36% of domestic violence incidents.



Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP)

The Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) provides an easy and effective method to identify victims of domestic violence who are at the highest potential for being seriously injured or killed by an intimate partner. A risk assessment is completed by law enforcement at the scene of a domestic violence incident, and the victim is put in contact with the domestic violence hotline immediately for safety planning purposes.

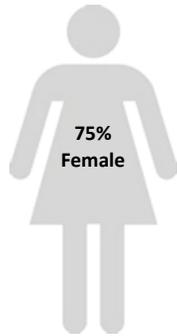
Capitol Police’s Domestic Violence Risk Analyst has continued training law enforcement officers statewide on the protocol. Since 2014, the DV Risk Analyst has conducted 50 training sessions in 29 agencies to 579 officers and the utilization of the LAP has dramatically increased. In 2017, police officers statewide completed the LAP on scene 83% of the time. Through the first 6 months of 2018, LAP usage is up to 84% statewide.

In addition, the DV Risk Analyst worked with programmers at Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (DELJIS) when they were building the new Law Enforcement Information Statewide System (LEISS) product. Built in LEISS is an emergency email mechanism for every new high risk domestic violence report that gets written. The DV Risk Analyst receives these emergency emails and immediately forwards them to the respective police based victim services program, with special attention given to any report where the victim did not speak with the domestic violence hotline. This is averaging over three hundred emails a quarter.

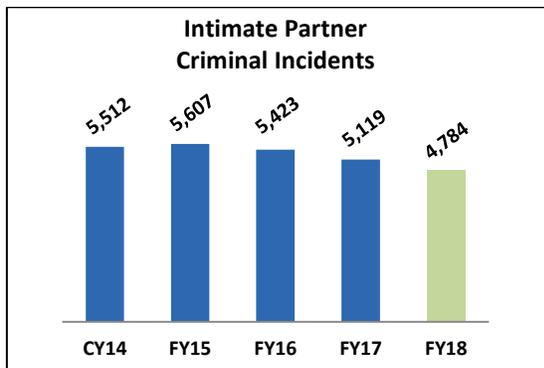
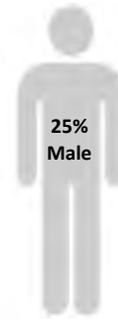
As part of the re-launch of the LAP, Capitol Police collaborated with the courts and community partners to develop a web-based referral program for high risk cases. The Domestic Violence Intervention Program (VIP) allows anyone to make a referral for a domestic violence victim to receive police accompaniment to a court hearing in any of the three counties. To date over 500 high risk victims have been accompanied to their respective hearings. A link to the VIP is: <http://capitolpd.delaware.gov>. Lt. Britt Davis and Gary Melvin presented the Domestic VIP program initiative at a Court Safety and Security Conference in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. This program has been highlighted for the unique response and support for victims’ safety.

Intimate Partner Criminal Statistics

Incidents of domestic violence can be perpetrated against an intimate partner or a family member. Intimate partners can include current and former spouses, current and former dating couples with or without a child in common and teen dating couples. Intimate partners may be the same gender.

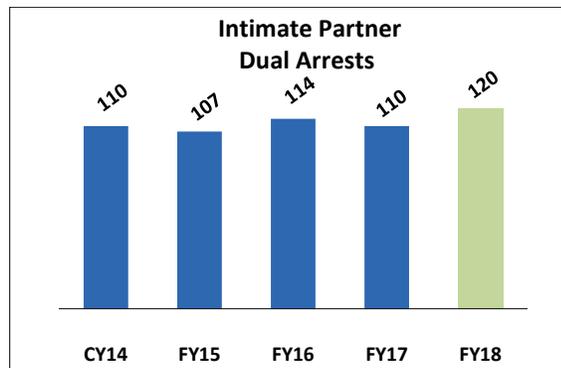


Of the intimate partner criminal incidents reported, 75% of the victims were female for FY2018.



In FY2018, of the 12,961 criminal incidents reported, 4,784 were between intimate partners.

Of those reports in FY2018, 832 indicated physical injury to the victim.



Dual arrests occur when police officers arrest both intimate partners involved in a domestic violence incident.

In FY2018, there were 120 dual arrests made by law enforcement.

