

# ***PROVO POLICE VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAM***



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# PERSONNEL

- Full time Coordinator
- Full time VOCA Advocate
- $\frac{3}{4}$  time Spanish-speaking advocate
- One 20 hour Advocate
- 2 part-time therapist
- 2 part-time group co-counselors
- $\frac{3}{4}$  time office support/PR person

# ***WHO DO WE SERVE?***

- Victims of crime and serious injury, including:
  - domestic violence
  - stalking
  - crimes against children
  - aggravated crimes
  - homicide
  - suicide/suicide attempts
  - infant deaths
  - major fires
  - other disasters
  - fatal traffic accidents

# ***WHAT DO WE DO?***

- Immediate crisis response/intervention
- Assistance through the criminal justice system – explain the jungle
- Safety planning
- Education on domestic violence issues
- Referrals for long-term counseling
- Information on short-term counseling and support groups

## **SERVICES, CONTINUED**

- Assistance with shelter referrals
- Transportation to shelters, immigration services, and other resources
- Assistance with reparations for medical expenses, counseling, lost wages, funeral, etc.
- Assistance with protective orders & stalking injunctions

## ***SERVICES, CONT.***

- Information and referrals for welfare, food stamps, housing and other social services
- Advocacy letters for support of services
- Coordination with allied professionals and other victim assistance programs
- Inform victim of their rights
- Death notifications

# HOW TO RECOGNIZE WHEN I OR OTHERS NEED HELP

## **Partner is:**

- ◆ Jealous
- ◆ Isolates
- ◆ Physically Violent
- ◆ Mentally and Verbally Abusive
- ◆ Cruel to Pets and/or Children
- ◆ Blames victim for his/her abuse
- ◆ Controlling
- ◆ Has a history with other partners
- ◆ Unrealistic expectations of partner
- ◆ Blames Partner for their feelings
- ◆ “Playful” use of force in sex
- ◆ Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
- ◆ Threats of Violence
- ◆ Breaking or Striking objects
- ◆ Any use of Force During an Argument

behaviors

## **Watch for:**

- ◆ Unexplained Injuries
- ◆ Story of injury you see not consistent
- ◆ Perpetrator hovering so victim can't be alone with you
- ◆ Perpetrator trying to speak for the victim
- ◆ Victim won't make eye contact with you when asked about abuse
- ◆ Victim minimizing abuse
- ◆ Victim explaining husband's abuse
- ◆ Victim blaming self for the abuse

**HOME VISITS:** Damage to walls, doors, etc.  
Perpetrator hovering  
Other isolating and dominating

# WHAT IS “BATTERING”

- A pattern of physical and sexual violence, emotional abuse and intimidation used by one person to dominate another. Someone who batters uses a variety of behaviors to instill fear and control, insults, calls names, makes degrading comments, and makes or carries out threats to hurt the victim and the children.



# WHAT TO DO IMMEDIATELY IF YOU SUSPECT ABUSE:

- Understand why a victim stays with someone who batters
  - Helps you not be judgmental
- Listen with support and without judgment
- Be aware you are triggering trauma – provide support during a time of crisis
- Pay attention to what is really going on – (no bruises or visible injury, listen for other abuse – control, isolation)
- Ask the battered victim what they need
- Assess what threats have been made and help process safety
- Talk with the victim about the harm caused by battering
- Convince victim to meet with an advocate for resources, options and help with understanding police involvement

# WHAT TO DO IMMEDIATELY IF YOU SUSPECT ABUSE:

- If you see injury, discuss making a police report
- Understand what police have to do by Utah law so you can explain that to the victim
- If you don't understand, call a victim advocate to come over and talk with the victim or contact advocate to see if victim can come there
- Call police if the victim is ready to report
- Understand orders of protection or get them to an advocate so they can explain the different orders and options
- If the victim does not want police involvement, the victim needs a safe plan for when they are ready to leave – urge victim to meet with an advocate!

## 6 Things to Say to A Battered Woman

1. I am afraid for your safety
2. I am afraid for the safety of your children
3. It will only get worse
4. I am here for you
5. You don't deserve to be abused
6. It's not your fault

# SEXUAL ASSAULT

- If assaulted, forensic needs to be collected with 72 hours. Report to ER, Gappmeyer Clinic, call Rape Crisis Hotline 801-356-2511.
- If need police involvement, call police.
- Rape Crisis Support Group call 801-356-2511.
- Call Police Victim Advocate
- ALL THESE SERVICES ARE FREE

# Where to Send Domestic Violence Victims for help

- Police Advocates – Police Department in the Jurisdiction where they live
- Battered Women's Shelter - 801-377-5500
- DV Hotline – local 1-800-897-LINK
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- National DV Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE
- Rape Crisis Hotline 1-801-377-5500

# Questions

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