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First Responders Tool Kit

Information in this tool kit has been adapted from
<http://www.endhomelessness.org/pages/domesticviolencetoolkit>.

DEFINITIONS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors, including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion, that adults or adolescents use against their intimate partners.

From "Understanding Domestic Violence: Preparatory Reading for Trainers" by Anne L. Ganley, Ph.D. in Domestic Violence Child Protection Curriculum by Susan Schechter, MSW 1995.

Domestic violence is attempting to cause or causing bodily injury to a family or household member, or placing a family or household member by threat of force in fear of imminent physical harm.

From the Ohio Revised Code 3113.33

UNDERSTANDING THE DEFINITION OF ABUSE

People often think of domestic violence only in terms of the visible, physical injuries. Domestic violence is actually a **pattern** of behaviors used to control another person. In fact, victims often talk about psychological abuse as the most painful memory they have of the abusive relationship. Constant verbal abuse can diminish self-esteem and stay with survivors after bruises or broken bones have healed.

Domestic violence is an on-going, complex web of control over another person, not a single isolated act of violence. Abusers will use different control tactics that can vary in frequency and severity. Commonly, an abuser will increase the control tactics when a victim makes an attempt to leave the abusive situation or begin to move away from dependence on the abuser.

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TYPES OF ABUSE

Physical Abuse:	Acts that cause injury or threaten to cause injury, such as pushing, grabbing, slapping, and hitting.
Emotional Abuse:	Being insulted, put down, being called names or told you are worthless, made to feel crazy.
Economic Abuse:	Withholding money, food, clothing, or other needs, such as medical care; not allowing to go to school, work, or training; or ruining credit.
Sexual Abuse:	Forcing unwanted sexual acts.
Using Children:	Making you feel guilty about the children, using the children as pawns, threatening to take the children away, using visitation as a way to harass, undermining parental authority.
Using Animals:	Abusing or killing family pets to get back at you and the children, harming pets to send the message that “you are next,” using the animal as a way to keep you from leaving or forcing you to return to the home.
Threats:	Making and/or carrying out threats to do something to hurt you, the children, or the animals. Threatening to commit suicide or report you to child welfare.
Using Male Privilege:	Treating you like a servant, making all the “big” decisions, or acting like “master of the house.” (with male perpetrators)
Intimidation:	Putting you in fear by using looks, actions, a threatening voice, smashing things, or destroying property.
Isolation:	Not allowing you to see people or leave the house. Creating rules around when, where, how, and with whom you spend your time.
Stalking:	Monitoring day-to-day activities and phone conversations, following you, showing up at your place of work or other inappropriate places. Making harassing phone calls both during the relationship and after it is over.

Other types of abuse may include but are not limited to:

Withholding medications or denying access to mobility devices, threatening immigration status, or threatening to reveal sexual orientation.

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OHIO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAW

This information has been taken from
https://ifs.ohio.gov/RFP/R89170838/Apendix_A_ODVN_toolkit.pdf.

Ohio law defines domestic violence as doing any of the following to a “Family or Household Member”:

1. Knowingly cause or attempt to cause physical harm.
2. Recklessly cause serious physical harm.
3. By threat of force, knowingly causing a family or household member to believe the offender will cause imminent physical harm.

Ohio law defines Family or Household Member as:

1. The natural parent of any child of whom the offender is the other natural parent or putative (presumed) natural parent, or
2. Any of the following who resides with or has resided with the offender at any time:
 - a. Spouse, former spouse, or person living as a spouse*;
 - b. Parent or child of the offender or another person related by blood or marriage to the offender;
 - c. Parent or child of a spouse, person living as a spouse, former spouse of the offender, or another person related by blood or marriage to a spouse, former spouse, or person living as a spouse of the offender.

*“Person living as a spouse” means:

- a. A person who is living with or has lived with the offender in a common law marriage.
Note: Common law marriage is no longer recognized in Ohio.
- b. A person who otherwise is cohabitating with the offender or has otherwise cohabitated with the offender within the five years previous to the incident in question.