Protection From Abuse Statistics

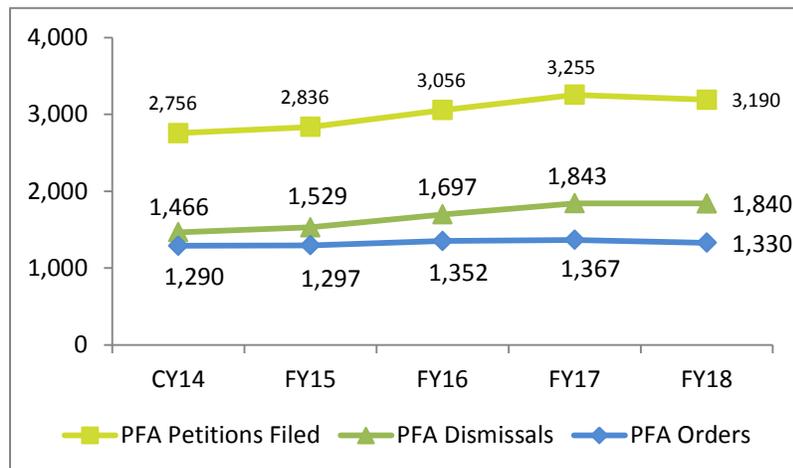
An Order of Protection From Abuse (PFA) is a civil order issued by the Family Court that provides protection from harm by a family or household member. In addition to family and household member, persons living separate and apart with a child in common, or persons in a current or former substantive dating relationship may file for a PFA. The Court may order the abuser to stay away from the person being abused; provide exclusive use of the home or possessions; award temporary custody; child support or spousal support; or payment of expenses. Additionally, the offender may be ordered to surrender firearms, and/or to seek treatment from a certified Batterers' Intervention Program.

Upon a finding that aggravating circumstances exist, the Court may grant no contact relief for as long as reasonably necessary to prevent further acts of abuse or domestic violence up to and including a permanent or lifetime order.

New Castle County	48
Kent County	16
Sussex County	9
Total	73

In FY2018, there were 73 lifetime PFA orders issued that remained in effect at the end of the fiscal year.

Family Court processed 3,190 PFA petitions statewide in FY2018. Of those petitions filed, 1,330 orders were issued and 1,840 petitions were dismissed.



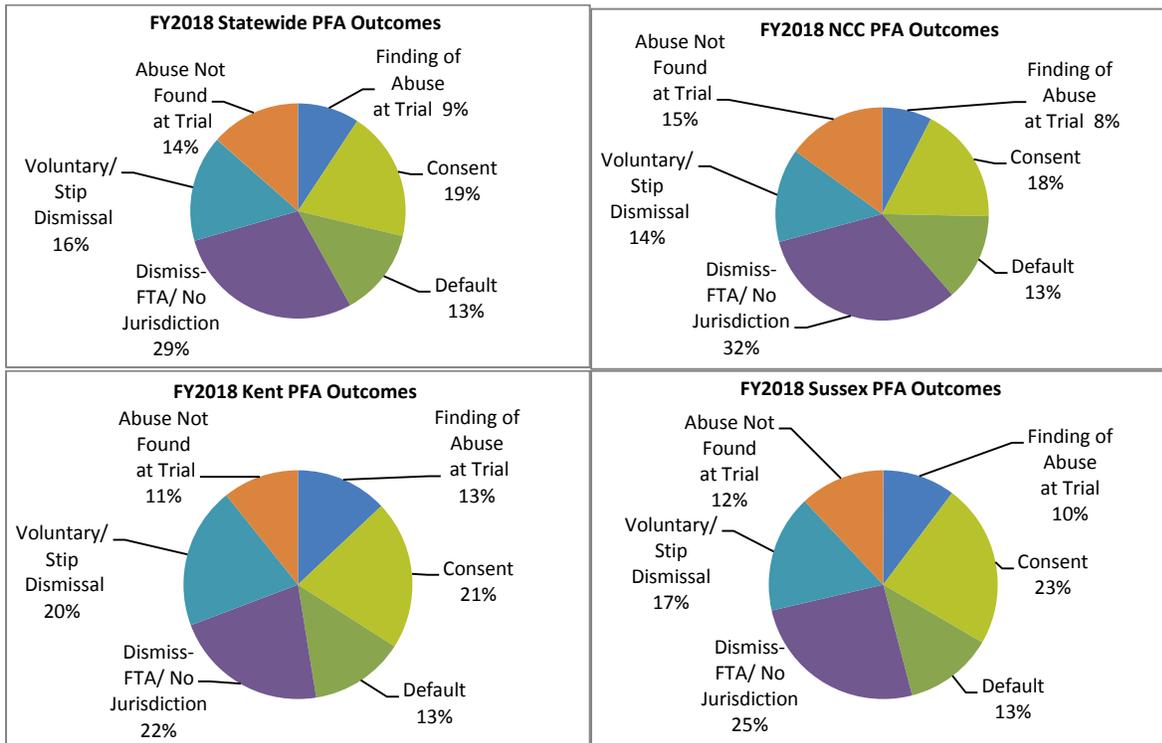
A PFA order can be issued by Family Court in one of three ways:

