

Partner Assault

Together, let's end the violence

Police Information

Name: _____ Badge: _____

Business (Direct): _____ Ext: _____

Incident #: _____

Date: _____



This document was published by Centr'Elles with funding provided by the Government of Canada through the Department of Justice Canada Victims Fund.

(A pamphlet is also available for the City of Thunder Bay)



Partner Assault

Domestic violence includes any physical violence, threats of violence or criminal harassment between two persons who have been in a current or prior intimate relationship, including heterosexual and same sex relationships, whether or not they cohabitated or the relationship received legal sanction as a marriage. The parties do not need to be living together and the assault can happen in or outside the home. This doesn't include parent/child relationships or relatives in conflict.

Although both women and men can be victims of partner assault, the overwhelming majority of this type of violence involves men abusing women.

Criminal Code offences include, but are not limited to, homicide, assault, sexual assault, threatening death or bodily harm, forcible confinement, harassment/stalking, abduction, break and enter and property-related offences. A criminal offence can be as simple as a slap or as serious as a homicide.

These crimes often display a repeating pattern of assault and/or controlling behaviour. It can also include threats to harm children, other family members, pets and property. The violence is used to intimidate, humiliate or frighten victims, or to make them feel powerless.

Partner assault can be a single act of abuse. It can also include a number of acts that may appear minor in nature, but collectively form a pattern that amounts to abuse.

Partner assault can be reported by phone or in person at any Police Station.

When The Police Become Involved

- Police will respond to the call for service and will conduct a thorough investigation and a report will be submitted. The police officer will ask you to provide a statement about the incident. If you have suffered any injury, photographs of the injury will be taken with your consent.
- If the officer has reasonable grounds to believe an offence has occurred in an intimate relationship, the accused will be arrested and a charge will be laid.
- Following an arrest, the accused may be released but, generally, conditions in the form of an Undertaking or Recognizance will be imposed. The accused may also be held in custody pending a Bail Hearing.
- The accused will appear in bail court on the next business day following the arrest.

- You will be offered assistance in finding a place of safety, if required.
- The Children's Aid Society of the District of Thunder Bay or Kenora-Rainy River Districts Child & Family Services will be notified when children are present during a partner assault incident.
- The Victim Witness Assistance Program will become involved once the police have laid charges. Staff will contact you and provide information about the criminal court process and provide you with court documents specific to your case.
- When a charge has been laid, the case will be prosecuted by a lawyer from the Crown Attorney's office, at no cost to the victim.
- If the abuser pleads not guilty and the case proceeds to trial, you will receive a subpoena to appear in court. You must attend court. You should notify the investigator immediately if you change your address or telephone number in order to make communication easier.
- If you have any questions, or require further assistance regarding the investigation of your case, you can contact the investigator assigned to your case.

Peace Bond

A peace bond is a court order that may be issued under section 810 of the Criminal Code of Canada. You may apply to obtain a peace bond against a person whom you have reasonable grounds to fear may cause personal injury to you, your property or your family. To obtain a peace bond, you must first attend the Ontario Court of Justice to meet with the Justice of the Peace. A peace bond requires that the defendant keep the peace and be of good behaviour towards the applicant and/or the applicant's family (other conditions may be imposed). A peace bond can be in effect for up to twelve (12) months.

- A court date will be set - The defendant will receive a summons to attend court and a hearing will take place. You will be able to tell the Justice of the Peace what happened.
- A peace bond will be issued - If the Justice of the Peace believes you, an order will be made and the defendant will be bound by that order.

Private Complaint

Individuals may go before the Justice of the Peace at the Ontario Court of Justice to request that a charge be laid on their behalf.

Restraining Order

A restraining order is a Family Court order that requires your partner or former partner to stop molesting, annoying or harassing you or your children, or from communicating with you or your children except as the order provides.

This order may be obtained by applying to the Family Court. You may wish to seek legal advice. You may attend the Ontario Court of Justice and ask to speak to someone at the Family Law Information Centre. If an order is issued and the defendant breaches the order, report the breach to the police immediately. After an investigation, it could result in charges being laid.

What is the difference between a peace bond and a restraining order? You may apply for a peace bond against any person who you have reasonable grounds to fear may cause personal injury to you, your property or your family. A peace bond is commonly used under Section 810 of the Criminal Code.

Child Custody Issues

Often, the police are called to enforce court orders dealing with parents' rights of access to their children. Even though there may be an order in place allowing for visitation, the law does not give the police the power to intervene and to enforce the order. If one party refuses to grant access to children, you need to go back to the court that issued the order concerning access. The court may then direct the police to find and deliver a child to the person named in the order. Unless an order is obtained containing that specific information, the police are only able to keep the peace. Non-compliance with an order must be dealt with by the originating court and through the penalty section of the Family Law Act or the Children's Law Reform Act.

