

WHAT IS BE-SAFE?

BE SAFE is a Domestic Violence Program comprised of Advocates & Social Workers located within the Erie County District Attorney's Office. Our goal is to provide support, resources & safety planning to survivors of Intimate Partner and Family Violence. We specialize in advocacy within the criminal courts and provide education about options and services. BE SAFE recognizes and respects the impact of Domestic Violence trauma in an individual's life.

All services are free and include:

- Court accompaniment and advocacy,
- Supportive counseling, crisis case management,
- Help with planning for your safety,
- Information & referrals to counseling, housing, medical, financial & other programs,
- Helping you communicate with the Assistant District Attorney & police,
- BE SAFE Hotline from 8:30am-5:00pm (716-858-4630),
- Application assistance for the NYS Office of Victim Services, & NYS Address Confidentiality Program.
- VINE program registration for offender release information,
- Bi-lingual, Spanish-speaking advocates.

WHAT IS ABUSE?



Abusive behavior can occur in any relationship in an attempt to gain or maintain power & control over another partner/family member. Tactics which may be used to control & manipulate include:

- **Physical abuse** • **Emotional/Psychological abuse**
- **Verbal abuse/name-calling** • **Economic/Financial abuse**
- **Sexual abuse** • **Threats & intimidation**

WARNING SIGNS



Does your partner or family member:

- Insult you, your beliefs, or call you names?
- Act controlling and manipulative? • Intimidate & threaten you?
- Isolate you from family & friends? • Physically hurt you or your children?
- Destroy your property? • Follow/stalk/text/call you repeatedly?
- Have trouble accepting responsibility? • Control your money?
- Manipulate and make false accusations? • Use your children or visitation to harass you?

PLANNING FOR YOUR SAFETY



Meet with an Advocate for help with your safety plan.

- Call 911 if you feel threatened in any way. For shelter (716) 884-6000.
- Tell a trusted friend or family member & try not to stay alone.
- Be aware of signs that your partner's abuse may be escalating.
- Document incidents of abuse, threats, stalking, and take photos.
- Keep your social media settings private and disable GPS settings.
- Keep a small bag packed/hidden with emergency items if you need to leave in a hurry: ID, SS cards, Birth certificates, medicine, money, Debit/Credit cards, keys, court papers.
- Meet with an Advocate to customize a plan that is unique for you!

CHILDREN



Even if a child is not physically harmed in a home where domestic violence occurs, they may experience emotional & behavioral problems. Most children are aware of the abuse.

Speak with an advocate about protecting your children.