- The Court finds by a preponderance of the evidence following a hearing that domestic violence has occurred;
- The respondent consents to the entry of a protective order; or
- A default order is entered when the respondent fails to appear for a hearing after proper notice.

A PFA petition can be dismissed for one of the three reasons:

- The petitioner failed to appear for the hearing;
- The petitioner voluntarily withdrew the petition before the hearing; or
- Abuse was not found by a preponderance of evidence following a hearing.

PFA Outcomes



Family Court Enhancement Project

Over the past four years, Delaware Family Court has made significant progress implementing more than 50 recommendations to enhance the court experience for litigants in domestic violence and child custody matters.

In November 2013, Delaware was among four courts nationwide selected by the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women to receive a \$400,000 federal grant as part of the Family Court Enhancement Project (FCEP). Working closely with judicial officers, court staffs, advocates and attorneys, improvements have focused on improving policies, procedures, and the overall court experience for litigants in PFA and child custody cases to help keep victims of domestic violence and their children safe from further violence and trauma.

Enhancements include visual and practical projects, such as better signage in the courthouses, and improving the physical layout of the resource centers to make them safe for litigants and staff; improving the experience for litigants during PFA calendars to feel less chaotic; providing additional domestic violence training for court staff, mediators, judicial officers, attorneys and advocates; exploring how to better address custody requests that are made as part of a PFA petition; improving materials for self-represented litigants and court personnel; and, revising policies and procedures to decrease barriers for litigants and provide the appropriate level of court intervention in each case. Materials for self-represented litigants, including a new PFA packet, updated child custody packet, and one-page

infographics designed to explain complex legal terms and procedures in an easy to understand format, are posted on the Family Court website and available in Resource Centers in each county courthouse. All of the documents are available in English, Spanish and Creole. <https://courts.delaware.gov/family/>.

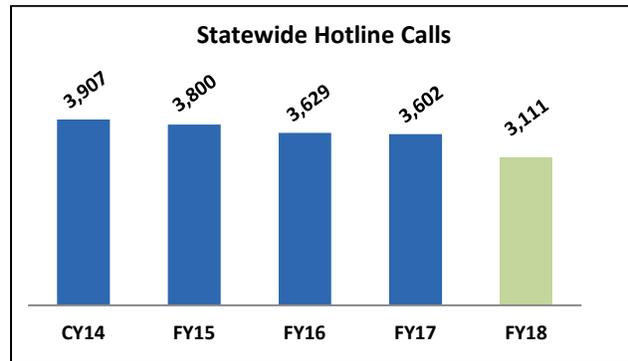
The Family Court Enhancement Project grant expires on October 31, 2018. Family Court is committed to sustaining progress made over the past four years.

Domestic Violence Hotline Statistics

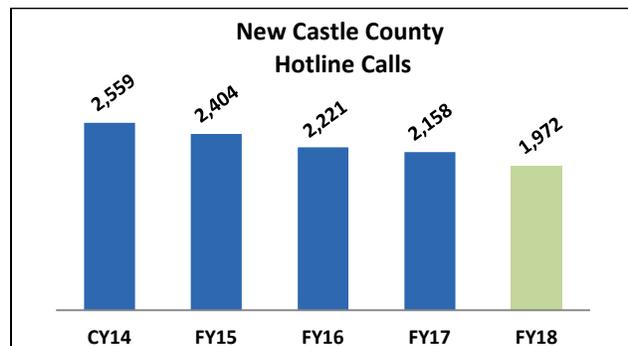
The Domestic Violence Hotlines are an important resource available to victims of domestic violence in Delaware. The hotlines, which are available in all three counties, are confidential and available 24 hours a day/7 days a week. Hotlines are staffed by trained professionals who assist in safety planning, offer emergency shelter when appropriate and refer victims to available resources. Services are available for victims who do not speak English and to those who are hearing impaired.