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PROTECTION ORDERS

Obtaining a protection order can be a confusing and complicated process. An advocate can help you walk through the steps of this process; however, you are also able to access protection orders on your own. Two types of protection orders are available in the State of Ohio.

Temporary Protection Order (TPO)

A TPO is issued in Municipal or Common Pleas Court to protect victims of certain crimes, including domestic violence. A TPO is a temporary order intended to ensure the safety and protection of the crime victim.

You can apply for a TPO if:

- a. You are considered a family and or household member by statute, **AND**
- b. A criminal charge of Domestic Violence, Felonious Assault, Aggravated Assault, Assault, Menacing by Stalking, or Aggravated Trespass has been filed.

Civil Protection Order (CPO)

A CPO is issued by the Domestic Relations Court to protect victims of domestic violence. A CPO is intended to prevent further domestic violence. It orders someone who has been abusive to do or not to do certain things in the future. You should consider requesting a CPO even if you have a TPO from a criminal court because a CPO lasts longer.

You can apply for a CPO if:

- a. You are related to the abuser by blood or marriage;
- b. You are living with or have lived as a spouse or partner with the abuser during the past five years;
- c. You used to be married to the abuser; or
- d. You have a child with the abuser, whether or not you ever married or lived together;
AND THE ABUSER
- e. Attempted to cause or recklessly caused you physical harm;
- f. Made you believe he/she was going to physically harm you; or
- g. Committed menacing by stalking or aggravated trespass against you.

VIOLATION OF A TPO OR A CPO IS A CRIME.

To obtain forms to file for protection orders, go to

http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/JCS/domesticViolence/protection_forms/DVForms/default.asp.

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DV-INFORMED TIPS FOR FINDING SAFE HOUSING

Finding a new place to live can feel exciting and stressful for anyone, but if you are a survivor escaping domestic violence, it can feel both overwhelming and liberating. There are safety concerns that survivors must often keep in mind. Listed below are tips specifically for survivors on how to navigate the process for finding a safe place to live, including:

- Tips for Finding a Safe Neighborhood;
- Tips for Your New Home;
- Tips for Regaining Financial Independence; and
- Tips for Staying Connected to Support Systems.

Tips for Finding a Safe Neighborhood

Tip 1: Visit the neighborhood at various times throughout the day and night. A neighborhood can look pleasant and quiet during the day when most people are at work and/or school. Try to go back to the location in the evenings and on weekends. You may get a different perspective.

Tip 2: Pay attention to how well the streets are lit. Are there any broken or burned out lights? Are sidewalks and alley ways too dark?

Tip 3: If you drive, notice where and when available parking spaces are located. Street parking may be the only option for you. If this is the case, try to get a good idea of when spaces in front of your residence are available and if you can avoid walking a long way, especially at night.

Tip 4: It is always a good idea to identify where the local law enforcement station is located and how often they patrol the area. Being able to view the neighborhood at different times of the day and night may give you a chance to observe whether or not there is a police presence in the area. Inquire about any neighborhood watch groups that patrol the streets at night, providing an extra layer of community safety.

Tip 5: If you use public transportation, make sure you locate the nearest bus stops. In many neighborhoods the bus stops are near wooded areas. Be mindful of these dark, unlit areas, especially at night when fewer people are around.

Tip 6: If you have children that walk to school, identify a safe route for them to take and develop a strategy for ensuring that they make it to and from their destination safely.

Tip 7: Look up the crime statistics for the neighborhood you're considering by visiting http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/crime_stats_reports.stm.

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Tips for Your New Home

Now that you have made the courageous decision to leave and find your own safe place to live, keep these safety tips in mind.

