

**Northeastern University
Police Department**

Domestic Violence

Awareness & Prevention Seminar

Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention Seminar

Topics of Discussion

- ❑ **Definition of domestic violence**
- ❑ **Defining the abuser**
- ❑ **Knowing your legal rights**
 - Massachusetts legislation
 - How to obtain a restraining order
 - What to do if the order is violated

Domestic Violence Seminar

- ❑ **Intervention in domestic violence**
- ❑ **Reporting abuse**
 - How to report abuse
 - Exceptions to autonomy
- ❑ **Leaving an abusive relationship**
- ❑ **Resources available: on & off campus**
- ❑ **Referrals for the abuser**

Domestic Violence

Definition

Definition of Domestic Violence

A pattern of coercive control found in any of the following forms:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional
- Economic

Definition of Domestic Violence

Relationship abuse occurs in all groups:

- Racial
- Ethnic
- Religious
- Age
- Socio-economic
- Heterosexual & same-sex relationships

Defining the Abuser



Defining the Abuser

An abuser may be a:

- Roommate
- Household member or former member
- Spouse or former spouse

Defining the Abuser

An abuser may be a:

- Blood relative or minor child
- Parent of your minor child
- Current or former dating partner

Defining the Abuser

A person who has:

- ❑ Physically harmed you**
- ❑ Placed you in fear of imminent serious physical harm**
- ❑ Caused you to engage involuntarily in sexual relations by force, threats or duress**

Domestic Violence

Knowing Your Rights



Massachusetts Legislation

Abuse Prevention Law, Chapter 209A

- ❑ Enacted to protect against abuse
- ❑ Allows Courts to issue protection orders to stop abuse

Massachusetts Legislation

- ❑ Commonly referred to as a Restraining Order
- ❑ Police are responsible for enforcement

How to Obtain A Restraining Order

Making the
Decision to File

How To Obtain An Order

- ❑ Contact University Police who will have a specially trained officer explain the procedure and guide you through the process
- ❑ Complete an application for a “Complaint for Protection from Abuse”
- ❑ This leads to a Civil complaint, not criminal charges against the abuser

Steps to Obtain a Restraining Order

- ❑ Explain in the application why you need protection from the court
- ❑ University Police will escort you to court to meet with a Judge who will hear your request and decide whether to grant a Temporary Restraining Order mandating the abuser not to have any contact with you for 10 days
- ❑ If granted, the Police will attempt to locate the abuser to serve the stay-away order

Steps to Obtain A Restraining Order

- ❑ You will be required to return to court in 10 days for a hearing to determine if the order should be extended
- ❑ Judge decides on extension up to one year based on testimony and evidence by you, the police in certain circumstances and the abuser
- ❑ You must appear at the hearing or the Temporary Restraining Order will be dismissed

How to Obtain An Emergency Restraining Order

- ❑ Get to a safe place
- ❑ Contact the University Police, who will assist you in completing the application forms immediately
- ❑ If court is not in session the University Police will contact a special on-call judge who may grant an emergency order by phone
- ❑ Police will attempt to locate the abuser to serve the emergency order

Emergency Restraining Orders

- ❑ Emergency orders are valid until the next court business day
- ❑ You must appear in court on the next court business day to request the order be extended for 10 days
- ❑ You must appear in court again in 10 days for the hearing at which you and the abuser will have an opportunity to speak with the judge, who will then decide whether to extend the order

Restraining Order Violations

What To Do If the
Order Is Violated



If a Restraining Order is Violated

- ❑ Violation of the order is a crime
- ❑ Contact the police immediately – if the abuser can be located the abuser will usually be arrested
- ❑ If police cannot locate the abuser a criminal complaint can be filed in court and served on the abuser as soon as possible

Reminders

- ❑ Keep a copy of the Restraining Order with you at all times
- ❑ Inform family, friends, neighbors, employers and other appropriate police agencies that you have a Restraining Order against an abuser

Domestic Violence Intervention

Acknowledging
The Abuse



Domestic Violence Intervention Strategies for Family and Friends

- ❑ Tell the victim s/he is not alone
- ❑ Tell the victim s/he is not to blame for the abuse
- ❑ Assure that help is available, provide support
- ❑ Provide options; let her/him decide what to do

Domestic Violence Intervention

- ❑ Determine risk for immediate and future danger
- ❑ Help develop a safety plan
- ❑ Review legal options
- ❑ Help determine what resources are available

Reporting Abuse

What You Should
Know About
Confidentiality



Reporting Abuse

- ❑ The victim decides who to tell about abuse. University Police do not reveal the identity of the victim
- ❑ Medical personnel in Massachusetts are **not** required to report cases of abuse to police or other state agencies
- ❑ The address and workplace of the victim can be kept confidential in court papers

Confidentiality Exceptions

- ❑ Cases involving gunshot wounds, powder burns, or burns covering five percent or more of the body
- ❑ Adult age 60 or over
- ❑ Persons with disabilities
- ❑ Minor (child under age of 18)
51A must be filed with DSS

Confidentiality Exceptions (Cont'd)

- ❑ Minor (child under age of 18)

51A must be filed with Department of Social Services

- ❑ 51A

Mother is abusive

Mother returns to her abusive partner who is abusive to the child

Or the child has sustained injuries as a result of the mother's
battering

Leaving an Abusive Relationship

What You Need To Know



Planning Ahead

- ❑ Have a safety plan in place
- ❑ Know in advance a safe place you can go
- ❑ Take with you important documents (driver's license, bank books, custody documents)
- ❑ Tell someone you trust – Let them help you make the first step

It's Not Your Fault

- ❑ Get involved with a support group on campus or in your community
- ❑ Do not be embarrassed
- ❑ You are not alone and you are not at fault

Resources Available

On Campus



Resources Available On Campus

For advice, guidance or to seek emergency services:

- ☐ **Northeastern University Police Department**

Routine Business: 373-2121

Emergency: 373-3333

- ☐ **University Health and Counseling Services**

373-2772

Resources Available On Campus

- ❑ University Police can arrange for immediate housing in a temporary “safe” room in a University Residence Hall
- ❑ Location of temporary “safe” rooms is confidential
- ❑ Temporary “safe” rooms are available for Northeastern University students who reside on or off campus

Resources Available

Off Campus



Resources Available Off Campus

- ❑ Your home town police

- ❑ Local Hospitals

 - Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

 - Beth Israel Rape Crisis Intervention Program

 - Boston Medical Center

 - Brigham and Women's Hospital

 - Cambridge City Hospital

 - Massachusetts General Hospital

Resources Available Off Campus

❑ Women's Shelters

Asian Shelter & Advocacy Program

Casa Myrna Vasquez

D.O.V.E.: Domestic Violence Ended

Elizabeth Stone House

Harbor Me

Renewal House

Respond

Transition House

Support Committee for Battered Women

Resources Available Off Campus

- ❑ CPASA (Community Program Against Sexual Assault Servicing Women Multi-cultural/Bilingual)
- ❑ Fenway Community Health Center Servicing Gay Men and Women
- ❑ Network for Battered Lesbians
- ❑ Teen Dating Violence Intervention Projects

Resources Available Off Campus

- 24 Hour Hotline numbers

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center at 617-492-7273

National 24 Hour Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 (SAFE)

Resources Available Off Campus

- ❑ Referrals for Batterers

Emerge

Common Purpose

“YOUR SAFETY IS OUR REWARD”

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