In FY2018, there were a total of 3,111 calls received by the Domestic Violence Hotlines statewide.

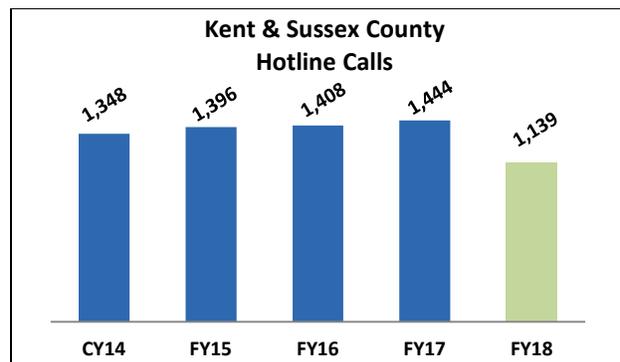
Over a five year span, the average number of hotline calls is 3,610 per year.



In FY2018, there were 1,972 calls to the Domestic Violence Hotline in New Castle County.



In FY2018, there were a total of 1,139 calls to the Domestic Violence Hotlines in Kent and Sussex Counties.

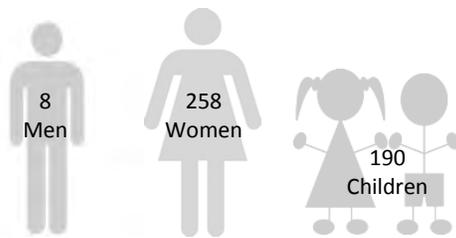


Shelter Statistics

Two agencies, CHILD, Inc. and People’s Place, offer shelter and transitional housing in confidential locations throughout Delaware. When needed to address safety, male victims are provided emergency shelter in hotels. In addition to providing emergency shelter in trauma-informed settings, domestic violence shelters offer safety planning, case management, advocacy, counseling, child care, job assistance and more.

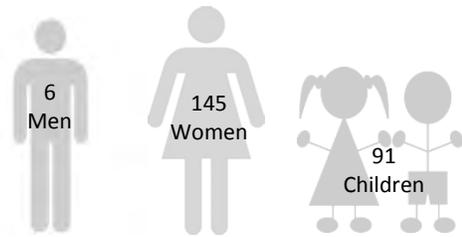
Statewide

456 individuals were sheltered statewide.



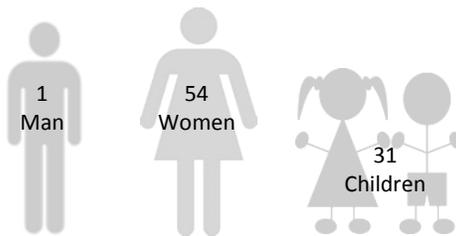
New Castle County

242 individuals were sheltered in New Castle County.



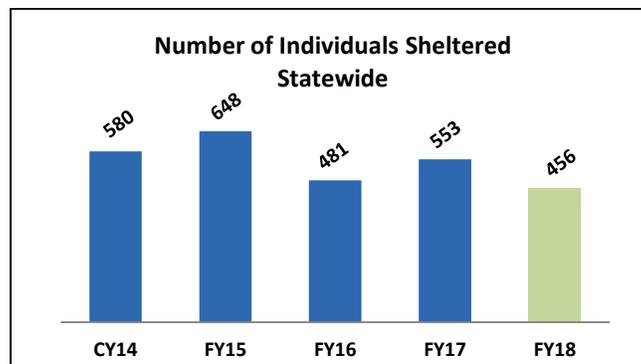
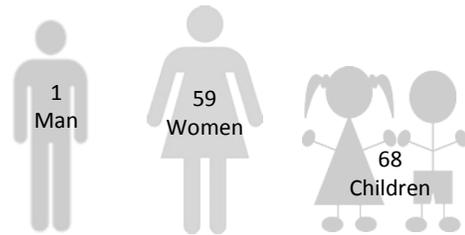
Kent County

86 individuals were sheltered in Kent County.



Sussex County

128 individuals were sheltered in Sussex County.



Shelter was provided for 454 individuals during FY2018. This represents a 18% decrease in the number of individuals sheltered in FY 2017.

