



Tips for covering domestic violence

Domestic violence defined:	Domestic violence (also called intimate partner violence (IPV), domestic abuse or relationship abuse) is a pattern of behaviors used by one partner to maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship.
Forms of domestic violence	Physical, emotional, financial, digital and sexual/reproductive abuse & coercion
Who is impacted?	Domestic violence does not discriminate. Anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion or gender can be a victim – or perpetrator – of domestic violence. It can happen to people who are married, living together or who are dating. It affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels.
Why it's complicated to cover	<p>Violence is learned behavior and abusers often exhibit patterns of control and abuse over time and often in private. Also, leaving an abusive relationship is complicated and can be dangerous/difficult. Reasons someone might stay in an abusive relationship include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Fear○ Lack of housing○ Child care concerns○ Employment concerns○ Religious/cultural beliefs○ Family/community pressure○ Immigration status○ Feelings for abuser○ Desire to keep family intact○ Concerns over the well-being of pet(s)
Warning signs of domestic violence:	<p>Your partner may be abusive if he/she ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Tells you that you can never do anything right● Shows extreme jealousy of your friends and time spent away● Keeps you or discourages you from seeing friends or family members● Insults, demeans or shames you with put-downs● Controls every penny spent in the household● Takes your money or refuses to give you money for necessary expenses● Looks at you or acts in ways that scare you● Controls who you see, where you go, or what you do● Prevents you from making your own decisions

- Tells you that you are a bad parent or threatens to harm or take away your children
- Prevents you from working or attending school
- Destroys your property or threatens to hurt or kill your pets
- Intimidates you with guns, knives or other weapons
- Pressures you to have sex when you don't want to or do things sexually you're not comfortable with
- Pressures you to use drugs or alcohol

Tips for interviewing victims of domestic violence (DV)

DO

- Identify the act of domestic violence (DV) as a crime.
- Report DV crime in context of DV incidents/homicides locally and nationwide.
- Provide accurate information about the nature of DV.
- Use experts as sources (e.g., DV practitioners, medical professionals, etc.).
- Protect DV victims' privacy (i.e. hide face, change voice, non-identifiable location, etc.) because media exposure often puts DV victims at great risk for further violence and death.
- Respect victims' rights to refuse an interview.
- Treat victims with dignity and respect.

DON'T

- Do NOT reinforce myths about DV.
- Do NOT imply the victim is to blame or excuses violence.
- Do NOT blame violence on culture, class or economic factors.
- Do NOT interview/film minors impacted by or witness to DV.

10 ways to help domestic violence survivors

- 1) Believe them.
- 2) Reassure them the abuse is not their fault.
- 3) Listen to what they are saying.
- 4) Encourage them to speak with someone about safety planning.
- 5) Respect the decisions they make.
- 6) Ask what type of support would be helpful.
- 7) Provide a safe time and place for them to share their story.
- 8) Don't assume they will end the relationship and don't pressure them to do so.
- 9) Maintain their privacy. Don't talk negatively about them or their abuser in public or online.
- 10) Supporting someone who is struggling can be difficult; seek support from available resources, if needed.

What people experiencing domestic violence should know

You are not alone. It is not your fault. We're here to help.
Call Sojourner's 24-hour crisis hotline (414) 933-2722