Tip 1: Consider getting a PO Box. Having a PO Box is a good safety measure for several reasons:

- If you are relocating temporarily or find that you need to relocate quickly, it minimizes the need for changing your address or having to go back to an unsafe situation to get your mail.
- It minimizes the risk of your abuser accessing your personal information.
- Having a PO Box can also be a safer option if you are still in an abusive relationship and want to begin receiving mail about available housing options, properties, etc.
- Apartment complex mailboxes are sometimes situated either outside of the entryway or on a walk way several feet from the entrance. This could potentially put you in a vulnerable situation if someone were to follow you home.

To inquire about obtaining a PO Box, contact your local US Post Office. You can locate a post office by going to www.usps.com.

Safety Alert! If you decide *not* to get a PO Box, be sure your name is *not* on the mailbox so that no one can locate your apartment.

Tip 2: Inquire about front door security, and plan for your safety. As you check out various apartment buildings and residences, consider the following safety elements:

- Does the building have a secured entryway? Check to see how all entrances and exits are secured.
- Does the building have a person at the front desk or in the rental office? If so, be sure to know if the front desk or rental office person is responsible for letting visitors in the building/complex?
- If there is a person who manages the front desk or rental office, give him or her the name and picture of anyone you do not want visiting you, as well as a copy of the protection order, if there is one in place.
- Have a back-up plan for what you will do if the unwanted visitor is able to enter the front door or apartment building. You might want to consider asking the desk manager or rental office to call the police and notify you immediately if this happens.
- If the apartment has an intercom system through which the resident buzzes the visitor in, take your time and make sure you identify each person calling you. Ask if they are

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alone or any other questions that will help you to feel safe about letting the visitor into your building.

- If someone you do not want in the building does get buzzed in by a desk person or another resident, keep a record of when it happens and report it to the building manager or landlord. In buildings without front desk security personnel, a general memo can be posted reminding tenants not to allow strangers into the building.
- Make sure that your name and apartment number do not appear on the intercom system or on the mailboxes.

Tip 3: Assess safety in stairwells and elevators.

- If your apartment building does not have an elevator, make sure that the stairwell is well lit. Be aware of any alcoves or blind spots.
- If the building has an elevator, ask the building manager if security cameras are installed and if the elevator has an emergency button. Consider getting instructions on how to contact someone if an emergency occurs in the elevator.

Tip 4: Assess parking safety.

- If you drive, be mindful of where you have to park in relationship to your front door. Always check out whether there is adequate lighting for street, garage, or lot parking.
- If you have to park on the street, inquire about any parking permits you may need.
- Some garages and large parking lots have emergency call boxes and security cameras; make sure you are aware of where they are located. Inquire if those amenities are available.

Tip 5: Secure windows on the ground level. Check to see if the apartment windows on or near the ground level have security mechanisms built in such as iron bars or extra locking features on the inside windows.

Tip 6: Learn strategies for keeping yourself safe. You may want to consider taking a class to learn strategies for keeping yourself safe and responding to abuse, harassment, and assault.

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Tips for Reclaiming Your Financial Independence

Economic abuse is part of the cycle of violence that often plagues survivors well after they have left an abusive relationship. Economic abuse includes such things as:

- Damaged credit by the abuser;
- Stolen funds; and
- Limited to no control over your personal finances.

Tip 1: Get your credit report. This is the critical first step to getting your financial life back on track. By obtaining a copy of your credit report, you will be able to see any and all debts that have gone into collections. You may not even be aware that you have debt. If your abusive partner had access to your personal information and could open credit cards or other accounts in your name or jointly, and if they are in default, they will likely be on your credit report. The contact information of each creditor is usually listed on the report so that you can contact them directly to resolve any issues. By law, you are entitled to one free credit report each year. You can go to www.annualreport.com to obtain your free copy.

Knowing what's on your credit report and knowing your credit score is important for many reasons, including securing housing. Landlords often require a credit history. If you're armed with information and a plan to resolve credit issues, some landlords will negotiate with you.