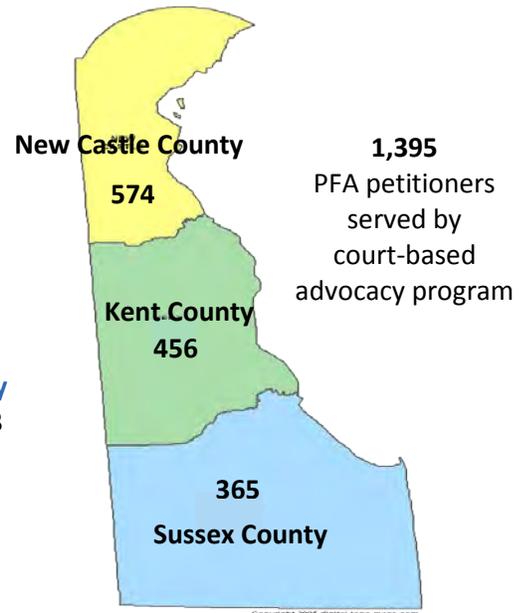
Domestic Violence Advocacy Program

The Domestic Violence Advocacy Programs provide free services to help intimate partner victims of domestic violence navigate their way through the court system. CHILD, Inc. is the statewide provider of these services with an advocate located at the Family Court in each county. The program assists victims with safety planning, answering questions about the court process, filing petitions and providing a supportive presence at court hearings.

New Castle County
302-255-0420

Kent County
302-672-1075

Sussex County
302-856-5843



Legal Services for Victims

In Fiscal Year 2018, Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. (CLASI) handled 652 cases for victims of domestic violence in Kent and Sussex Counties. Of the 652 cases, 480 were PFA cases, 125 were custody/visitation cases, 22 were divorce cases, and 25 were child support cases.

Delaware Volunteer Legal Services (DVLS) provides free representation in New Castle County to victims of domestic violence. In FY2018, pro bono and staff attorneys provided advice, brief services and representation to 319 victims through the PFA Pro Bono Program in obtaining protection orders. Pro bono attorneys also represented 27 other clients with PFA matters, custody/visitation and divorce matters. In-house staff attorneys provided representation, advice or brief services on 290 additional PFA, custody and divorce matters.

The Delaware Civil Clinic (DCC) at Widener University Delaware Law School provides practical legal experience to law students, admitted to the limited practice of law, pursuant to Delaware Supreme Court Rule 56. The interns are directly responsible for client legal matters and legal research, under the close supervision by the program’s director and a staff attorney. In the fall term of 2017 (the DCC was not offered in the spring), interns provided legal advice, assistance, research and referral to survivors of domestic violence seeking civil orders of protection from abuse, child custody and/or visitation, as well as other community resources for a total of 2,080 hours of legal research and services.

Family Visitation Program Statistics

Family Visitation Centers provide safe, supervised visits between visiting parents and their children at the centers, as well as supervised exchanges of children between parents for off-site visits. Visitation Centers are designed for families with a history of violence, including intimate partner violence, or in other situations when there is concern for the child’s welfare. Families are most often referred by Family Court or the Division of Family Services (DFS), but families may also self-refer. The Centers are structured to promote safety for families to include staggered arrival and departure times for parents, and separate entrances for parents. Family Visitation Centers employ experienced security guards for the safety of children and parents. The Centers are equipped with age appropriate toys, games, crafts and the like. Trained staff supports parents in engaging children in activities and positive interactions.

The Delaware Family Visitation Program is a federal and state funded program for the operation of the Family Visitation Centers. The Delaware Department of Health and Social Services/Division of State Service Centers (DHSS/DSSC) administers the program on a contractual basis with CHILD, Inc. and Family Visitation Centers at People’s Place II. The five Centers in Delaware are located at the Belvedere State Service Center in Wilmington, the Hudson State Service Center in Newark, the Dover Center in Dover, the Milford State Service Center in Milford, and the Adams State Service Center in Georgetown.

	CHILD, Inc. New Castle County	People’s Place II Kent & Sussex Counties	Statewide
Visitation Exchanges:	337	1,212	1,549
Group Visits:	713	925	1,638
Individual Supervised Visits:	814	1,096	1,910
Children Served:	186	212	398
Parent/Caregivers Served:			
• Visiting Parents	140	156	296
• Non-visiting Parents	141	149	290

Family Visitation Centers

Family Visitation Centers provide a continuum of services designed to help address custody and visitation issues in families with a history of domestic violence and abuse. Each Center provides a safe, structured and nurturing environment where children can maintain or re-establish a relationship with a non-custodial parent.



