



WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It includes physical violence, sexual and/or psychological violence, and emotional abuse. The frequency and severity of domestic violence can vary dramatically; however, the one constant component of domestic violence is one partner's consistent efforts to maintain power and control over the other.

Domestic violence is an epidemic affecting individuals in every community regardless of age, economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality. It is often accompanied by emotionally abusive and controlling behavior that is only a fraction of a systematic pattern of dominance and control. Domestic violence can result in physical injury, psychological trauma, and in severe cases, even death. The devastating physical, emotional, and psychological consequences of domestic violence can cross generations and last a lifetime.

For anonymous, confidential help available 24/7, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 (SAFE) or for Deaf and hard of hearing at 1-800-787-3224 (TTY).

For more information, go to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) website or to the **Seeds of Security webpage of the Baltimore-Washington Conference at www.bwcumc.org/sos.**

RESOURCES

Susanna Wesley House (Baltimore)

410-837-3787, www.susannawesleyhouse.org

Arundel House of Hope

410-863-4888, www.hoh.org

Marian House

410-467-4121, <https://www.marianhouse.org/>

Sarah's House

410-551-7722, Catholicharities-md.org (multiple locations)

Source: NCADV <https://ncadv.org/learn-more>



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