

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
COORDINATING COUNCIL

Annual Report

FISCAL YEAR 2022



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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the members of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, we are pleased to present the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2022. The Annual Report highlights the progress of the **DVCC's initiatives during the previous year, but more importantly, the report provides statistical** information on domestic violence incidents and services in the State of Delaware. The statistical data serves as an important tool to assist the Council in the advancement of its goals and to meet its statutory duties, and the data is used by many stakeholders and community partners to inform us of how victims are accessing resources, and where more resources are needed in response. This year, reported criminal domestic violence incidents appear to have continued the trend of declining, but the number of those reported incidents with physical injury has steeply increased. **When coupled with the increase in Family Court's Protection from Abuse filings, and the increase** in hotline calls statewide, it would suggest that domestic violence either increased in the last year, or more victims (especially those with physical injury) are reaching out for help. We, as a system, must step up to address the need and ensure the resources are in place for victims calling the hotline, seeking a protective order, or calling the police. It is our hope that in the year ahead, the Council and its partner agencies can consider the interpretation of the data provided, consider **where there are unmet needs, and gear our efforts toward improving the system's response to** victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

The DVCC could not accomplish its goals or meet its statutory duties without the dedication of all of the Council members and community partners. We commend the continued efforts of law enforcement, the legal community, medical professionals, and advocates for their commitment to end violence in families and in the community.

Chief Judge Michael K. Newell
Chair

2022 COUNCIL MEMBERS

CHAIR

Honorable Michael Newell
Chief Judge, Family

VICE-CHAIR

Laura Graham, Esquire
At-Large Member

Honorable Ernesto Lopez, Member, Senate

Honorable Nicole Poore, Member, Senate

Honorable Krista Griffith, Member, House of Representatives

Honorable Michael Smith, Member, House of Representatives

Honorable Jan Jurden, President Judge, Superior Court

Honorable Carl Danberg, Chief Judge, Court of Common Pleas

Honorable Kathleen Jennings, Attorney General, Department of Justice

Honorable Nathaniel McQueen, Secretary, Department of Safety and Homeland Security

Honorable Kevin O'Connell, Chief Defender, Office of Defense Services

Honorable Monroe Hudson, Commissioner, Department of Correction

Honorable Josette Manning, Secretary, Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families

Master Corporal Andrea Warfel, Appointed Representative of the Law Enforcement Community

Dr. Josephine Mokonogho, At-Large Member, Representative of the Medical Community

Professor Dana Harrington Conner, At-Large Member

Debra Reed, At-Large Member

Ariana Langford, At-Large Member

Professor Jennifer Naccarelli, At-Large Member

STAFF MEMBERS ¹

Maureen Monagle, Executive Director

Amanda Levering, Social Services, Senior Administrator

Crystal Dalton, Planner IV

Amanda Alcaraz, Trainer/Educator

Timothy Valeski, DV High Risk Team Coordinator

Stacey Scott, Administrative Specialist

¹ Staff members during FY2022.

VISION STATEMENT

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) is a state agency legislatively created to improve **Delaware's** response to domestic violence and sexual assault. The DVCC brings together all stakeholders including service providers, policy-level officials, and community partners to eradicate domestic violence. The DVCC is committed to leading the nation through innovative legislative action, community education, and an outstanding coordinated system response to violence in families and the community.

STATUTORY DUTIES

13 Del.C. § 2103 (1-6)

The Council shall:

1. Continuously study court services and procedures, law-enforcement procedures and protocol, and criminal justice data collection and analysis as it relates to domestic violence;
2. Effectuate coordination between agencies, departments and the courts with victims of domestic violence and abuse;
3. Promote effective prevention, intervention and treatment techniques which will be developed based upon research and data collection;
4. Recommend standards for treatment programs for perpetrators of domestic violence to the Department of Health and Social Services, Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families and the Department of Correction;
5. Review and comment upon legislation relating to domestic violence introduced in the General Assembly at the request of any member of the General Assembly or on its own initiative; and
6. Improve the response to domestic violence and abuse so as to reduce the incidents thereof.

DVCC COMMITTEES

Much of the work done by the DVCC is accomplished through committees made up of Council members, DVCC staff, first responders, service providers, policy-level officials, and community members. This collaborative approach has helped establish supportive ties in the community for victims of violence, identify areas of need, and implement policies and procedures beneficial in combatting domestic violence in Delaware.

Children and Domestic Violence

Honorable Josette Manning ~ Chair

Criminal Justice

Honorable Jan Jurden, Debra Reed,
Master Corporal Andrea Warfel ~
Chairs

Elderly and Domestic Violence

Honorable Nathaniel McQueen ~
Chair

Immigration

Laura Graham, Esquire ~ Chair

Legislative Drafting and Review

Honorable Krista Griffith ~ Chair

Medical

Josephine Mokonogho, MD ~ Chair

Public Awareness/Education

Honorable Carl Danberg ~ Chair

Training

Honorable Michael Newell ~ Chair

Treatment

Hon. Monroe Hudson ~ Chair

Batterers' Intervention Certification Panel

Fatal Incident Review Team

(FIRT) Honorable Jan Jurden and
Professor Dana Harrington Conner
~ Chairs

Family Justice Center Steering Committee

Laura Graham, Esquire ~ Chair

CHILDREN & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMITTEE

The Children and Domestic Violence Committee brings together representatives from the Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families (DSCYF), the General Assembly, Family Court, the Department of Justice, law enforcement, advocates, and community partners to examine services and system gaps for children experiencing domestic violence.

FY 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Members of the Committee created a working group to revise the Guidelines to Responding to Teen Dating and Sexual Violence in Delaware schools, which were last updated in 2014. The workgroup was comprised of representatives from People's Place, Department of Justice, the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, DSCYF, Child, Inc., Office of the Child Advocate, Family Court, Department of Health and Human Services, and multiple representatives from the Department of Education, district and charter schools. DVCC is working closely with the Office of the Child Advocate to finalize the guidelines and to ensure compliance with recent legislative changes.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The focus of the Criminal Justice Committee is to continuously review the justice system's response to domestic violence and sexual assault in order to identify and implement improvements to the criminal justice system through policy development. This Committee brings together law enforcement, the courts, the Office of Defense Services, the Department of Justice, the Department of Correction, DELJIS, advocates and community partners to resolve issues specific to the needs of those affected by domestic violence.

