

## WHY DOES SOMEONE STAY?

- FEAR!
- Economic dependency
- Partner is not always abusive
- May be unaware of available help
- Children
- Religious or cultural beliefs
- Loves the partner
- Partner makes promises to change
- Does not want to be alone

## MYTH VS. FACT

**MYTH-** Domestic violence is not a major problem.

**FACT-** A woman is beaten every 15 seconds and 2,000 to 4,000 women are killed by their partners each year in the US.

**MYTH-** Domestic violence is a “low income” problem.

**FACT-** Domestic violence cuts across all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups.



DVSSP is a member program of PCADV

# DVSSP

Domestic Violence Services  
of Southwestern PA

EDUCATING COMMUNITIES • EMPOWERING SURVIVORS  
ELIMINATING RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE

Washington County  
P.O. Box 503  
Washington, PA 15301  
24/7 Hotline: 724-223-9190

Greene County  
43 North Morgan Street  
Waynesburg, PA 15370  
24/7 Hotline: 724-852-2463

Fayette County  
P.O. Box 941  
Uniontown, PA 15401  
24/7 Hotline: 724-439-9500

or

800-791-4000

[peacefromdv.org](http://peacefromdv.org)



**NO MORE**  
TOGETHER WE CAN END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

# There is a safe place to go...



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## What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive control that includes the use of one or any combination of physical, emotional, sexual, digital, and economic abuse. Domestic violence does not discriminate and spans all races, ages, cultures, and socioeconomic lines. Additionally, it occurs between blood relatives as well as married and dating partners and can happen in heterosexual or same sex relationships.

**Domestic violence is about power and control.**

- Domestic violence is the single major cause of injury to women.
- 30% of female homicide victims are killed by their husbands or boyfriends.
- 1 out of 5 college students is involved in a violent relationship.

The mission of Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern PA (DVSSP) is to increase awareness of domestic violence and its effect on the community, to empower those victimized by providing advocacy and safe and effective services, and to work for social change designed to eliminate domestic violence.

**“I was afraid to come to a [safe house]. I pictured a place that was cold and clinical but found it actually to be more of a home than my own.”**

**“I am so grateful for all you have done for me. I got my hope, my spirit, and my pride back. Calling there was the best thing I could have done.”**

The vision of DVSSP is to be a part of a community in which domestic and partner violence is eradicated for everyone, by everyone.

As part of DVSSP’s commitment to end violence, prevention and bystander intervention are key elements in our quest for a world free from abusive relationships because *love shouldn’t hurt...*

**Help DVSSP say no more to domestic violence!**



## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

**24/7 Hotline:** We provide crisis counseling, safety planning, support, information and referrals to victims of domestic violence, their family, friends, and assisting agencies.

**Emergency Safe House:** Safe housing for up to 30 days for victims of domestic violence and their children. Food, clothing, and personal care items as needed. 24-hour transportation with intake.

**Empowerment Counseling and Support Group:** Free individual and group counseling for anyone who is or has been directly involved in an abusive relationship.

**Children’s Program:** Daily programs offered for children residing within our facility. One-on-one and group counseling activities.

**Legal Advocacy:** We provide free and confidential assistance with filing Protection from Abuse Orders, court accompaniment, support, information, and advocacy as victims progress through the legal system.

**Prevention, Education, and Training:** School programs are offered to all grade levels focusing on violence prevention. Presentations and trainings are also offered to local businesses, agencies, civic, and religious groups.

***All services provided by DVSSP are free and confidential.***