Safety Alert! When obtaining your credit report, keep the following safety precautions in mind:

- If you are still in the house with your abuser, have a website ready to switch to if he/she enters the room;
- Delete all temporary files and history on your computer; and
- If the credit report is being mailed to you and you do not have a new address yet, consider the following:
 - If you are already working with an advocate in the community, ask for assistance using their computer and mailing the report to their office.
 - You may also want to consider having the report mailed to your job or a trusted friend or relative.

Tip 2: Keep a log of your spending. Every day for one week write down everything that you spend money on and how much you spend. If on Monday you buy a cup of coffee for breakfast and it costs \$1.50, write that down. If you buy lunch for \$7.35, write that down. If you buy a candy bar out of the vending machine for \$0.65, write that down. You may be amazed at your spending habits.

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Tip 3: Save money. Figure out where you can save money. Once you have tracked your spending for one week, use that information to figure out where you can decrease your spending and possibly move that money toward paying down debt or going into savings.

Tip 4: Create a cost of living plan. Once you have checked your credit report and have figured out exactly what your debts are and how you spend your money, write out a cost of living plan based on your monthly expenses and income. A cost of living plan can help you track how much money you need to live on each month. Depending on how comfortable you are with doing this, you may want to get help from an advocate.

Tip 5: Seek financial management assistance. Many local agencies offer budgeting and financial planning classes, workshops, and even one-on-one counseling. Some organizations have specific groups for survivors of domestic violence. Ask your advocate or contact the Ohio Domestic Violence Network for suggestions.

Once you have secured your own housing and have regained your independence, you may find it helpful to connect with or remain connected to support networks who understand what you've been through and can assist you. The following organizations are organizations that provide resources for such things as counseling, legal assistance, medical care, support groups, and general advocacy for domestic violence survivors.

- Ohio Domestic Violence Network (800) 934-9840
- National Domestic Violence Hotline (800) 799-7233

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCES IN OHIO BY COUNTY

Resource list is taken from [https://jfs.ohio.gov/RFP/R89170838/Apendix A ODVN toolkit.pdf](https://jfs.ohio.gov/RFP/R89170838/Apendix_A_ODVN_toolkit.pdf).

<u>County</u>	<u>Shelter</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Adams	Reach Out, Inc.	Manchester	800-448-2273
Allen	Crossroads Crisis Center	Lima	877-228-HELP
Ashland	Domestic Violence Shelter	Mansfield	800-931-7233
Ashtabula	Homesafe, Inc.	Ashtabula	800-952-2873
Athens	My Sister's Place	Athens	800-443-3402
Auglaize	Auglaize County Crisis Center	Wapakoneta	419-738-5511
Belmont	Tri-County Help Center	St. Clairsville	800-695-1639
Brown	YWCA House of Peace	Batavia	800-540-4764 513-753-7281
Butler	Dove House	Hamilton	800-618-6523
Carroll	Harbor House, Inc.	New Philadelphia	888-214-3927 330-364-1974
	Carita's House	Carrollton	330-627-5765
Champaign	Project Woman	Springfield	800-634-9893
Clark	Project Woman	Springfield	800-634-9893
Clermont	YWCA House of Peace	Batavia	800-540-4764 513-753-7281
Clinton	Highland/Clinton DV Program	Wilmington	866-296-5415
	Family Violence Prevention Center of Greene County		
		Xenia	937-372-4552
	YWCA House of Peace	Batavia	800-540-4764 513-753-7281