FY 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This Committee routinely receives reports from the High-Risk Domestic Violence **Team's** DVHRT Coordinator, Tim Valeski. In addition, at each meeting there are discussions about standards and best practices related to the use of body worn cameras in domestic violence situations. During Fiscal Year 2022, the Criminal Justice Committee received statistical presentations from Superior Court on Lethal Violence Protective Order (HB 222) and strangulation-related data from the Statistical Analysis Center (SAC). Additionally, the Department of Justice provided updates to the Committee on HB 190 which addressed amendments to the Domestic Violence First Offenders Program statute and the Probation Before Judgement statute. This shift in legislation expanded the offenses allowed for the program and limits the relationships to intimate partner violence (IPV).

Lastly, the Committee has begun to work with DELJIS on identifying mechanisms to streamline the identification of domestic violence cases that are not within Family **Court's** exclusive jurisdiction. The project is comprised of representatives from DELJIS, Family Court and Justice of the Peace Court.

ELDERLY & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMITTEE

The Elderly and Domestic Violence Committee continuously reviews data and information about the prevalence of domestic violence against aging Delawareans, the unmet needs of elderly victims, existing services and programs, and the experiences of elderly victims. The Committee is made up of representatives from the Department of Safety and Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, law enforcement, advocates, and community partners.

Due to staff transitions and vacancies, this committee was unable to meet during the 2022 Fiscal Year. It is the agency's goal to reconvene the Elderly and DV Committee during FY23 to continue its mission to address and combat domestic violence committed amongst Delaware's elderly community.



IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE

Working with immigrant victims of domestic violence and sexual assault brings additional barriers and challenges. Immigrant victims often feel trapped in abusive relationships because of immigration laws, language barriers, social isolation, and lack of financial resources. In addition, the immigrant population is less likely to report violence out of fear of law enforcement and deportation. The Immigration Committee, made up of service providers, law enforcement, advocates, and survivors of domestic violence, discusses the additional barriers confronting immigrant victims and works to effectuate change.

FY 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Under the leadership of Chair, Laura Graham, Esq., the Committee continued to be apprised of all Federal immigration issues impacting non-citizen survivors in our state. The Committee discussed a multitude of policies that directly impact immigrant victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, in order to better support the community. Additionally, committee members received a presentation from Reverend Jennifer Kerby from Justice for our Neighbors regarding access to low-cost or no-cost legal services, outside of or in addition **to the services offered by Delaware's three civil non-profit** legal service providers (DVLS, LSCD, and CLASI). Lastly, Committee members were informed about a University of Delaware research study seeking to interview individuals who have been impacted by domestic violence. Committee members are focused on diversifying the make-up of the Committee and inviting community organizations for future presentations in Fiscal Year 2023.



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The Legislative Drafting and Review Committee reviews proposed legislation addressing domestic violence and sexual assault and considers legislative initiatives to be supported by the DVCC. Participation on the Committee includes representatives from the General Assembly, the Department of Justice, the courts, law enforcement, civil legal professionals, victim advocates and community partners.

FY 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During Fiscal Year 2022, four bills that came through the Legislative Committee were passed by the General Assembly. Those bills were as follows:

HB 316: This Act expands the Membership of the Council by adding the Chief Magistrate of the Justice of the Peace Court. This Act also removed limitations on the use of voting by proxy by members of the Council. Finally, the bill adds the Fatal Incident Review Team of the DVCC to the list of entities that are entitled to receive protected health information without informed consent. The protected health information at issue is essential for the Fatal Incident Review Team to include in the reviews.

HB 254 w/ SA 1: This Act requires all public schools serving pupils in grades 7-12 that issue pupil identification cards to have printed on the identification cards the telephone or text numbers for the National Suicide Prevention and National Domestic Violence Hotlines and allows them to add the National Sexual Assault, Teen Dating Violence and Bullying Hotlines.

This Act will be implemented for the 2022-2023 school year.



HS 1 for HB 264 w/ HA 1: This Act permits a survivor of nonconsensual sexual conduct to apply for a civil Sexual Violence Protective Order with the Superior Court, if the survivor has a reasonable fear of harm by the perpetrator in the future. A Sexual Violence Protective Order is only available to survivors who do not have a familial or dating relationship with the perpetrator, and who therefore would not qualify for a Protection From Abuse Order with Family Court.

The Committee also discussed the seriousness of the crime of strangulation which led to the drafting of HB 440. This bill expands the definition of strangulation to include the act of suffocation, and also enumerates aggravating factors that warrant a higher level felony charge. This bill also adds the crime of suffocation.

The Committee also reviewed and provided comments on the HB414 that did not move forward in the General Assembly. This Act sought to specifically enumerate manipulative and controlling but non-physical acts as 'abuse' for purposes of obtaining a Protection From Abuse Order from Family Court. This Act adds coercive conduct which restricts, controls, or interferes with an **individual's finances or financial resources including their bank accounts**, credit cards, employment, education, and personal identity to the definition of **"abuse"** under Protection from Abuse Proceedings section in Title 10. This bill was not released from the House Judiciary Committee.

MEDICAL COMMITTEE

The presence of domestic violence is a serious social determinant of health that affects the well-being of millions of people each year. Domestic violence occurs across boundaries of race, class, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Potential health consequences may include cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, reproductive, musculoskeletal, and nervous system conditions. Additionally, patients impacted by domestic violence may experience depression, sleep disturbances or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and survivors are at higher risk for engaging in health risk behaviors such as smoking, substance use, and unsafe sexual practices.

The Medical Committee, made up of health care providers, advocates, service providers, and other interested parties, acknowledges the profound difference that health care providers can make by screening for domestic violence and providing resources. The Committee seeks to provide accessible information and education to health care providers in Delaware regarding the screening and treatment of patients experiencing domestic violence.

Due to staff transitions and vacancies, this Committee was unable to meet during the 2022 Fiscal Year. The goal for FY 2023 is to continue to disseminate and train healthcare providers on the Domestic Violence Resource Manual for Healthcare Professionals. We are pleased to welcome a new Chair of the Committee, Dr. Josephine Mokonogho.



TRAINING COMMITTEE

The Training Committee was established to identify domestic violence and sexual assault training needs throughout the State and to develop specific and multidisciplinary trainings. The goals of the Committee include offering evidence based instruction about domestic violence and sexual violence, serving as a referral source for anyone seeking instruction on responses to domestic violence or organizational training requests, collaborating within systems to effectively disseminate information, best practices, research and trends in the field, and to be a space where professionals can collaboratively create, explore and share training technologies, methods, and opportunities for professional development.

FY 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During Fiscal Year 2022, the Training Committee facilitated and coordinated several trainings for professionals.

The Committee continues to work with other departments and agencies within Delaware to provide information and opportunities to build the skills needed to work with survivors of domestic violence. The DVCC partnered with the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCADV) to provide training to DSCYF Division of Family Services (DFS) supervisors on the Dynamics of Domestic Violence: Recognizing, Responding, and Removing Barriers. The DVCC staff trained a group of cadets at the Wilmington University Constables Academy about domestic violence.

