

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic Violence (DV) is an intentional pattern of behavior that uses physical, emotional, psychological, sexual and/or economic abuse to maintain power over another person.

DV is not a "relationship problem." Nothing a victim can do will improve the situation. The problem lies with the abuser.

DV occurs in every neighborhood, among people of all races, ages and economic backgrounds.

One in four women will experience DV during her lifetime. The mental health consequences of DV include depression, anxiety disorders, suicide, eating disorders and substance abuse.

Children who witness DV are themselves at risk for abuse as well as life-long emotional scarring.



Keep yourself and your children safe!

Call CODA: 843-770-1070 or 800-868-2632

"This project was supported by Federal Formula Grant # 2007-VA-GX-0035, awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice through the South Carolina Department of Public Safety. The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, coordinates the activities of the following program offices and bureaus: Bureau of Justice Assistance, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Any points of view or opinions contained within this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U. S. Department of Justice."

CODA SERVICES

CODA is a private, non-profit organization. Its services are available to victims of domestic violence in South Carolina's Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties.

In addition to its children's programs, CODA operates a 24-hour crisis line and offers safe shelter in its modern, comfortable facility.

A legal staff provides advice, victims' assistance and court accompaniment while counselors offer individual and group support for victims.

Case managers assist with practical issues such as housing, employment and day care.

Services are available to not only shelter residents but also victims of domestic violence not currently in need of shelter.

CODA's community educators offer presentations tailored to community, business, school and/or church groups.

All CODA Services are Confidential and Free of Charge.



P. O. Box 1775

Beaufort, SC 29901

24-Hour Crisis Lines:

843-770-1070 or 800-868-2632

Administrative Line:

843-770-1074

E-mail: executivedirector@codabft.com

Web: codalowcountry.org

Fax: 843-770-1084



CODA provides equal opportunity in employment and client services and does not discriminate on the basis of age, disability, race, ethnicity, sex, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, religion, national origin or veteran status.

CHILDREN and Domestic Violence



"You're hurting me too..."

CODA

SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

THE FORGOTTEN VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Few experiences are more frightening to a child than witnessing a parent being physically or verbally attacked, especially if the perpetrator is another parent or trusted adult. Conflicting alliances can cause confusion and anger.

It is not surprising that children raised in violent homes are more prone to bed wetting, sleep problems, withdrawal, aggressive behavior, failing grades, depression and other disorders.

Furthermore they are more at risk for abuse themselves as studies show that 50% of men



who frequently assault their wives also abuse their children. A child can be injured or killed protecting a parent from an abuser.

Children exposed to domestic violence have a tendency to identify with the aggressor and lose respect for the victim paving the way for later abusive behavior.

Thus, without intervention, boys who have witnessed domestic violence are more likely to be abusive in adult relationships.

Girls also can repeat the learned behavior of childhood and, as adults, accept their own victimization in abusive relationships.

It is essential to break this inter-generational cycle of violence. CODA can help.



AT CODA, CHILDREN COUNT

The majority of victims seeking help from CODA are parents of young children. CODA is committed to helping these children cope with the frightening situations they have experienced as well as encouraging them to learn non-violent ways to deal with conflict. CODA's mission is to not only help children currently in crisis, but also break the cycle of violence before it is repeated.

CODA'S CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SHELTER: Frequently, the first peaceful night's sleep a child has experienced in years begins when his head touches the pillow in the safety and privacy of a CODA bedroom. Every year, CODA shelters approximately the same number of children (up to age 17) as adults.

COUNSELING: Trained counselors work with children both in the shelter and in outreach settings. Children are seen individually and in groups. The children's counselors also work with parents on issues pertaining to their children.

LEGAL PROTECTION: CODA's legal team can assist victims in obtaining Family Court "Orders of Protection" which may grant temporary custody of children, child support and/or possession of the family home.

ACTIVITIES: While in the shelter, children can enjoy the play yard and children's playroom where an activities coordinator facilitates in games, craft projects, homework assistance and reading.

PARENTING SKILLS: Moms in shelter can take advantage of periodic workshops on parenting and nutrition.

SCHOOLING: Parents may choose to enroll their children in Beaufort County schools near the CODA shelter if they are unable to transport their children to their home schools.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS: CODA counselors present programs in elementary schools on eliminating bullying. They also visit junior and senior high schools to present "The Megan Project," an interactive program geared toward preventing teen dating violence.

For information on any of CODA's children's programs, call 843-770-1070 or 800-868-2632.

