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

Every Transitional Assistance Office has a Domestic Violence Specialist:

Southeast Region

Coordinator	(617) 447-3982
Brockton	(617) 459-9230
Fall River	617) 756-5566
Hyannis	(617) 504-6059
New Bedford	(617) 756-7032
Taunton	(617) 869-7419

Boston Region

Coordinator	(617) 447-3985
Boston	(617) 447-3985
	(617) 504-6148
Chelsea Center	(617) 504-5231
Quincy	(617) 447-3986

Spanish Speaking Domestic Violence Specialists are available.

Professional Interpreter Services are available for all other languages.

Central Region

Coordinator	(617) 447-3728
Framingham	(617) 447-3728
Fitchburg	(617) 504-2973
Worcester	(617) 756-7157
Southbridge	(617) 504-2973

Northeast Region

Coordinator	(617) 785-9357
Lowell	(617) 785-9357
Lawrence	(617) 756-2449
North Shore	(617) 785-9357
Malden	(617) 780-8971

Western Region

Coordinator	(617) 429-1862
Springfield	(617) 429-1862
	(617) 756-0749
Greenfield	(617) 447-3983
Holyoke	(413) 667-7322
Pittsfield	(857) 275-1862

For General Information About the Domestic Violence Unit, Call:

Department of Transitional Assistance

Assistance Line at: 1-877-382-2363

Visit our website at www.mass.gov/dta

After Hours call SAFELINK

1-(877)785-2020

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Everyone Deserves to be Safe

Domestic Violence Unit

If you are now or have ever been in an intimate 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.

You and Your Children
Deserve to be Safe

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Warning Checklist

Does your partner…

1. Try to control your life?
2. Not allow you to work, or sabotage your efforts to work or go to school? Control the money?
3. Follow you or try to prevent you from going anywhere by yourself?
4. Accuse you of cheating or show jealous and controlling behavior?
5. Monitor your time? Use technology and social media to monitor and control you?
6. Isolate you from friends or family?
7. Put you down or call you names?
8. Humiliate you in public?
9. Force you to do things you don't want to do?
10. Drive recklessly with you in the car?
11. Threaten to hurt or kill you?
12. Take away medication you need?
13. Use violence towards you and/or your children?
14. 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. Domestic Violence (or Intimate Partner Violence) is defined as a pattern of behavior that uses power to control the relationship. Abuse can be verbal, emotional, financial, physical and/or sexual.

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:

Have experience working with victims of intimate partner 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 safety plan with you and inform you about shelter/housing resources if you need a safe place for you and your children to stay.

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 due to the abuse. This is called a Domestic Violence Waiver.

These rules include the following:

- The Work Program
- The Time Limit
- School Rules for Parents under 20
- Cooperating with child support