The Training Committee continued to add topics to the Law Enforcement Training Series that is available online through the Delaware Learning Center.

DVCC Trainings available on the Delaware Learning Center:

Law Enforcement Training Series:

- The Lethality Assessment Protocol: A Panel Discussion
- Working with Immigrant Victims
- Law Enforcement and the LGBTQIA+ Community Working Together to Hold Perpetrators Accountable
- Evidence-Based Prosecution
- Protection From Abuse Orders: An Overview of the Family Court Process
- The Identification of, and Response to, Stalking

Teen Dating Violence Series for Educators:

- TDV: The Basics
- TDV: Sexual Violence and Consent
- TDV: Reporting Requirements
- TDV: Help and Resources

TREATMENT COMMITTEE

Ensuring the quality and effectiveness of offender treatment is essential to promoting violence-free behavior and enhancing victim safety. The Treatment Committee develops and reviews batterers' intervention policies and procedures (Domestic Violence Intervention Standards) which mandate specific credentials, education, and training for treatment service providers as well as outlines the components required for program content. The Domestic Violence Intervention Standards seek to increase victim safety by eliminating violence in intimate relationships. Interventions focus on holding offenders accountable for their behavior by teaching new skills and monitoring behavior while participating in intervention programs. The Committee continuously monitors changes in the field and is committed to providing the best intervention programs possible.

FY 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Committee received technical assistance and training from the Center for Court Innovation (CCI), through their Abusive Partner Accountability and Engagement Training and Technical Assistance Project. CCI's work is based on five guiding principles:

- Survivor voices are centered
- Accountability is active and relational
- Hope and dignity are restored
- Culture and community are reflected
- Interventions engagement strategies respond to the needs and strengths of abusive partners

The information and knowledge gained will benefit the Committee as they continue to work on updating the **DVCC's** Domestic Violence Intervention Standards.

Building on the strong collaborations, several Committee members formalized a process for information sharing and the referral process between Probation and Parole and the certified providers. This includes the ability of approved certified providers to receive the DV Hope Report prepared by Probation and Parole.

A group of Committee members worked with the Department of Correction to discuss the need to provide abusive partner intervention programming to incarcerated individuals. After a competitive bidding process, Turning Point Program at **People's Place began this pilot project** in March for a group at Sussex County Correctional Institute (SCI). We are looking forward to learning more about this pilot program in the future.

BATTERERS' INTERVENTION CERTIFICATION PANEL

The Batters' Intervention Certification Panel (the Panel) is a subcommittee of the Treatment Committee. The Panel is responsible for ensuring that treatment programs meet all specified requirements of the Domestic Violence Intervention Standards prior to being added to the list of Certified Treatment Programs.

The Panel is made up of eleven members from designated agencies as prescribed by the Certification Rules and Procedures. The panelists include representatives from Family Court, the Department of Justice, Probation and Parole, Youth Rehabilitation Services, the Office of Defense Services, the Department of Correction's Treatment Unit, the Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services of DSCYF, three representatives from Certified Intervention Programs, and a victim advocate from an agency or organization that works directly with domestic violence victims.

Due to staffing transition and vacancies, the Annual Review was not held during FY2022. Programs previously certified continued with their certification status, and a review will be held in FY2023. Programs are continuing to offer individual services in a virtual platform for those individuals who are out-of-state or have transportation issues which may be an obstacle for participation in the programs.

PUBLIC AWARENESS & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Committee brings together representatives from the courts, law enforcement, healthcare, Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families, advocates and community partners to promote awareness and education about domestic violence, sexual assault and resources available to victims.

FY 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During Fiscal Year 2022, DVCC Staff partnered with Career TEAM Wilmington and with Parkway Academy in Dover to deliver educational workshops that address issues with intimate partner violence, healthy relationships, consent, and teen dating violence.

During October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM), the DVCC partnered with the Food Bank of Delaware and distribute domestic violence resources and information to more than 1,000 people. This effort was successful through the efforts of the many volunteers and our partner agencies who contributed their materials.

FY2022 Education Workshops

- Domestic Violence Education at Career TEAM, Wilmington
- Teen Dating Violence Workshops at Parkway Academy, Dover

The Committee continued to reach more Delawareans through our ongoing social media campaign. The campaign addressed historically underserved survivors from marginalized communities and provided information about intimate partner violence resources in Delaware.

FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER STEERING COMMITTEE

In September of 2021, the DVCC established the Family Justice Center Steering Committee to explore the feasibility, impact, and steps needed to establish one, or more, Family Justice Centers to support victims of interpersonal violence. The DVCC has contracted with the Family Justice Center Alliance (Alliance), a program of the Alliance for HOPE International, for their expertise, consultation, and technical assistance to guide Delaware through this process.

A Family Justice Center (FJC) provides one place for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse to receive the life-saving services currently available in their community from both non-profit and governmental agencies. The FJC model creates a collaborative family-friendly, victim-centered, trauma-informed, hope-centered environment, in which a multi-disciplinary team of professionals works together in one, centralized location to provide coordinated services to victims of family violence. The framework brings the services together for victims and their children, allowing them to go to one place for all their services and creating a community for survivors long after the crisis is over.

The Family Justice Center model is identified as a best practice in the field of domestic violence intervention and prevention services by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.



FY 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- STUDY TOUR: The Technical Assistance Team from the Alliance came to Delaware on April 26-28, 2022, for a study tour of Delaware. During those three days, we held a virtual community forum, meetings with stakeholders, and focus groups with survivors. The Team also observed court proceedings and toured the Family Court, emergency domestic violence shelters, and the **Children's** Advocacy Center.
 - A recording of the Virtual Community Forum held on April 26, 2022, may be found on the DVCC's website.
- STUDY TOUR REPORT: The Alliance submitted its report for Delaware with several recommendations on June 10, 2022. According to the Alliance, "**Delaware** is well-positioned to be the first statewide Family Justice Center **framework.**"
 - Delaware Statewide Initiative Study Tour Report (2022)
- STRATEGIC PLANNING EVENT: The Technical Assistance Team from the Alliance will return to Delaware for a two-day strategic planning event to lead us in the development of a shared mission and vision of a statewide framework for a Family Justice Center. The DVCC's FJC Steering Committee will be developing workgroups to focus on the following:
 - Governance and Facilities
 - Funding and Sustainability
 - Service Delivery and Operations
 - Community Engagement, Outreach and Volunteers
 - Law Enforcement
 - Research, Data and Evaluation

For more information about this initiative, please visit

<https://dvcc.delaware.gov/committees/familyjusticecenter/steeringcommittee/>

DVCC INTERN SPOTLIGHT

For the past few years, the DVCC has benefitted from a partnership with the University of Delaware Women & Gender Studies Department. We have hosted very talented, engaged and passionate students with an interest in public policy, strengthening government and community partnerships, and research in this area of domestic violence and sexual abuse.

