

Servicios De La Raza
303.458.5851

Domestic Violence Initiative
303.839.5510

Asian/Pacific Center
303-393-0304

DOVE
DV advocacy for hearing impaired victims
303.831.7932

Jefferson Center for Mental Health
303.425.0300

Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance
<http://www.coloradocrimevictims.org/>

Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal
Justice, Office for Victims' Programs
<http://dcj.state.co.us/ovp>

National Resources

National Organization for Victim Assistance
1.800.799.SAFE (hotline)
www.trynova.org



*As law enforcement professionals, we pledge to serve the
Jefferson County community, build trust and confidence,
and respond to community needs with:*

Integrity

We interact with each other and the community we
serve with honesty, dignity, and respect.

Innovation

We respond to the community's needs with vision and
initiative, relying on both traditional and non-traditional
problem-solving methods.

Partnership

We actively promote a spirit of teamwork
and cooperation through open communication
and the free exchange of ideas.

Service

We continuously develop our skills and talents
to provide top quality, responsive, effective
law enforcement services.

Accountability

We ensure judicious management of human,
financial, and physical resources.

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
200 Jefferson County Parkway
Golden, CO 80401

Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
Phone: 303.277.0211
Emergency: Dial 911
www.jeffcosheriff.com

S H E R I F F

Domestic Violence



Warning signs and resources



www.jeffcosheriff.com

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is physical aggression that happens between people who share or have shared an intimate relationship. An offender may use different kinds of physical force or emotional abuse to control or maintain power over his victim. Physical force may include hitting, kicking, shoving or sexual assault. Emotional abuse may include threats, shouting and verbal intimidation.

Most domestic violence is committed by men, but women can also be offenders. It can and does happen in all different relationships, regardless of income, age, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Domestic violence is under-reported worldwide. A woman who would immediately call the police after being assaulted by a stranger might remain silent about a similar assault by her husband, out of embarrassment or obedience. Many victims suffer years of abuse without reporting it or seeking help.

Domestic Violence in Jeffco

In 2005, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, along with other local agencies and community partners, developed an enhanced response to domestic violence in an effort to significantly reduce its impact through early intervention and prevention.

Domestic violence isn't just the victim's problem. Research has shown that as many as half of DV offenders in the United States commit other crimes outside the home. Also, children who witness DV are at a higher risk for being the next generation of victims and abusers.

By focusing more on domestic violence offenders, the Sheriff's Office is not only working on behalf of domestic violence victims, but is also taking preventive steps to reduce crime and improve the quality of life for county residents and future generations.

The Cycle of Violence

In many violent relationships, the same things may happen over and over again, in a cycle.

In the first stage, tension builds. No matter what a victim does, she can't please her partner. Her partner may criticize, shout, blame or call her names.

The second stage is the explosion. It can be verbal, physical or sexual (rape). An offender may physically hurt a victim in his outburst, or may threaten her or her loved ones, sometimes with weapons.

The third stage is the apology. An offender may apologize, act remorseful, cry or bring gifts. He may even threaten to harm or kill himself if she leaves. In some cases, an offender may convince the victim that the incident was her fault, and then "forgive" her contingent upon her changing her behavior. Following the third stage, things will be calm, until tension begins to build again.

Over time, the cycle of violence will worsen. In 2005, violence between intimate partners resulted in 22 homicides in Colorado: 19 victims were female.

Warning Signs

A woman who is being victimized by a man may fear his temper or his jealousy. She may withdraw from her friends, and may begin drinking heavily or doing drugs. She may avoid being seen with him in public, and may apologize a lot for his behavior. She may have injuries or bruises that don't match the explanations she gives.

A victim's intuition that she is at risk is the best warning sign to heed.

Reporting

If you have been assaulted by your partner or family member, call your local law enforcement agency as soon as possible. In Jefferson County, the Sheriff's Office will respond to your location and file a report. If deputies find



probable cause that a crime has been committed in domestic violence cases, they will arrest the predominant aggressor in compliance with state law.

Getting Help

Victims should know that domestic violence isn't normal or acceptable.

Further, a domestic violence victim may feel responsible for the situation. In reality, the offender is responsible, and needs treatment.

There are ways to get help instead of -- or in addition to -- reporting abuse to law enforcement. There are many local and national organizations out there to help victims of physical and emotional abuse.

Local Shelters

Bailey, Park County Crisis Center/Shelter
303.838.7176

Denver Safehouse
303.892.8400

Women in Crisis, Family Tree
303.420.6752
303.271.6559 (legal)

Other Local Resources

AMEND
303.987.3444

Project Safeguard
303.863.7233

Women In Crisis
303.420.6752