Services Offered

- On-Site Individually Supervised Visitation: 100% continuous supervision by trained staff is provided for one family in a separate room.
- On-Site Group Supervised Visitation: Trained staff monitor up to two unrelated families within one room.
- Monitored Exchanges for Off-Site Visits: Facilitation of monitored exchanges ensures regular off-site visitation without adults having contact. Child can be exchanged on-site for both, the pick-up for the visit and drop-off for return.

Six Child-Friendly and Convenient Locations

Contact CHILD Inc for information for the locations in New Castle County
(302)283-7518

Contact People's Place II, Inc. for information on the locations in Kent & Sussex Counties
(302)424-2420

Belvedere State Service Center

310 Kiamensi Road
Wilmington, DE 19802



Dover Center

165 Commerce Way
Dover, DE 19904

Hudson State Service Center

501 Ogletown Road
Newark, DE 19711



Milford State Service Center

13 S.W. Front Street
Milford, DE 19963

Safe Haven Center

210 Cleaver Farm Road
Middletown, DE 19709



Adams State Service Center

546 South Bedford Street
Georgetown, DE 19947

**Opened September 2018*

Division of Family Services Statistics

The Division of Family Services (DFS) screens for domestic violence when an allegation of child abuse or neglect is reported to the DFS hotline. In FY2018, DFS received 20,411 reports alleging child abuse or neglect. Of those, 8,638 (42%) were accepted for investigation. Of those reports accepted for investigation, 1,590 (18%) also alleged domestic violence. Of those reports accepted for investigation, 590 (7%) also identified domestic violence at the conclusion of the investigation (all finding types). A total of 706 investigations were substantiated and 211 (30%) of the substantiated cases included a finding of domestic violence.

The Domestic Violence Liaison Program is a partnership of the Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families (DSCYF), DFS, CHILD, Inc. and the SAFE Program of People’s Place II, Inc. Implemented in 2002, the domestic violence advocates from CHILD, Inc. and the SAFE Program of People’s Place have been co-located at DFS offices. The domestic violence liaisons provide on-site case consultation, safety planning, support and supportive counseling, home visits, information and referral, and advocacy for the non-offending parents and their children. These liaisons served a total of 243 victims, referred by DFS in cases where domestic violence was identified. The SAFE Program’s *Making Cents* financial literacy program had 131 participants.

New Castle County CHILD, Inc.	Kent County People’s Place	Sussex County People’s Place
Victims Served by DFS Liaisons: 149	Victims Served by DFS Liaisons: 37	Victims Served by DFS Liaisons: 57

*Substantiated means that following an investigation, DFS found support for the allegation of maltreatment or risk of maltreatment.

Services for Children Exposed to Domestic Violence

Trauma-informed therapeutic services are essential to help children who have witnessed domestic violence recover from the trauma it causes. Counselors providing these clinical services use age appropriate techniques including play therapy for younger children. Safety planning, working through feelings related to the violence, and developing skills to break the intergenerational cycle of violence are the focus of this healing therapy. In New Castle County, services are provided by CHILD, Inc. In Kent and Sussex counties, Turning Point at People’s Place provides these services to children.

<u>New Castle County</u>		<u>Kent & Sussex Counties</u>	
Helping Children Heal (CHILD, Inc.)		Turning Point (People’s Place)	
Children/Adolescents Served:	95	Children/Adolescents Served:	78
Parent/Caretakers Served:	155	Parent/Caretakers Served:	31
Total:	250	Total	109

DV Liaison (DVL) Success Story

Ramona* was living with her boyfriend and their 10 year-old son when the Division of Family Services (DFS) became involved. Their son was witnessing repeated instances of physical violence in his home. His father was hitting his mother as well as verbally abusing them both. On the night that caused a case to be opened, the son felt compelled to protect his mother from his father's drunken violence and stepped in to try to stop his dad. The police were called, but the boyfriend fled the home. In the interim, a no-contact Order was put into place. Unsurprisingly, this was not the first time that the police were involved. Fearful that her son would be hurt next time he tried to intervene, Ramona was determined to do whatever it took to keep her son safe.