This past year, our intern Maggie, provided critical support to our Team with many of our initiatives.

We asked Maggie to share a few thoughts about her experience with the DVCC.

What have you enjoyed about your internship with the DVCC?

I have developed a greater appreciation for the collaboration in the State between people working to address domestic violence and its effects on children, adolescents, adults, and communities. It has been a pleasure to meet stakeholders from a variety of state and nonprofit agencies and who approach intimate partner violence from a variety of frameworks. I also especially enjoyed witnessing the development of strategic planning for a Family Justice Center in Delaware. It has been fascinating to see community leaders and stakeholders grow in excitement and knowledge over time as Delaware continues to progress in conversations about a Family Justice Center. Lastly, I have enjoyed being able to balance working with Fatality Incident Review Team (FIRT) records, with the more creative work of developing social media content. The multifaceted nature of the DVCCs work has created balanced work days with many interesting projects.

What have you learned during your internship?

DVCC staff, Council members, and committee members have such valuable expertise on a wide variety of topics. As I created the Delaware Domestic Violence Coordinating Council Resource Guide I developed a more complete picture of state, local, and national resources for victim survivors and professionals in the field. As a victim advocate with S.O.S. at the University of Delaware, I had knowledge about university resources and those available in New Castle County, and I was able to expand on that knowledge through my work with the DVCC. I also had the privilege of observing different committee meetings, Council meetings, and workgroup meetings. Observing and noticing different meeting styles, approaches to collaboration, and communication styles has been invaluable.

Is there anything you would like to share with potential DVCC interns?

Ask questions! The DVCC staff have a wealth of knowledge and insight regarding much of the important social services and social justice work happening in Delaware. Take the opportunity to fine tune your organizational skills in notetaking, tracking data in spreadsheets, and prioritizing tasks. Lastly, the DVCC is a small agency in a small state. Unlike some opportunities in larger agencies and companies, you will have access to and will consistently collaborate with senior level professionals. You will receive clear feedback and professional mentorship within this small but mighty agency.



Please visit the University of Delaware's Women & Gender Studies Department for more information about the [Domestic Violence Prevention & Services Program](#).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Proclamation Signing

Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an opportunity for citizens to learn more about preventing domestic violence and to show support for the agencies and organizations who provide critical advocacy, service and assistance to victims. Governor Carney signed the Proclamation on October 29, 2021.



TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Proclamation Signing

Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month provides an opportunity for citizens to learn more about preventing dating violence among adolescents, promoting healthy dating practices, as well provide services and assistance to victims.

Governor Carney signed the Proclamation on February 16, 2022.



OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The Outstanding Service Award for 2021 was presented to CHILD Inc., **People's Place II**, and the Delaware Family Court, in recognition of the collaborative efforts and outstanding services these agencies continued to provide during the COVID-19 public health pandemic.

The Council annually recognizes individuals, or programs, that demonstrate an outstanding service in supporting those impacted by domestic violence. These agencies were nominated as all three entities and their staff acted as **"first responders"** for survivors in the First State throughout the pandemic, ensuring that survivors could safely access much needed services. When the pandemic began, all three agencies and their staff quickly acted to adapt policies and procedures, to allow critical emergency operations to continue, while ensuring the health and safety of staff and survivors.

When the shelter in place requirements were implemented during COVID, it meant that survivors would be sheltering in place with their abuser, often for long periods of time. The Family Court recognized that the relief offered by the Protection from Abuse process was more crucial than ever before.

The Court quickly worked with advocates and allied partners to create and implement a system for filing PFA petitions electronically, as well as allowing all hearings to take place virtually. The Court remained accessible to survivors, advocates, and allied partners throughout the pandemic.

Leadership at the Court also kept an open mind and was willing to adapt or alter these policies to ensure that all litigants could access justice. These efforts undoubtedly led to many survivors obtaining the legal relief from the Court to keep them safe.



CHILD Inc., the agency which provides emergency shelter and supportive services to survivors in New Castle County, and **People's Place II**, the agency which provides similar services to survivors in Kent and Sussex Counties, had to quickly adapt to ensure the emergency shelters remained open, adjusting to social distancing requirements to ensure survivors seeking refuge could continue to be housed safely. Staff at both agencies also had to adjust and coordinate services to ensure survivors placed in hotels were safe and received the same supportive services that are offered to those in one of the shelters. These agencies had to be creative in trying to reach survivors in new ways when in-person contact was limited. They wanted to ensure that survivors knew that despite the pandemic, services were still available. Staff and volunteers of the Domestic Violence Advocacy Program, which is CHILD Inc.'s **statewide** program that provides legal advocacy to victims seeking PFA Orders, had to quickly adapt and worked with the Family Court to assist victims with filing PFA petitions electronically and appearing for hearings virtually.

The DV Treatment program staff at CHILD Inc. and the **Turning Point Program at People's Place** had to adapt to provide effective services virtually to individuals with a history of violence. The domestic violence treatment and intervention services, which can be court ordered or voluntary, are critical services for offender accountability and survivor safety.

Coordinated and collaborative responses to domestic violence result in better outcomes for victims and perpetrators. While each agency serves a different role, they all demonstrated great communication, collaboration, flexibility, and commitment. All of these efforts were done to ensure services were accessible to victims and survivors during the middle of a global pandemic.

The DVCC presented the awards to each agency during the virtual **Governor's Proclamation signing for Domestic Violence Awareness Month** on October 28, 2021.



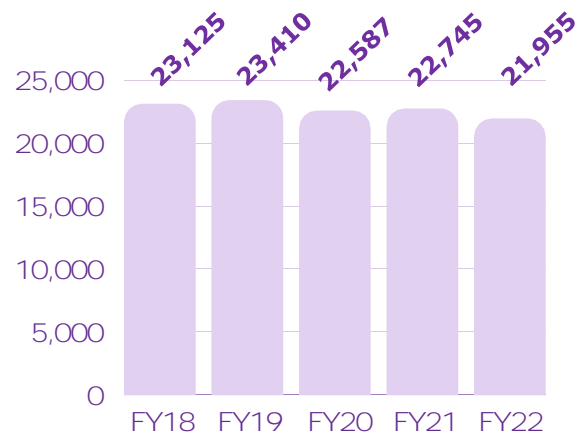
Year In Review

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS

In FY2022, there were a total of 21,955 combined criminal and non-criminal domestic violence incidents reported in Delaware.

