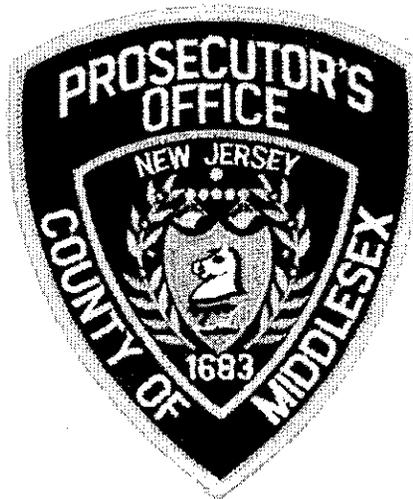


**Middlesex County  
Prosecutor's Office  
Domestic Violence Unit**



**DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE**

**A Guide To  
Domestic Violence**



**MIDDLESEX COUNTY  
PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE  
Domestic Violence Unit  
25 Kirkpatrick Street  
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901  
(732) 745-3300**

## DEFINITIONS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- The act of violence or willful neglect within a family.
- Any hurtful or unwanted behavior perpetrated upon an individual by an intimate or prior intimate. Includes physical, psychological and emotional abuse. Primarily a learned behavior whose effects, without intervention, become more destructive over time.
- Emotional, psychological, physical, sexual, or economic abuse that one person in an intimate relationship uses in order to control the other.
- Domestic violence includes murder, negligent homicide, justifiable homicide, kidnapping, rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object, forcible fondling, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault or intimidation, where the victim to offender relationship is based on marriage, family ties, a romantic relationship or a former marriage.
- Incidents of inter-spousal physical or emotional abuse perpetrated by one of the spouses or parent figures upon the other spouse or parent figure in the child victim's home environment.
- Violence that occurs within a family or an intimate relationship, including wife beating and child abuse.
- Violent behavior directed by one member of a household against another.

- Any physical abuse or threat or pattern thereof, between intimately involved partners, roommates, or family members. Domestic violence and other domestic friction is a significant contributor to homelessness and general domestic upheaval. Although most domestic violence victims are ostensibly women, some social recognition is beginning to manifest for male domestic violence victims as well.
- Domestic violence, also called "intimate partner abuse," "battering," or "wife-beating," refers to physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse that takes place in the context of an intimate relationship, including marriage. Domestic violence is one of the most common forms of gender-based violence and is often characterized by long-term patterns of abusive behavior and control.
- An offense committed where law enforcement officials identify the crime as being Domestic Violence related, which are usually assault or criminal mischief. This may also involve charges that are submitted through local municipal codes.
- Refers to any assault (physical or verbal) between two people who are related through marriage, family, dating relationship, or as roommates, or have been related in any of these ways
- Physical and/or emotional harm suffered by person who is a family member of, or residing in the same home as, the offender who caused the harm or injury.
- Physical or mental abuse that occurs between members of a family, common home or

household. Definition of domestic violence in Australia is not restricted to that between husband and wife alone. It can extend to other members of the extended family.

- Violence or physical abuse directed toward your spouse or domestic partner; usually violence by men against women
- Domestic violence, by barest definition, is violence within a home. Beyond this, the term has a range of definitions, some more and some less formal, which are frequently used with little awareness that a range of definitions exists.

If any of these definitions apply to you, you may be the victim of Domestic Violence.

The local police department should be called because Domestic Violence is a serious crime and the police must respond to your calls – no matter how many times you call them. Under the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, it is the duty of the police officer who responds to a domestic violence call to enforce the law and to protect the victim.

*In addition to calling your local police department, you should ask to speak to a member of the towns Domestic Violence Crisis Response Team. They can help provide you with counseling pertaining to: Safe housing/shelter, Support groups, and information on your legal rights.*

**TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE AT  
WOMEN AWARE  
CALL 24/7 - 732-249-4504**

**Helpful Phone Numbers & Websites:**

Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office  
25 Kirkpatrick St. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
(732) 745-3300

Website: [www.co.middlesex.nj.us/prosecutor](http://www.co.middlesex.nj.us/prosecutor):

Women Aware Inc.  
24 Hour Hotline  
732-249-4504  
Website:  
[womenaware.net](http://womenaware.net)



Division of Youth & Family Service  
24 Hour Hotline  
1-800-792-8610  
Website:  
[www.state.nj.us/dcf/divisions/dyfs](http://www.state.nj.us/dcf/divisions/dyfs)



NJ Coalition for Battered Women  
24/7  
1-800-572-7233  
[www.njcbw.org/](http://www.njcbw.org/)