The DFS Investigation worker made a referral to the Domestic Violence Liaison program. The first time we met in her home, Ramona was under extreme stress. She did not know where her boyfriend was since he fled the home that night. Her rent was almost due. She had no job and no money. Her son's birthday was coming up and so was Christmas. She just wanted to move on with her life. After years of verbal and physical abuse, she said she was "done." We talked for a long time about what she wanted for her and her son's future. After assessing her risk, safety planning, and talking about her options, Ramona and the DVL came up with a solid action plan.

The DVL helped Ramona file for Victim's Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP) and until she found a job, the DVL assisted her with transportation and bus passes to the local emergency food closet and social services center to apply for benefits. The DVL sent in clothing bank requests and referrals for the Adopt-a-Family Holiday Assistance Program.

Soon after, Ramona was approved for VCAP. It helped her pay all her rent and back rent. She found a job within walking distance. The clothing bank provided her and her son with winter clothing. Adopt-a-Family gave her and her son an amazing Christmas together. Her boyfriend ended up moving to a different state over 300 miles away and she has not had any problems since.

About a month ago, Ramona reported that she and her son are very happy and healthy. Her son is doing well in school and making many friends, often inviting them over to play video games. Ramona feels safe, secure, and said her house finally "feels like home."

*Names have been changed.

Treatment Program Statistics

In FY2018, there were four certified treatment providers offering batterers' intervention programs in Delaware. Each of these programs followed the guidelines established through the *Domestic Violence Intervention Standards* and were certified by the DVCC Batterers' Intervention Certification Panel. The four programs are Catholic Charities and CHILD, Inc., in New Castle County, Turning Point at People's Place in Kent and Sussex Counties, and the Family Advocacy Center at Dover Air Force Base.

	<u>Catholic Charities</u>		<u>CHILD, Inc.</u>		<u>Turning Point Peoples Place II</u>		
	Male	Female*	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Probation Evaluated:	75	0	95	24	Kent:	98	15
					Sussex:	85	11
With PFA Order Evaluated:	28	0	44	13	Kent:	13	5
					Sussex:	12	5
Self-Referrals:	1	0	8	2	Kent:	1	1
					Sussex:	3	0
Court Ordered:	6	0	34	14	Kent:	8	1
					Sussex:	6	7
Participated in Group Intervention:	88	0	199	45	Kent:	138	24
					Sussex:	116	16
Completed Intervention:**	37	0	101	37	Kent:	69	16
					Sussex:	62	7
Total Number Served:	110	0	342	101	Kent:	155	26
					Sussex:	132	20

*In FY2018, Catholic Charities did not have any female participants in Batterers' Intervention.

**Includes former clients that returned to group on a voluntary basis.

Note: 2018 data was not available for the Family Advocacy Center at Dover Air Force Base.

Supervised Domestic Violence Offender Data

Probation and Parole has a specialized Domestic Violence Unit in each county with probation officers specially trained in the dynamics of domestic violence. Domestic violence cases are assigned to the DV Unit based upon criteria including offense, victim/offender relationship, and active PFA orders. The philosophy of the Probation and Parole DV Unit is to hold the offender accountable and maintain victim safety. In addition, Victim Service Agents are available to serve as liaison between victims and probation officers and provide guidance through the criminal justice system once an offender is placed on community supervision.

New Castle County Domestic Violence Supervision

Number of DV Offenders Supervised:	383
Number of Probation Officers Assigned to DV Cases:	7
Probationer/Probation Officer Ratio:	55:1
Number of Victims Served by Victim Service Agents:	270

Note: New Castle County VSA started on 5/27/18

Kent County Domestic Violence Supervision

Number of DV Offenders Supervised:	309
Number of Probation Officers Assigned to DV Cases:	6
Probationer/Probation Officer Ration:	52:1
Number of Victims Served by Victim Service Agents:	205

Note: Kent County VSA started on 7/22/18

Sussex County Domestic Violence Supervision

Number of DV Offenders Supervised:	211
Number of Probation Officers Assigned to DV Cases:	5
Probationer/Probation Officer Ration:	42:1

Note: No VSA assigned.