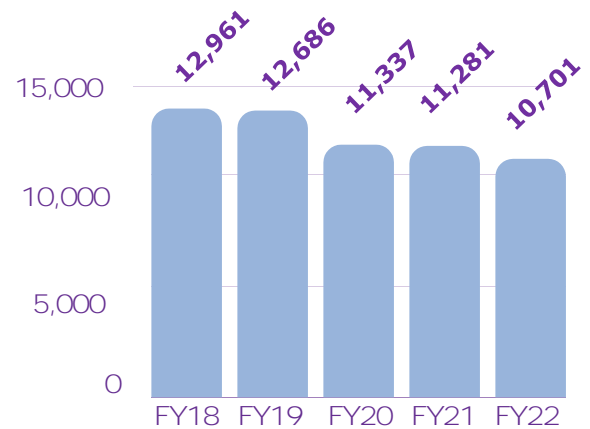
Criminal and Non-Criminal DV Incidents

Criminal domestic violence incidents are those in which a crime is committed or alleged. Non-criminal domestic violence incidents are those in which there is police contact, but no crime was alleged, e.g., a verbal argument without any reported threats.



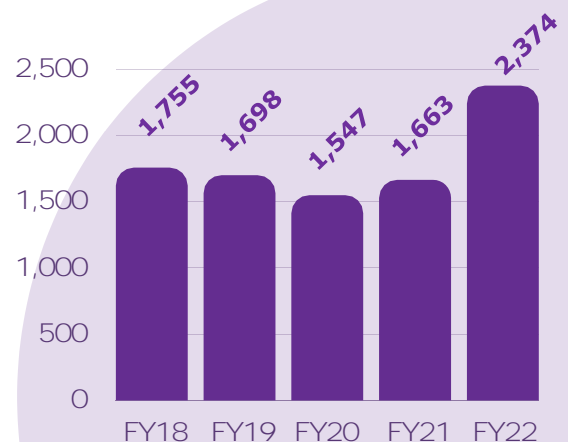
Criminal DV Incidents

In FY2022, the total number of reported criminal domestic violence incidents was 10,701.



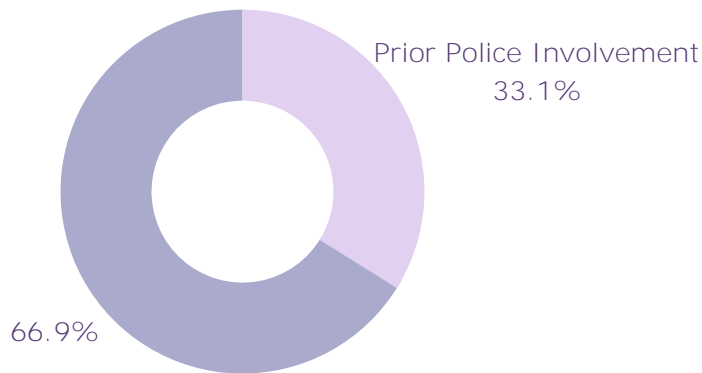
Criminal DV Incidents with Injury

Of the 10,701 reported criminal domestic violence incidents in FY2022, 2,374 resulted in physical injury to the victim.

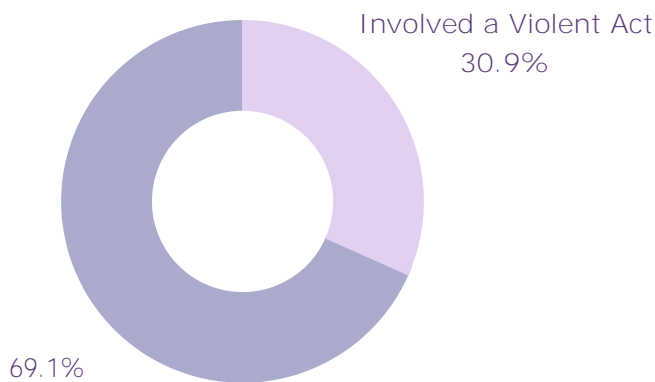


Year In Review

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS



In FY2022, **3,541** of the criminal domestic violence incidents had prior police involvement.



In FY2022, **3,306** of the criminal domestic violence incidents involved a violent act.

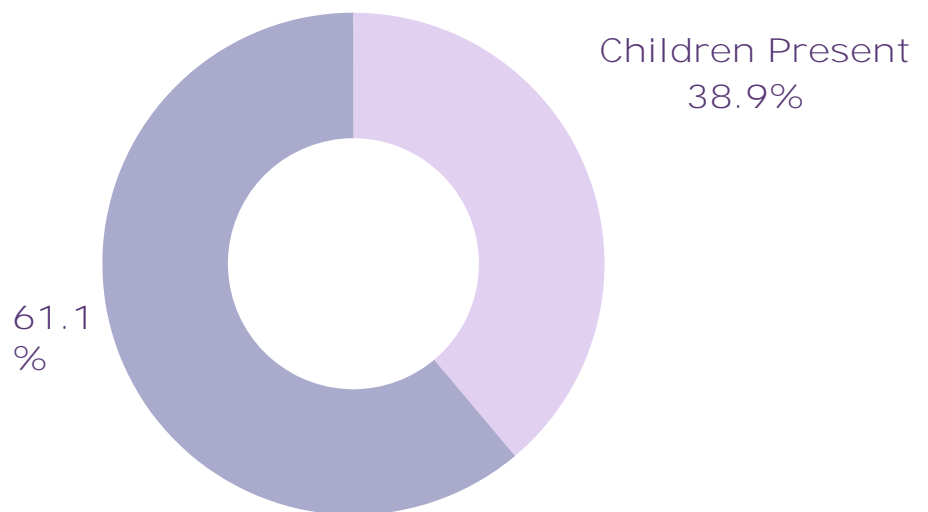


In FY2022, **5,618** of the criminal domestic violence incidents resulted in an arrest.

Year In Review

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS

In FY2022, 4,160
of the criminal
domestic violence
incidents happened
with children present



The DVCC collects the data from the Domestic Violence Incident Report captured in DELJIS.

