

A Decade of Progress in Fighting Domestic Violence Domestic Violence Coordinating Council and Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence Timeline



1993

- Domestic Violence Coordinating Council created by statute "To improve Delaware's response to domestic violence" by bringing together high-level policy makers from state government, the private sector, and the domestic violence service providers.
- Domestic Violence Coordinating Council holds first Coordinating Council meeting. Officers elected, at-large members elected, and eight subcommittees established.

1994

- Protection From Abuse (PFA) statute goes into effect. PFA provides broad relief for victims of abuse and their children.
- The Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence is formed by Delaware service providers Child, Inc., People's Place II, and the Project for Domestic Violence Reform.
- The Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence becomes eligible for federal funds as the 50th statewide domestic violence coalition in the country and receives its first federal grant.
- Domestic Violence Coordinating Council secures State funding for a statewide assessment of programs and policies and a survey of domestic violence victims' experiences with services in Delaware. The two-part study is conducted by the Center for Community Development at the University of Delaware.

1995

- Domestic Violence Coordinating Council holds first annual Law Enforcement Training.
- Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence launches its first public information campaign.
- Violence Against Women Act becomes Federal Law providing over a billion dollars in federal funds to address gender-based crimes.
- Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence provides a statewide training for over 150 Division of Family Services staff.

1996

- Fatal Incident Review Team created by statute to investigate deaths occurring in Delaware as a result of domestic violence.
- The Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence creates the Silent Witness Project, where deceased victims of domestic violence are represented by wooden figures, providing a dramatic display of the losses suffered by domestic violence.
- The Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence provides the first statewide Domestic Violence conference for 180 counselors, educators and social workers.
- The first Domestic Violence Newsletter is published, a joint effort between the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council and the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

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1997

- Delaware's Model Law Enforcement Domestic Violence Policy implemented, having been created as a joint effort among the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council and Delaware's police departments.
- Domestic Violence Coordinating Council's Batterers' Intervention Program Certification Panel begins certification of perpetrators' treatment programs.
- The Tile Mural Project, creating a "beautiful, uplifting and permanent testament to all those who struggle to end domestic violence," is placed at the YWCA as a collaborative effort among the YWCA, the Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts.
- The National Silent Witness "March to End the Silence" is held in Washington, D. C., attended by the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence and volunteers from all around the state of Delaware.

1998

- Uniform Domestic Incident Report adopted by law enforcement agencies statewide.
- Over 200 Delaware Department of Health and Social Services workers receive training on domestic violence at 12 sites around the state as a joint training effort by the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council and the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence.
- The Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence begins a certification process for Domestic Violence Advocates.
- Child, Inc., opens Sarah's House, Delaware's third domestic violence shelter.

1999

- DE General Assembly approves four Bills aimed at reducing domestic violence and protecting victims:
 - * HB 161 prohibiting certain domestic violence offenders from purchasing and possessing firearms.
 - * SB 99 honoring out-of-state protection orders.
 - * SB 102 adding Director of Division of Family Services and Commissioner of Correction to Coordinating Council.
 - * HB 46 providing for mandatory treatment for domestic violence offenders following second conviction.
- A grant from Doors of Hope received by the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence funds medical training for emergency room staff.

2000

- Domestic Violence Medical Manual is published by the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council and distributed along with training to over 300 healthcare providers statewide. Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence provided assistance in both the development of the manual, and in the training of the medical professionals in its use.
- Violence Against Women Act 2000, sponsored by Delaware's Senator Joseph Biden, is enacted, providing funding for shelters, coalitions, and many victim services.
- Attorney General M. Jane Brady begins the Corporate Citizens Initiative to raise domestic violence awareness and provide training within Delaware's business community.
- People's Place II opens Cindy's Place, a new domestic violence shelter in Sussex County.

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2001

- Domestic Violence Coordinating Council publishes first Fatal Incident Review Team Report.
- Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence begins regularly scheduled workshops entitled "Domestic Violence 101."
- Abriendo Puertas, Delaware's first shelter for battered immigrant women, opens.
- The Literacy Project begins at Abriendo Puertas with a grant from the Verizon Foundation obtained by the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

2002

- Delaware Police Chief's Council endorses Model Policy on Police Officer Domestic Violence.
- Domestic Violence Coordinating Council website goes on line at <http://www.dvcc.state.de.us>.
- The Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the University of Delaware hold a series of focus groups to explore the issue domestic violence in immigrant communities.
- Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, in collaboration with Governor's office, provides domestic violence training for 75 cabinet members and top-level policy makers.

2003

- 2nd Fatal Incident Review Team Report published by the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.
Download the document at <http://www.dvcc.state.de.us> under "Reports" and see FIRT legislation under "Legislation."
- The documentary film "NO" is shown to a sold out crowd at the Baby Grand Opera House. This outreach event is sponsored by the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Christina Cultural Arts Center, Contact Delaware, and the Coalition of 100 Black Women.

**Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
302-255-0405
<http://www.dvcc.state.de.us>**

**Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence
302-658-2958
<http://www.dcadv.org>**