Fatal Incident Review Team Report

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council’s Fatal Incident Review Team (FIRT) was established by statute in 1996 and became the first statewide team in the country. FIRT members are dedicated professionals who conduct system audits of State agencies and private organizations that had contact with the victim and/or the perpetrator to assess the system’s response. Although domestic violence fatality reviews are retrospective in nature, their purpose is prospective. Reviews focus on identifying trends, patterns and obstacles in services, assessing agency interventions, and most importantly, developing practical recommendations aimed at improving the system and preventing future injury and death. In 2009, the General Assembly granted FIRT the authority to conduct near-death reviews. These reviews enhance the team’s ability to improve Delaware’s response to domestic violence with the wealth of knowledge that can be gained from speaking directly with the domestic violence survivor about the incident, the history of violence, system involvement, and awareness of resources.

The supplemental [2018 Fatal Incident Review Team \(FIRT\) Annual Report](#) is available online at the DVCC website (<http://dvcc.delaware.gov/>). This report provides a summary of the Review Team’s activities and accomplishments over the last year; statistical data for the domestic violence fatalities that occurred in calendar year 2017; information and recommendations from the death and near-death cases reviewed by FIRT in 2017.

Chairs:

Hon. Jan Jurden
President Judge, Superior Court

Professor Dana Harrington Conner
At-Large Member

Hon. Vincent Poppiti
At-Large Member

Staff Information:

Natasha Smith
302-255-0408
Natasha.Smith@state.de.us



You are not alone...

- Domestic violence is NOT just violence leading to physical injuries. It is a pattern of abusive behavior used to gain control over another person that can include: threats, emotional, sexual or economic abuse; intimidation; deprivation; social isolation or repeated battering and injury.
- Over time the violence usually becomes more frequent and more severe. It does not go away without intervention.
- Children can be devastated by domestic violence. They are hurt by seeing or hearing the violence and they are more likely to be the victims of violence if you are being abused.
- Although you do not have control over your partner's violence, you DO have a choice about how to respond to him/her and how to best get yourself and your children to safety.

24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotlines & Shelters

New Castle County 302-762-6110

NCC Bi-Lingual 302-762-6110

Northern Kent County 302-678-3886

Kent & Sussex County 302-422-8058

Bi-Lingual 302-745-9874

All hotline calls are confidential.

Safety Tips

To increase your safety and the safety of your children:

- Have important numbers accessible to you and your children (i.e., 911, family members etc.).
- Ask a neighbor to be aware of suspicious activity in your home.
- Plan an escape route in case of an emergency and practice the plan with your children.
- Think in advance of where you may be able to go with your children in a hurry.
- Leave extra money, car keys, clothing and copies of documents with someone you trust.
- Call a Domestic Violence Hotline for assistance in planning.
- If you are in danger, please try to use a safer computer that someone abusive does not have direct or remote access to. Use a safe computer such as a library or a trusted friend's computer.

If you leave the relationship:

- Obtain a Protection From Abuse (PFA) Order and keep a copy with you at all times. Keep extra copies in your car, at school, work and/or with someone you trust. Remember-leaving your batterer is a very dangerous time!
- Notify all childcare providers if your partner has been restricted from seeing the children in addition to who has permission to pick up your children.
- Change the locks and make sure all outside lights are working.
- Have your calls screened at work and use an answering machine to screen your calls at home.
- Avoid places where your partner knows you will be (grocery stores, banks, etc.)
- When you feel down and ready to return to the relationship, call a support group, hotline or someone you trust.

If you are in danger, please call 911.

Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis

24 – Hour Hotline Numbers

New Castle County

Domestic Violence	302-762-6110
Bi-Lingual	302-762-6110
Rape Crisis	1-800-773-8570
TTY	1-800-232-5460

Northern Kent

Domestic Violence	302-678-3886
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Kent & Sussex

Domestic Violence	302-422-8058
Rape Crisis	1-800-262-9800
Bi-lingual	302-745-9874



Capitol Police - Domestic Violence Intervention

<http://capitolpd.delaware.gov>

DVCC Main Office

Leonard L. Williams Justice Center
(formerly New Castle County Courthouse)
Suite 700
500 N. King Street
Wilmington, DE 19801

Phone: 302-255-0405

Fax: 302-255-2236

<http://dvcc.delaware.gov/>

DVCC Kent & Sussex County Office

Milford State Service Center
Suite 105
13 S. W. Front Street
Milford, DE 19963

Phone: 302-424-7238

Fax: 302-424-5311

<http://dvcc.delaware.gov/>

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

<https://dvcc.delaware.gov/>