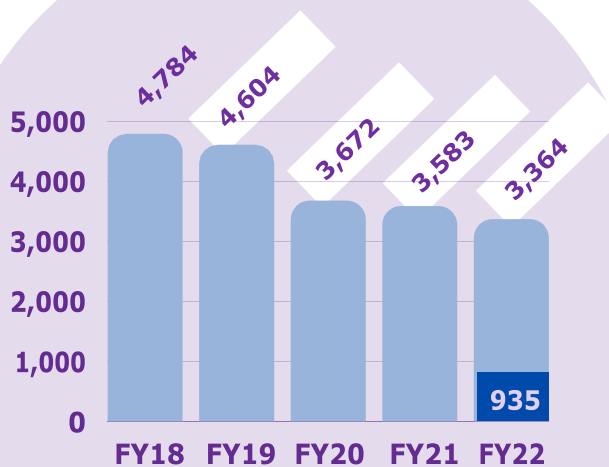


Year In Review

INTIMATE PARTNER CRIMINAL STATISTICS

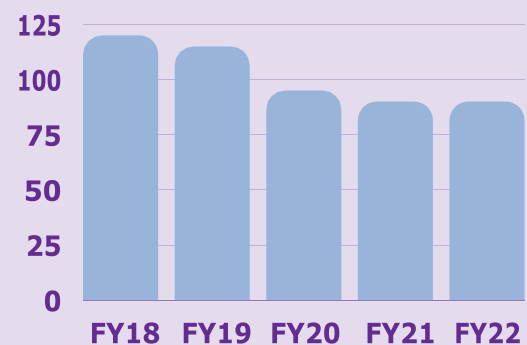
Incidents of domestic violence can be perpetrated against an intimate partner or a family member. Intimate partners can include current and former spouses, current and former dating couples with or without a child in common, and adolescent dating couples. Intimate partners may be the same gender.

In FY2022, of the intimate partner criminal incidents reported, 75% of the victims were female and 25% of victims were male.



In FY2022, of the **10,701** criminal incidents reported, **3,364** were between intimate partners.

Of those reported in FY2022, **935** indicated physical injury to the intimate partner victim.



Dual arrests occur when police officers arrest both intimate partners involved in a domestic violence incident.

In FY2022, there were **97** dual arrests made by law enforcement

LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL

The Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) provides an easy and effective method to identify victims of domestic violence who are at the highest risk for being seriously injured or killed by an intimate partner. A risk assessment is completed by law enforcement at the scene of a domestic violence incident, and the victim is immediately connected to the local domestic violence hotline for safety planning purposes.

Capitol Police's Domestic Violence Risk Analyst has continued to train law enforcement officers on the statewide protocol. Since this position was created, 50 training sessions have been conducted in 29 agencies, to 579 law enforcement officers. The utilization of the LAP has dramatically increased; during the 2021 calendar year, police officers statewide completed the LAP on scene 86% of the time. Through the first 6 months of 2022, the LAP usage was 84% statewide.

CAPITOL POLICE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Capitol Police operates the Domestic Violence Intervention Program (VIP) to assist those that need to use Delaware Courts for any domestic related issues. This statewide program allows anyone to make a referral for a domestic violence victim to receive police accompaniment to a court hearing. The VIP program averages 125 escorts during the course of a normal year. This past year, when most hearing were conducted via Zoom due to public health restriction, Capitol Police provided escorts to three victims with business in the courthouse.

For more information about
the VIP, please visit:

<https://capitolpd.delaware.gov/dv-vip/index.shtml>

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HIGH RISK TEAM

Through a partnership with the Delaware State Police, Dover Police, Probation and Parole, the **Attorney General's Office, and People's Place II, Inc., the DVCC launched a pilot** Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT) in Kent County.

Research has shown that intimate partner domestic violence homicides are often predictable; and if **they're** predictable, **they're** preventable. The DVHRT Model leverages that predictability by incorporating an evidence-based risk assessment into a **community's** domestic violence response system to identify and intervene in the most dangerous cases. The Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) recognizes the DVHRT Model as a **"leading promising practice"** in intimate partner homicide prevention.

The concept for a DVHRT was originated by the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center in Newburyport, MA in 2005. The model was adopted and successfully implemented in several jurisdictions around the country. The DVHRT Model consists of four central strategies: early identification of high-risk cases through risk assessment, engagement of a multi-disciplinary team, ongoing monitoring and management of offenders, and the connection of victims to domestic violence **services. Although adaptations to the original model have been tailored to fit Delaware's** structure and community needs, the DVHRT operates under the same guiding principles and goals to increase victim safety and offender accountability.

The DVHRT manages critical information in high risk cases to identify and close the systemic gaps where homicides occur. **Delaware's** DVHRT utilizes the Lethality Assessment Protocol (law enforcement) and the Danger Assessment Protocol (non-law enforcement) tools to identify which cases pose the greatest risk of serious re-assault or lethal violence to domestic violence victims. Victim advocates, officers at the scene, and probation officers all regularly conduct these assessments to identify high risk cases, providing a formalized process for communication across disciplines. Team members work in consultation to develop individualized intervention plans that will interrupt the cycle of escalating violence.

The Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT) began holding formal reviews in December of 2019. During the reporting period of July 2021 through June of 2022, the DVHRT coordinator has reviewed 502 high risk cases. Of the 502 cases reviewed, 189 of the cases met the threshold to go to the Team for a vote with 23 cases being accepted for continued monitoring. Cases are monitored for six months during which time team members report on case activity, follow-up actions, and other relevant information. If there are no further incidents during the six months of monitoring, the case will be closed. If new incidents occur during the six months of monitoring, the case will continue to remain open with the Team. We hope to report more outcomes as the work of the DVHRT evolves.

The DVCC has been able to implement this pilot project with funding support through a subgrant by the Criminal Justice Council, through the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), VOCA —Victims Assistance Formula Grant Program.



PROTECTION FROM ABUSE STATISTICS

A Protection From Abuse (PFA) Order is a civil order issued by the Family Court that provides protection from harm by a family member or household member. In addition to family and household members, persons living separate and apart with a child in common, or persons in a current or former substantive dating relationship may file for a PFA. The Court may order the offender to stay away from the person being abused; provide exclusive use of the home or possessions; award temporary custody, child support or spousal support; or payment of expenses. Additionally, the offender may be ordered to surrender firearms, and/or to seek treatment from a certified Batterers' Intervention Program.

Upon a finding that aggravating circumstances exist, the Court may grant no contact relief for as long as reasonably necessary to prevent further acts of abuse or domestic violence up to and including a permanent or lifetime order.