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Columbiana	Christina House	Lisbon	330-420-0036
Coshocton	First Step	Coshocton	740-622-9533
Crawford	Turning Point	Marion	800-232-6505
Cuyahoga	Domestic Violence Center	Cleveland	216-391-HELP
	Jewish Family Services Assoc.	Cleveland	216-691-SAFE
	West Side Catholic Center	Cleveland	216-631-4141
	East Side Catholic Shelter	Cleveland	216-641-8989
Darke	Shelter from Violence	Greenville	937-548-2020
Defiance	House of Ruth	Defiance	800-782-8555
	Women & Family Services	Defiance	800-782-4906
Delaware	CHOICES	Columbus	614-224-4663
	Turning Point	Marion	800-232-6505
Erie	Safe Harbour DV Shelter	Sandusky	800-953-2207
			419-626-2200
Fairfield	The Lighthouse	Lancaster	740-687-4423
Fayette	My Sister's House	Washington C.H.	740-572-2919
Franklin	CHOICES	Columbus	614-224-4663
Fulton	House of Ruth	Defiance	800-782-8555
	Women & Family Services	Defiance	800-782-4906
Gallia	Serenity House, Inc.	Gallipolis	800-942-9577
Geauga	WomenSafe, Inc.	Chardon	888-285-5665
Greene	Family Violence Prevention Center		
		Xenia	937-372-4552
Guernsey	Haven of Hope	Cambridge	800-304-HOPE
Hamilton	YWCA Battered Women's Shelter		

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		Cincinnati	888-872-9259
	Rape Crisis & Abuse Center	Cincinnati	888-872-9259
Hancock	Open Arms DV & Rape Crisis Services		
		Findlay	419-422-4766
Hardin	Crossroads Crisis Center	Lima	877-228-HELP
Harrison	Tri-County Help Center	St. Clairsville	800-695-1639
Henry	House of Ruth	Defiance	800-782-8555
	Women & Family Services	Defiance	800-782-4906
Highland	Highland/Clinton DV Program	Hillsboro	800-339-5066
Hocking	My Sister's Place	Athens	800-443-3402
Holmes	Every Woman's House	Wooster	800-686-1122
Huron	Domestic Violence Shelter, Inc.	Mansfield	800-931-7233
	Safe Harbour DV Shelter	Sandusky	800-953-2207
			419-626-2200
Jackson	Serenity House, Inc.	Gallipolis	800-942-9577
Jefferson	ALIVE, Inc.	Steubenville	888-611-7233
Knox	New Directions	Mt. Vernon	740-397-4357
Lake	Forbes House	Painesville	440-357-1018
			440-953-9779
Lawrence	Lawrence County Helping Hands Task Force		
		Ironton	888-372-7433
			740-532-7111
Licking	Center for New Beginnings	Newark	800-686-2760
Logan	Project Woman	Springfield	800-634-9893
Lorain	Genesis House	Elyria	866-213-1188

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			440-323-3400
Lucas	YWCA Battered Woman Shelter Toledo		419-241-7386
			888-341-7386
Madison	A Friend's House	London	800-301-1447
			740-852-7761
	CHOICES	Columbus	614-224-4663
Mahoning	Sojourner House	Youngstown	330-747-4040
Marion	Turning Point	Marion	800-232-6505
Medina	Battered Women's Shelter	Medina	877-414-1344
Meigs	Serenity House, Inc.	Gallipolis	800-942-9577
Mercer	Family Crisis Network	Celina	419-586-1133
Miami	Family Abuse Shelter	Troy	800-351-7347
Monroe	Tri-County Help Center	St. Clairsville	800-695-1639
Montgomery	Artemis Center	Dayton	937-222-SAFE
	YWCA Shelter & Housing Ntwk. Dayton		937-222-SAFE
Morgan	Transitions	Zanesville	740-454-3213
Morrow	Turning Point	Marion	800-232-6505
Muskingum	Transitions	Zanesville	740-454-3213
Noble	Haven of Hope	Cambridge	800-304-HOPE
	EVE, Inc.	Marietta	800-974-3111
Ottawa	Safe Harbour DV Shelter	Sandusky	800-953-2207
			419-626-2200
Paulding	House of Ruth	Defiance	800-782-8555
	Women & Family Services	Defiance	800-782-4906
Perry	Transitions	Zanesville	740-454-3213

