

The following are suggestions for what your salon can do to join the fight against domestic violence:

- Partner with the local shelter or domestic violence program in your area to provide fund-raising, free services, or needed items (such as products, clothing, etc.).
- Allow a victim to call our hotline from a safe and private area of your salon.
- Include domestic abuse safety planning in personnel policies.
- Develop workplace policies on domestic abuse for employees (contact us for more assistance).

Information For The Victims:

Signs that your partner may be abusive:

- Controlling/manipulative
- Unpredictable mood swings
- Isolates you from friends and family
- Uses force
- Verbally abusive
- Threatens violence

What to do if he becomes violent:

- Call the police or have someone else call
- Grab your emergency kit
- Get out and take your children with you

What to do if you think you're in danger:

- Make a safety plan
- Make a list of people you can trust for help and their phone numbers
- Have an emergency kit with money, medical cards, car keys, I.D., medication, important papers, etc. (make sure you can get it quickly)

Services Provided by the YWCA Of the Tonawandas

Individual Counseling – A professional counselor can help you achieve safety, independence, and increased self-confidence.

Support Groups – Provides women with a supportive environment for planning a non-violent future. Domestic violence education, enhancing self-esteem, combating anger and depression, are addressed.

Advocacy – We can accompany you to Criminal, Family or Supreme Court; to the police, Department of Social Services, to help you through the system.

Child Care – Available free of charge to allow women to attend group counseling.

Legal Clinic – Monthly Clinics are held where you can talk to an attorney free of charge.

Community Education – We provide speakers to any group or organization interested in learning about family or dating violence.

Community Referrals – We make referrals on your behalf to other local agencies, ensuring all your needs are met.

Shelter – We can arrange for you to receive temporary emergency shelter at the nearest available shelter.

Follow up – We continue to support clients of our program through continued contact.

Career & Education – We can assist you in preparing a resume and filling out admission and financial aid forms for school.

Parenting Education – 6 week classes

Transitional Housing – Available for qualified clients.

All services are FREE and confidential

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G.I.F.T.S. Ofc. 773-9686

**24 Hour Hotline:
716-692-5643**

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Salons Against Domestic Violence



What Salons Can Do To Stop Domestic Violence



Has a client ever shared with you that they are being abused by their spouse or partner?

~ **Facts** ☐ ~

- Annually, approximately 1.5 million women are raped and/or physically assaulted by an intimate partner in the United States.
- A woman is battered by an intimate partner every 9 seconds in the United States.
- Battering is the single largest cause for injury to women in the United States, accounting for 35% of visits by women to emergency rooms annually.
- Nearly one-third of American women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives.



What is Domestic Violence?

- A pattern of violent and/or coercive tactics committed by one intimate partner against another.
- A pattern of controlling behavior that consists of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse or assaults and emotional abuse.
- A learned pattern of behavior.
- While most perpetrators are men, it is important to remember that most men are not perpetrators. Victims may be men or women as well as those in same sex relationships.

Signs that your client may be abused:

- Bruising, abrasions, or cuts in the hairline or scalp area, in different stages of healing.
- Bald spots indicating hair has been torn or pulled out.
- Unusual, unexplained bruising.
- Bruises are minimized and explained by clumsiness, "I walked into the door."
- Hair frailty, brittleness, or loss due to stress.
- Inability to keep appointments.
- Partner always accompanies client to appointments or waits outside in the parking lot.
- Injuries not seen, but may be indicated by the woman's difficulty of sitting in the chair, having hair washed, or general mobility issues due to soreness, tenderness, bruising, or other internal injuries.
- Frequent illness, stress-related issues such as migraines, generalized pain, soreness, backaches, stomach ailments, eating/sleeping disorders, bruises/marks on body.
- Isolated from family and friends.
- Shows strong emotions or behavior that seems out of character.

Your client may also discuss any of the following:

- Her partner will not allow her to come more often to the salon.
- Her partner will not allow her to change her hairstyle, color, or try new techniques.
- Her partner is controlling and extremely jealous.
- Relationship problems that seem controlling or abusive.
- The salon is the only place she is allowed to go alone because it is an all-female environment.

What can you do to help?

Do

- ★ Believe the client
- ★ Respect their right to privacy or to refuse help
- ★ Encourage them to get medical attention
- ★ Know when to refer
- ★ Respect confidentiality

Don't

- ★ Tell them you know how they feel
- ★ Force them to talk if they are not ready
- ★ Be judgmental
- ★ Breach confidentiality

If you suspect that a client is the victim of domestic violence, you should:

- Ask her if this is the case. Be non-confrontational and assure her that you are concerned for her safety.
- Know that you are not in a position to counsel your client. The best role you can take is to provide her with information and a local domestic violence agency's phone number.
- Know that every situation is unique, and **your judgment and quick response to identifiable behavior will play a key factor in the client getting the help** that she needs.
- Remember that Salons are open spaces where sound carries easily. Be aware of your surroundings before discussing domestic violence with your client.