76

Lifetime PFA Ordered in FY2022:

52	New Castle County
9	Kent County
15	Sussex County

STATEWIDE PFA OUTCOMES

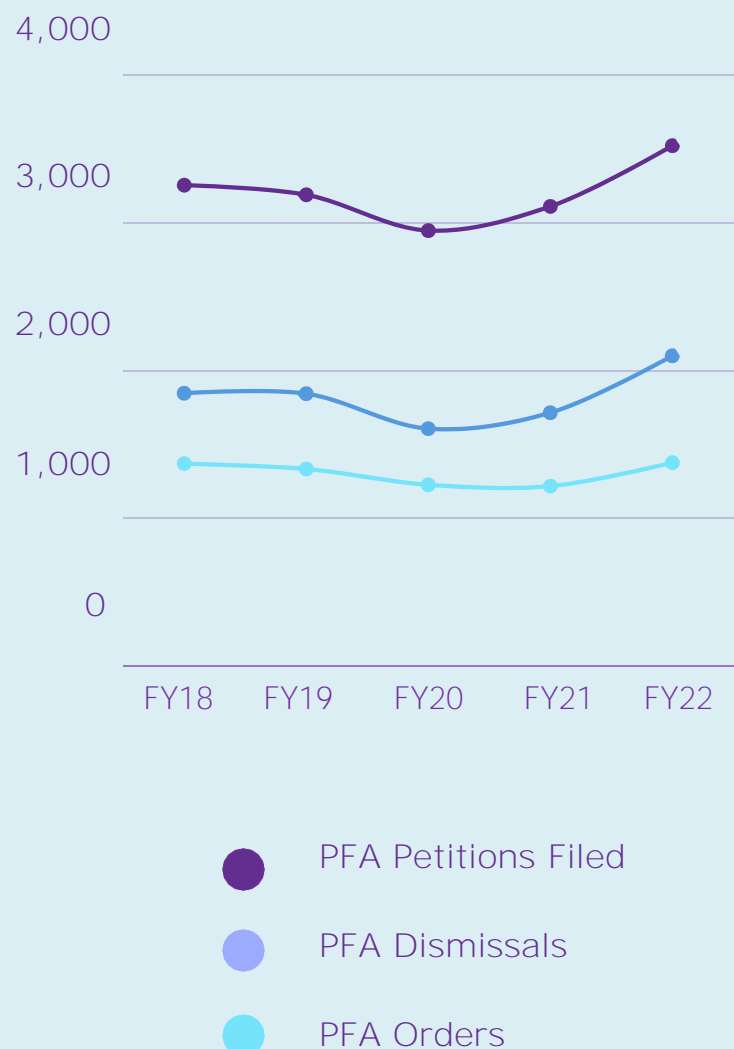
A PFA Order can be issued by Family Court in one of three ways:

- The Court finds by a preponderance of the evidence following a hearing that domestic violence has occurred; or,
- The Respondent consents to the entry of protective order; or
- A default order is entered when the Respondent fails to appear for a hearing after proper notice.

A PFA petition may be dismissed for one of three reasons:

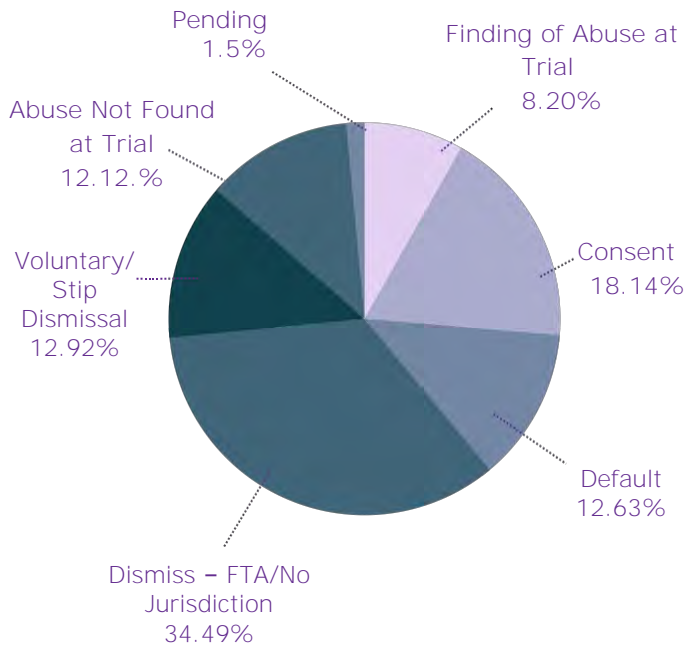
- The Petitioner failed to appear for the hearing; or
- The Petitioner voluntarily withdrew the petition before the hearing; or
- Abuse was not found by a preponderance of the evidence following a hearing.

Family Court processed 3,523 petitions, which were filed statewide during FY2022. Of those petitions filed, 1,373 orders were issued and 2,097 petitions were dismissed.

