

DID YOU KNOW...

Abuse is an effort to control. It may include the use of threats, intimidation, isolation, denial, financial control and blaming the victim as well as physical, verbal and sexual violence.

Abusers tend to exhibit "Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde" behaviors, showing extremes of both kindness and cruelty. People outside the family seldom experience this person's abusive behavior.

95% of victims of domestic violence are women. 50-60% of people who batter their partner also abuse their children.



Help is out there
Contact one of the following
Agencies Below for
Confidential Help!

THE HAVEN OF RCS
WWW.RCSPINELLAS.ORG

24 HR HOTLINE (727) 442-4128
OUTREACH (727) 441-2029
TTY# (727) 446-2148

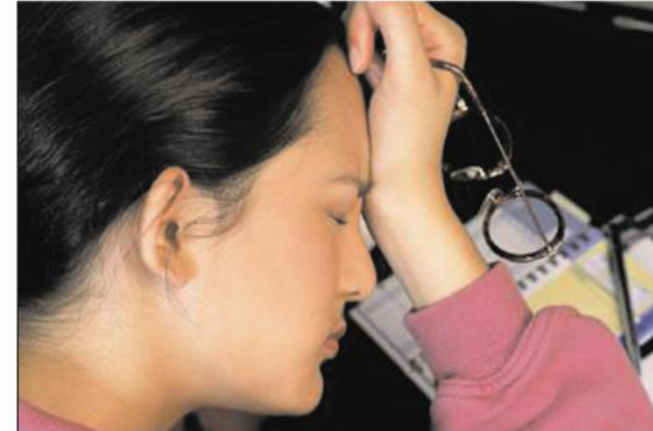
**FLORIDA COALITION
AGAINST DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE**

WWW.FCADV.ORG
1 (800) 500.1119
TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE
1 (800) 96.ABUSE



ALL 24/7
ALL FREE

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS...



EVERYONE'S PROBLEM!



The Haven
of RCS

ABOUT ABUSE



Domestic Violence is a pattern of abusive and controlling behaviors that a person uses against an intimate or former partner. It might include:

Physical Abuse: Shoving, hitting, kicking, burning, strangling, using weapons or other objects to cause injury; restraining.

Sexual Violence: Forcing or coercing unwanted sexual acts, refusing to practice safer sex, treating a partner like a sex object.

Emotional Abuse/Intimidation: Name calling/put-downs; denying/ or shifting blame; treating a partner as an inferior; threatening to harm others/self or to reveal information that might be harmful; using threatening looks, actions, or gestures.

Property/Economics abuse: Destroying/stealing property; denying money for basic needs such as food or medical care; interfering with a partners work or education. Destroying the phone or ability to phone for help.

Stalking: Monitoring activities, phone calls, or emails; following a partner; impersonating or questioning others about a partner. This may be done without the victim's knowledge.

KNOWING THE FACTS...

Domestic Violence has harmed relationships for centuries and remains a widespread problem.

In the U.S., it affects millions of people annually, mostly women.

Anyone can be abused, regardless of employment or education, racial or ethnic back ground, religion, martial status, health, age or sexual orientation.

Abusive Behavior is a choice. Abuse is not caused by drug/alcohol use, mental illness, stress, or poor anger control.



I got the help I needed, so that I can have a non-abusive life.

Kim B.
Clearwater



I no longer blame myself and I am not alone. I now have the confidence to keep my kids and myself safe.

Tanya F.
Tarpon Springs

KNOW YOUR OPTIONS...

LEAVE THE ABUSER

If Leaving is Not a Safe Option

Call Police if violence escalates
Call the Haven of RCS
(727) 442-4128
Meet with an Advocate
Make a Safety Plan
Attend a Support Group

Call Police

Police may arrest abuser at the scene. After arrest, abuser will be jailed until a bond hearing is held, usually within 8 to 36 hours. Abuser may be released if a bond is posted.

File Injunction

An injunction will prohibit further violence, order no contact or remove abuser from home. If abuser is removed, change all door locks. Call police if injunction is violated.

ALL SERVICES ARE CONFIDENTIAL & FREE