

How do you reach a Domestic Violence Specialist (DVS)?

Every Transitional Assistance Office has a Domestic Violence Specialist:

Southeast Region

Coordinator	(508) 895-7163
Brockton	(508) 895-7163
Fall River	(508) 646-6299
Centralized Fall River	(508) 646-6299
Hyannis	(508) 862-6614
New Bedford	(508) 961-2013
Plymouth	(508) 884-5354
Taunton	(508) 884-5354

Greater Boston Region

Coordinator	(617) 551-1724
Chelsea Center	(617) 551-1724
Dudley Square	(617) 989-6142
New Market	(617) 989-2205

Spanish Speaking Domestic Violence Specialists available at all area offices.

Especialistas en Violencia Domestica disponible en todas oficinas.

Northeast and Central Regions

Coordinator	(978) 725-7155
Malden	(781) 388-7394
Fitchburg	(508) 767-3115
Framingham	(508) 661-6627
Lawrence	(978) 725-7155
Lowell	(978) 446-2414
North Shore	(978) 825-7448
Worcester	(508) 767-3115

Western Region

Coordinator	(413) 858-1155
Greenfield	(413) 772-3456
Holyoke	(413) 552-5420
Liberty St. Springfield	(413) 858-1155
Pittsfield	(413) 858-1155
Southbridge	(508) 765-2426
State St. Springfield	(413) 858-1308

For General Information About the Domestic Violence Unit, Call

Department of Transitional Assistance at
(617) 348-8500

After Hours call SAFELINK

1-(877)785-2020

Visit our website at www.mass.gov/dta

Domestic Violence Unit

***Everyone Deserves to be safe!!
Are you?***



If you are now or ever have been in a relationship where you or your children are or were abused, threatened or made to feel afraid, the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) can help. Every DTA office has staff members who are experienced in the field of Domestic Violence. Ask for the Domestic Violence Specialist (DVS) at your local office.

You and Your Children Deserve to Be Safe!

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Warning Checklist

Does your partner...

1. Try to control your life?
2. Control the money?
3. Not allow you to work, or sabotage your efforts to work or go to school?
4. Follow you or try to prevent you from going anywhere by yourself?
5. Accuse you of cheating or show jealous and controlling behavior?
6. Monitor your time?
7. Isolate you from friends or family?
8. Put down or call you names?
9. Humiliate you in public?
10. Force you to do things you don't want to do?
11. Drive recklessly with you in the car?
12. Threaten to hurt or kill you?
13. Take away medication you need?
14. Use violence towards you and/or your children?
15. Make you have sex when you do not want to?

If you have answered yes to some or all of these questions, you may be involved in an abusive relationship.

What is Domestic Violence?

You do not have to be physically attacked to be in an abusive relationship. Abuse can be verbal, emotional, financial, physical and/or sexual. Domestic Violence is often defined as the use of power (verbal, emotional, physical, financial or sexual abuse) to control the relationship.

Financial Abuse is:

- Withholding information and controlling decisions regarding money.
- Not paying bills, which can lead to eviction.
- Not helping to pay other family expenses.
- Not allowing you to work.
- Setting you up to fail in your job or education efforts (by lack of cooperation such as refusing childcare and/or transportation or harassing you at work).
- Helping you financially only if you do what they tell you to do.

Making the decision to leave and be safe often results in losing financial support and a place to live. DVS are here to assist you.

How Can a Domestic Violence Specialist (DVS) Help?

Domestic Violence Specialists:

Are experienced in working with victims of domestic violence and know that the abuse is not your fault.

Will listen to you and help you figure out how to safely take the steps you are ready to take.

Know about resources in your community and will help you access them.

Will help you find a safe place for you and your children to stay if that is what is needed.

Can help you make a plan and take the steps needed to obtain economic self-sufficiency and/or financial stability.

Can answer your questions regarding safety, options and resources, and child support. They can also help you ask for more time to comply with some of the Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) rules, if you need to due to the abuse (this is called a Domestic Violence (DV) Waiver).

These rules include the following:

- The Work Program
- The Time Limit on cash benefits
- The Family Cap
- School attendance for teen parents
- Cooperating with child support