

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

By: John Pugh

Among many others, this behavior may include: constant criticism, pressure, disrespect, isolation, harassment, constant questioning, withholding money or other material things, destroying belongings, making threats, and being demanding.

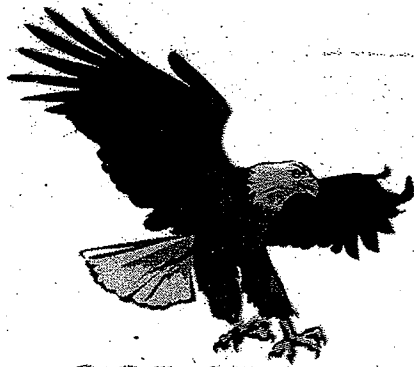
There may never be any physical violence in a relationship like this, but the result to the victim can be devastating. In the majority of families where there is domestic violence, children are also victims. They get hurt by accident or the perpetrator may also deliberately harm them. Even if they are not physically hurt, they are always emotionally affected.

Domestic Violence is any incident of threatening behavior, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality.

Domestic violence can affect anyone. The majority of domestic violence is perpetrated by men against women victims. However, men can also be victims of domestic violence perpetrated by women. Domestic violence can also occur in same-sex relationships. Domestic violence cuts across age, class, wealth, employment status, religion and ethnicity.

It is different from other crimes, as the victim and perpetrator are known to each other and in some cases still love each other. This makes it much more likely that the crime will be committed over and over again, and makes it harder for the victim to contact the police.

Domestic violence is not just physical violence. We now think of domestic violence as a series or pattern of behavior which lead to one partner having power and control of the other, and other family members.



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