

**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
Hyannis	(508) 862-6614
New Bedford	(508) 961-2013
Plymouth	(508) 732-3117
Taunton	(508) 884-5354

**Greater Boston Region**

Coordinator	(617) 989-2205
New Market	(617) 989-2205
Chelsea Center	(617) 551-1724
Dudley Square	(617) 989-6075
Quincy	(617) 249-8140

**Spanish Speaking Domestic Violence Specialists are available.**

**Professional Interpreter Services are available for all other languages.**

**Central Region**

Coordinator	(508) 661-6627
Framingham	(508) 661-6627
Fitchburg	(978) 665-8713
Worcester	(508) 767-3115
Southbridge	(508) 765-2426

**Northeast Region**

Coordinator	(781) 388-7394
Malden	(781) 388-7394
Lawrence	(978) 725-7155
Lowell	(978) 446-2414
North Shore	(978) 825-7448

**Western Region**

Coordinator	(413) 772-3418
Greenfield	(413) 772-3418
Holyoke	(413) 552-5420
Springfield	(413) 858-1080 (413) 858-1155
Pittsfield	(413) 236-2014

**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.state.ma.us/dta](http://www.state.ma.us/dta)

After Hours call SAFELINK

1-(877)785-2020

***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. 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. 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 attendance for teen parents
- Cooperating with child support