



# NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION THREAT INTELLIGENCE CONSORTIUM

## COVID-19 Response – Intelligence Assessment

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## COVID-19 Restrictions May Contribute to Rise in Domestic Violence

*Fear associated with the uncertainty of COVID-19 combined with restrictions on freedom of movement—including stay-at-home orders—will likely contribute to a rise in incidents of domestic violence.* The [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#) warned the public in a statement last month that abusers may use the threat of COVID-19 to manipulate and isolate their victims. For example, abusers could use social distancing<sup>1</sup> and self-quarantines as opportunities to conduct and hide abusive behavior.

- According to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, there has been an increase in callers reporting that their abusers are using COVID-19 as an excuse to isolate and distance victims from support networks, including family and friends. The CEO of the group stated, “Perpetrators are threatening to throw their victims out on the street, so they get sick.”
- Calls to [DC Safe](#), a District-focused victim services nonprofit, has reported an increase in call volume, some 1500 calls since March 8, roughly double its normal call volume.
- According to the [World Health Organization](#), domestic violence often increases following disasters due to the disruption of physical and social environments. According to one [study](#), men and women in post-Katrina Mississippi experienced a significant increase in psychological victimization—abuse that was connected to a higher risk of depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.



Abusers' common pattern of actions used to control their victims  
(Source: [Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs](#))

*Advocacy groups recommend that family members and friends check-in with potential abuse victims noting outreach could help identify cases and reduce incidents of severe harm.*

- Advocates encourage family and friends use FaceTime or another video chat to connect with individuals who may be at risk of domestic violence.
- A visual picture could reveal nonverbal hints that a person is in danger.

<sup>1</sup> The practice of maintaining a greater than usual physical distance from other people or of avoiding direct contact.

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*Survivors are best able to determine their situations and are encouraged to develop [safety plans](#).* Safety plans can include what measures to take while living with an abuser and what items to take when a victim is able to leave—including emergency phone numbers, identification, legal papers, money, and medications.

### Local Resources for Survivors of Domestic Violence

*If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, call 911.*

- **Domestic Violence Unit Metropolitan Police Headquarters** (300 Indiana Avenue, NW, Room 3156 Washington, DC): Call (202) 727-7137.
- **[Break the Cycle](#)** (provides preventive education in schools and youth groups on teen dating violence, peer leadership opportunities, and free legal services to young people in the District, ages 12 to 22, who are in an abusive relationship): Call (800) 258-8840 or (202) 654-4039.
- **[House of Ruth](#)** (24-hour hotline, shelter, and counseling for battered women and their children): Call (202) 667-7001.
- **[My Sister's Place](#)** (24-hour hotline, shelter, and counseling for battered women and their children): Call (202) 529-5991.
- **[DC SAFE](#)** (24/7 crisis intervention agency for domestic violence in the District of Columbia that provides emergency services: housing, lock changes, transportation, ETPO access, and court advocacy.): Call 1-800-407-5048.

### Local Emergency Shelters

- **Calvary Women's Shelter** (shelter for homeless women): Visit <https://www.calvaryservices.org/>
- **DC Shelter Hotline** (information about available shelter space in the District of Columbia): Call (800) 535-7252.
- **[Sasha Bruce](#)** (Shelter, counseling, and support groups for youth): Call (202) 547-7777.

### Emergency Financial Assistance

- **Crime Victims Compensation Program**: Call (202) 879-4216 or (202) 561-3000.
- **Crime Victims Assistance Partnership** (Chinatown Service Center) (assistance to victims and their families with the financial burden of violent crime): Call (202) 898-0061.

### Hotlines

- **[DC Victim Hotline](#)**: Call (844) 4HELPDC or (844) 443-5732.
- **[National Domestic Violence Hotline](#)**: Call (800) 799-7233 or text LOVEIS to 22522.
- **Love is Respect National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline**: Call (866) 331-9474.
- **[Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network's \(RAINN\) National Sexual Assault Hotline](#)**: Call (800) 656-HOPE (4673).
- **Crisis Helpline**: Call (202) 561-7000.
- **DC Citywide Sexual Assault Hotline**: Call (202) 333-RAPE.
- **House of Ruth Domestic Violence Hotline**: Call (202) 667-7001.
- **Maryland Domestic Violence Hotline/Resources**: Call (800) MD-HELPS.
- **My Sister's Place Domestic Violence Hotline**: Call (202) 529-5991.
- **Virginia Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Hotline**: Call (800) 838-4753.
- **Mental Health Crisis Hotline**: Call (888) 793-4357.

### General Support and Counseling Centers

- **[La Clinica del Pueblo](#)** (counseling and support for battered immigrant and Hispanic women): Call (202) 462-4788.

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- **DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence** (information, resources, and referrals): Call (202) 299-1181.
- **The Family Place** (day center for pregnant/parenting women and their children; offers support groups): Call (202) 265-0149.
- **Whitman Walker Clinic** (health and mental health services for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people): Call (202) 797-3500.
- **The Women's Center** (nonprofit counseling and psychological center for women, men, and families in the Metropolitan Washington area): Call (202) 293-4580.
- **Center for Child Protection and Family Support** (a non-profit social service agency that provides services and programs directly to children and families and also provides professional training on various child welfare issues): Visit <http://www.centerchildprotection.org/>

#### Legal Services

- **Ayuda Clinica Legal Latina** (legal and support services for Latina battered and immigrant women): Call (202) 387-4848.
- **Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia** (DC's oldest and largest civil legal services organization. The domestic violence/family law attorneys represent clients in a wide range of intrafamily matters in the DC Superior Court): Call (202) 628-1161.
- **US Attorney's Office**: Call (202) 514-0496.
- **Victim Witness Program, USAO (Office at Domestic Violence Intake Center)**: Call (202) 514 7130.

#### Court Services

- **DC Superior Court Clerk's Office**: Call (202) 879-0157.
- **Domestic Violence Intake Center at the DC Superior Court (DVIC- NW)**: Call (202) 879-0152.
- **Domestic Violence Intake Center at United Medical Center (DVIC- SE)** (court-based support center providing legal assistance (CPO's), advocacy, and referrals): Call (202) 561-3000.
- *Note: There are DC SAFE advocates located in the Domestic Violence Intake Centers to assist through the process of locating resources, safety planning, and filing protection orders.*