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Pickaway	Haven House of Pickaway Co.	Circleville	740-477-9113
Pike	Pike County Partnership against DV		
		Waverly	740-947-1611
Portage	Safer Futures	Kent	330-673-2500
Preble	Preble County DV Shelter Services		
		Eaton	937-456-6891
Putnam	Crime Victim Services	Ottawa	877-274-7471
	House of Ruth	Defiance	800-782-8555
Richland	Domestic Violence Shelter, Inc.	Mansfield	800-931-7233
Ross	Ross County Coalition/Phoenix House		
		Chillicothe	866-828-2273
			740-775-5396
Scioto	Southern Ohio Shelter	Portsmouth	800-570-1819
Shelby	New Choices	Sidney	937-498-7261
Stark	Alliance Area DV Shelter	Alliance	330-823-7223
	Domestic Violence Project, Inc.	Canton	330-453-7233
Summit	Battered Women's Shelter	Akron	888-395-HELP
Trumbull	Someplace Safe	Warren	330-393-1565
			330-393-3003
Tuscarawas	Harbor House, Inc.	New Philadelphia	888-214-3927
			330-364-1374
Union	Turning Point	Marion	800-232-6505
Van Wert	Crisis Care Line	Van Wert	419-238-4357
Vinton	My Sister's Place	Athens	800-443-3402
	A Shepherd's House	McArthur	866-596-9271

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Warren	Abuse & Rape Crisis Shelter	Lebanon	888-860-4084
Washington	EVE, Inc.	Marietta	800-974-3111
Wayne	Every Woman's House	Wooster	800-686-1122
Williams	House of Ruth	Defiance	800-782-8555
	Sarah's House	Bryan	419-636-7272
	Women & Family Services	Defiance	800-782-4906
Wood	VITAL	Perrysburg	800-472-9411
			419-352-1545
	Cocoon Shelter	Bowling Green	800-472-9411
Wyandot	Turning Point	Marion	800-232-6506

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OTHER TYPES OF AGENCIES AND SERVICES THAT MAY BE HELPFUL

Information adapted from [https://ifs.ohio.gov/RFP/R89170838/Appendix A ODVN toolkit.pdf](https://ifs.ohio.gov/RFP/R89170838/Appendix_A_ODVN_toolkit.pdf).

<u>Category</u>	<u>Service</u>
Batterer Intervention Programs	Intervention services specifically for batterers
Child Welfare/Child Protective Services	Case management, child protective services, investigation, possible substitute care for children, community resources and referrals
Domestic Violence Non-Residential Programs	Advocacy, support groups, resources, mental health services, community referrals
Domestic Violence Shelters	Temporary, safe housing
Law Enforcement	First responders to scene of an incident
Legal Aid	Legal services for qualified parties
Prosecutor's Office	Determines if there is sufficient/probable cause to file charges of DV and issues arrest warrant if this was not done by law enforcement
Sexual Assault Programs	24-hour support, hospital advocacy, counseling, support groups, community referrals
Victim Assistance or Advocate	Assistance for victims of crime through the criminal court process

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ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED WITH THIS RESOURCE

First Responders distributing this tool kit are advised to include additional resources below.

Printed Resource Guides

- “Economic Resources for Advocates & Domestic Violence Survivors in Ohio” by the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) – Choose this title at http://odvn.org/uploads/documents/Tool_Kit_9-13-10.doc.
- “Working with Children Services: A Guide for Parents” by The Supreme Court of Ohio Advisory Committee on Children, Families and the Courts
- Safety plan template
- Local housing resources
- Local Social Security Administration Office address
- Directions on how to obtain a birth certificate

Tangible Items

- Voucher to obtain certified copies of birth certificates
- Cab voucher or bus pass
- Hotel voucher
- Emergency food or access to food pantry
- Voucher to thrift store or access to clothing pantry
- Diapers/formula/baby food (if necessary)
- Toiletries as needed (shampoo, soap, tampons/sanitary napkins, toothbrush, toothpaste)
- Pet food (if necessary)