Safety Concerns

The following are just some general safety tips. A detailed safety plan is important and is available from the community agencies identified in this brochure.

- Do whatever you can to keep you and your children safe.
- If possible, leave the home or call the police before any violence starts.
- If you need to leave your home or workplace, know the best escape routes and practice your emergency exit plans. Teach children the escape route.
- Keep spare keys for your home and/or car with you in a safe place at all times.

- If possible make a "safe area" in your home that you and your children can go to when you feel threatened and cannot leave. Avoid bathrooms, kitchens, garage, rooms containing weapons and rooms with access to the outside.
- Plan where you can go if you need to leave. These places should be safe locations where you and your children can go in a crisis.
- Keep your purse/wallet nearby in case you have to leave.
- Keep copies of important documents in a safe place.
- Keep money in a safe place for emergencies.
- Keep a small bag of clothes packed and hidden. Keep extra clothes available in case you have to leave.
- If a problem happens when you're driving home, you can use a cellular phone to call for help, honk the horn continuously, drive to a well lit public place that is open and heavily populated, or drive directly to the local police service/OPP detachment for assistance.
- If you use public transit, you can sit close to the front, by the driver, and arrange for someone to meet you at the bus stop and walk you home. Once you have arrived at your home, call a relative or friend to let them know you arrived safely.
- If possible, change your routine.
- Tell trusted friends, neighbours or relatives about the abuse and create a code word or signal with them to call police if you needed help.
- Ensure your children's school and/or day care have a copy of all court orders, including restraining orders, custody and access orders and a picture of your partner.
- Decide with your children on a code word that will let them know to go and get help. Let children know whose house they can run to.
- Let children know where the cordless or cell phone is located. Teach children how to call for help and important phone numbers like 911.
- If possible change the locks, install an alarm system, add window bars and install outside lights.
- Tell friends or neighbours if your partner no longer lives in the home. If you are in fear of your safety and your partner no longer lives in the home, tell your neighbour to phone police if they see your partner around the home.
- Make your boss/co-workers aware of the situation. Show them a photo of your partner and ask them to call police if they see him/her around your workplace. Ask your employer and co-workers not to give out information about you like your schedule, phone number, where you are, etc.
- Arrange for someone like security or a co-worker to walk you from the building when leaving work.

Transition Houses

Women's Shelter of Hope
Atikokan: 807 597-2868

Equay Wuk Women's Shelter
Big Trout Lake: 807-537-2267

Hoshizaki House
Dryden: 807 223-7311

Gitchi-Nen-Dom Healing Lodge
Fort Frances: 807 274-1815

Geraldton Family Resource Centre
807 854-1529

Women's Shelter Saakaate House
Kenora: 807-468-1889

Marjorie House
Marathon: 807 229-2223
Manitouwadge: 807 826-4224
Schreiber: 807 824-3380

New Starts for Women
Red Lake: 807 727-2820

First Step Women's Shelter
Sioux Lookout: 807 737-1438

Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis Centres

Centr'Elles
Geraldton: 807 854-9001
Northwestern Ontario: 888 415-4156

Kenora Sexual Assault Centre
807 468-7958

Victim/Witness Assistance Program

Dryden: 807 223-7310
Geraldton: 807-854-2181
Fort Frances: 807 274-3331
Kenora: 807 468-2839

Emergency Numbers

Emergency.....911
Nishnawbe-Aski Police Services.....1 888 396-6277
Ontario Provincial Police.....1 888-310-1122

Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario

Greenstone Victim Services
Geraldton: 807 854-4357

Crisis Response Services Kenora Rainy River District
Dryden: 807 223-8884

Rainy River District Victim Services
Fort Frances: 807 274-5687

Sunset Area Victim Services
Kenora: 807 467-2815

Superior North Victim Services
Manitouwadge: 807 826-4171
Marathon: 807 229-8877

Lac Seul Victim Support Services
Soux-Lookout: 807-737-1700

Victim Quick Response Program

Crisis Response Services Kenora Rainy River District
Dryden: 807 223-8884

Family Court Support Worker Program

Hoshizaki House Dryden District Crisis Shelter
Dryden: 807-223-7317

Centre de service juridique pour femmes francophones de l'Ontario (CSJFFO)
888 415-4154

Other Services

North of Superior Counselling Programs
877-895-6677

Out of the Woods Counselling
Kenora: 807 474-2235

Indian Friendship Centres
800 772-9291

For more details on other services, please contact one of the agencies found in this pamphlet.