

## Child Witness to Domestic Violence Services and Programs

### The Child Witness to Violence Project 617.414.4244

Boston Medical Center, One Boston  
Medical Center Place, Boston, MA

### The Children's Charter 781.894.4307

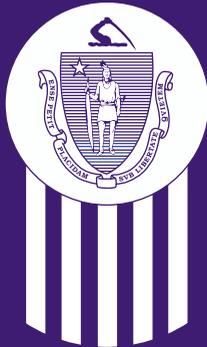
77 Rumford Avenue  
Waltham, MA

### The Trauma Center 617.232.0687

1269 Beacon Street, Brookline MA

### Wayside Trauma Intervention Services 508.478.6888 (ext. 115 or ext. 117)

10 Asylum Street, Milford, MA



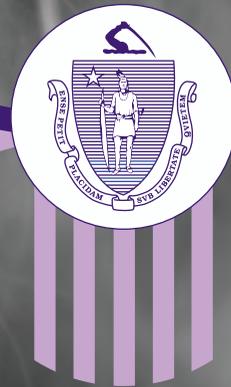
**MICHAEL W. MORRISSEY**  
NORFOLK DISTRICT ATTORNEY

[norfolkda.com](http://norfolkda.com)

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## HURTS KIDS

You are not alone. You are not to blame.



**MICHAEL W. MORRISSEY**  
NORFOLK DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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## Help is available

### POLICE | CALL 911

#### Norfolk District Attorney's Office

#### Domestic Violence Advocates (business hours)

- **Brookline District Court 617.738.5072**  
*(Brookline)*
- **Dedham District Court 781.251.0216**  
*(Dedham, Dover, Medfield, Needham, Norwood, Wellesley and Westwood)*
- **Quincy District Court 617.479.7454**  
*(Braintree, Cohasset, Holbrook, Milton, Quincy, Randolph and Weymouth)*
- **Stoughton District Court 781.344.9227**  
*(Avon, Canton, Sharon and Stoughton)*
- **Wrentham District Court 508.384.3788**  
*(Foxborough, Franklin, Medway, Millis, Norfolk, Plainville, Walpole and Wrentham)*

#### Domestic Violence Shelter & Support Services

- **SafeLink: Massachusetts Statewide Hotline 1.877.785.2020 (24 HOURS/multiple languages)**  
*(Makes connections to available shelters)*
- **Massachusetts Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault 1.877.785.2020**  
[www.janedoe.org](http://www.janedoe.org)
- **DOVE, Inc. 1.888.314.3683**
- **New Hope, Inc. 1.800.323.4673**
- **Casa Myrna Vasquez 617.521.0100**  
*(Services available in Spanish and English)*
- **Elizabeth Stone House 617.427.9801**

#### GLBT Domestic Violence Services

- **Fenway Community Health**  
Violence Recovery Program 1.800.834.3242
- **Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project**  
1.800.832.1901
- **The Network/La Red 617.742.4911**

#### Multilingual Domestic Violence Services

- **Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence 617.338.2355**  
*(Multilingual services available)*
- **A New Day 1.888.293.7273**  
*(Services available in Cape Verdean Creole, Portuguese, Spanish and English)*

#### Batterer Intervention Programs

- **Billings Human Services 781-762-0060**
- **Common Purpose 617.522.6500**
- **Emerge 617-547-9879**

#### Department of Children and Families

- **Domestic Violence Unit 617.748.2333**

#### Visitation Centers

- **Family & Community Resources, Inc.**  
508.583.6498
- **New Hope**  
508.753.3146

TTY/TDD users **dial 711** for  
**Massachusetts Relay Service (24/7)**

**Voice: 1.800.439.0183**

**Customer Service: 1.800.720.3479**

# When Children Witness Violence in the Home

Children can be deeply affected by violence in the community and at home. They see violence on TV, in movies and in video games. They hear it in music. Children may also witness domestic violence in their homes, including fights that involve yelling, screaming or hitting. Sometimes these fights end with someone getting hurt, badly beaten, stabbed, or even shot. Witnessing any violence at home is especially troubling for children.

## How children react when they see or hear violence

Children react differently at different ages, but ALL children - even infants and toddlers - can be affected by witnessing violence. Children who witness domestic violence might exhibit:

- Fear or moodiness
- Aggressive or withdrawn behavior
- Bedwetting or daytime "accidents"
- Sleep problems (nightmares, frequently waking)
- Over or under eating
- Staying away from home or staying at home too much (avoiding regular activities)
- Worrying about the safety of loved ones
- Difficulty concentrating or behaving at school
- Trouble making or keeping friends
- Running away
- Alcohol and/or other drug involvement
- Imitating the abuser's words or actions

## Domestic violence hurts kids, even when kids are not the target. Kids may....

- See the violence or the aftermath - tears or broken objects
- Be told not to tell anyone what has happened
- Hear the violence, even if they are "asleep" in the next room or pretending to be asleep; the noise often wakes children up
- Feel unsafe due to tension in the house
- Hide in their rooms to shut out the abusive sounds and sights
- Be caught in the middle either intentionally or accidentally; kids can be punched, kicked or hit with thrown objects
- Be used as a shield to try to protect their non-abusing parent
- Learn that violence and abuse is okay
- Feel it is not safe to express their feelings

**It's unsettling to think that domestic violence affects our children. Being aware of the different ways kids can be hurt is the first step toward making things better.**

**The next step is to reach out for help**



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