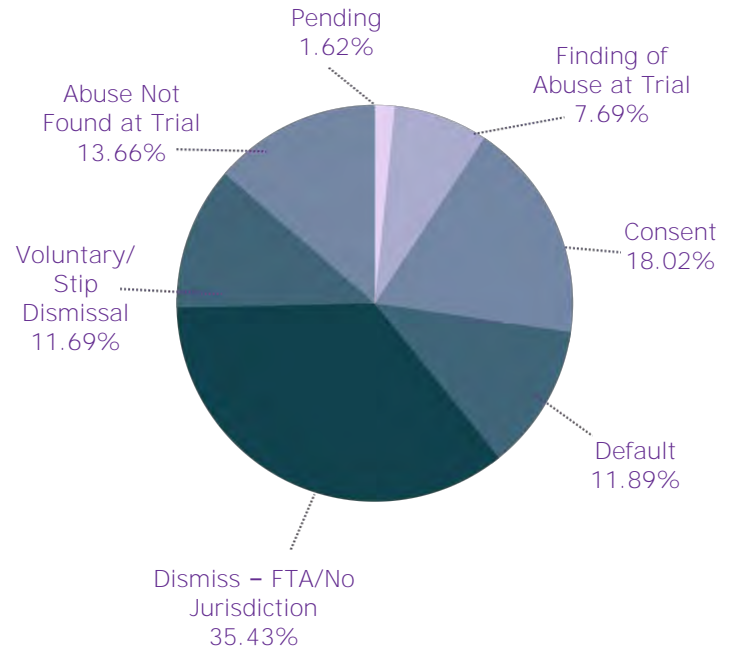


STATEWIDE PFA OUTCOMES

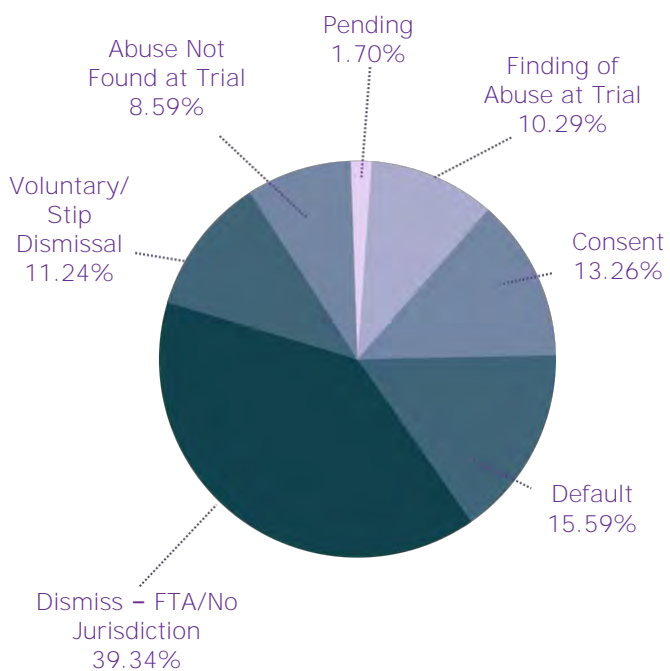
FY22 Statewide PFA Outcomes



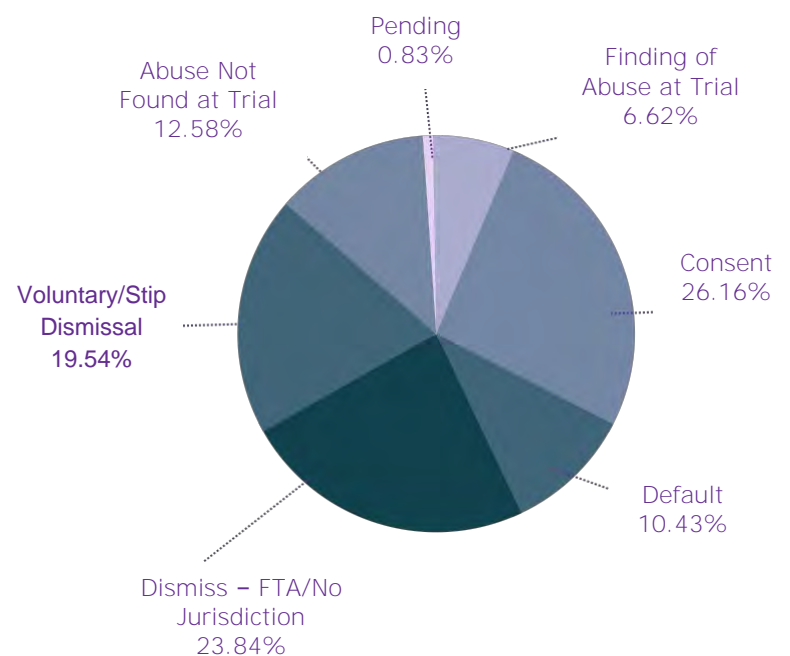
FY22 New Castle County PFA Outcomes



FY22 Sussex County PFA Outcomes



FY22 Kent County PFA Outcomes

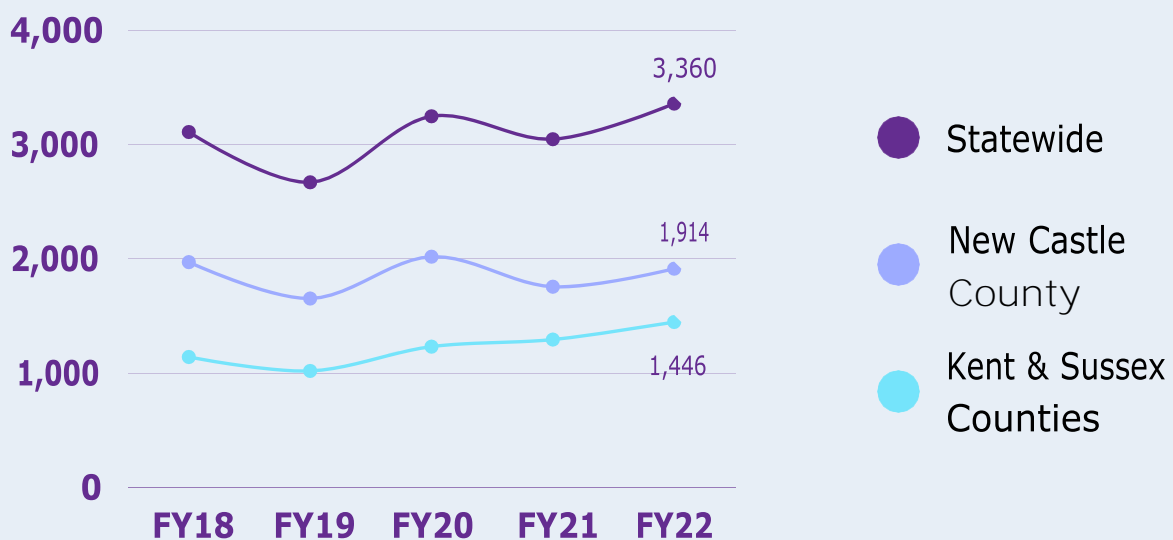


Year In Review

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE STATISTICS

The Domestic Violence Hotlines are an important resource available to victims of domestic violence in Delaware. The hotlines, which are available in all three counties, are confidential and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Hotlines are staffed by trained professionals who assist in safety planning, offer emergency shelter when appropriate, and refer victims to available resources. Services are available for victims who do not speak English and for those who are hearing impaired.

Number of Hotline Calls by County per Year



In FY2022, there were a total of 3,360 calls received by the Domestic Violence Hotlines statewide. In FY2022, there were 1,914 calls to the Domestic Violence Hotline in New Castle County and 1,446 calls to the Domestic Violence Hotline in Kent and Sussex Counties.

Year In Review

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER STATISTICS

Two agencies, CHILD, Inc. and People's Place II, offer shelter and transitional housing in confidential locations throughout Delaware. When needed to address safety, male victims are provided emergency shelter in hotels. In addition to providing emergency shelter in trauma-informed settings, domestic violence shelters offer safety planning, case management, advocacy, counseling, child care, job assistance and more.



Individuals sheltered statewide during FY2022

20	Males sheltered
511	Females sheltered
478	Children sheltered



Individuals sheltered in New Castle County

6	Males sheltered
192	Females sheltered
169	Children sheltered



Individuals sheltered in Kent and Sussex Counties

14	Males sheltered
229	Females sheltered
309	Children sheltered

Year In
Review

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCACY PROGRAM

The Domestic Violence Advocacy Programs provide free services to help intimate partner victims of domestic violence navigate their way through the court system. CHILD, Inc. is the statewide provider of these services with an advocate located at the Family Court in each county. The program assists victims with safety planning, answering questions about the court process, filing petitions, and providing a supportive presence at court hearings.

1,122 Petitioners served statewide in FY2022

550 Petitioners served in New Castle County

328 Petitioners served in Kent County

244 Petitioners served in Sussex County

302.255.0420
New Castle Office

302.672.1075
Kent Office

302.856.5843
Sussex Office

Year In Review

LEGAL SERVICES FOR VICTIMS

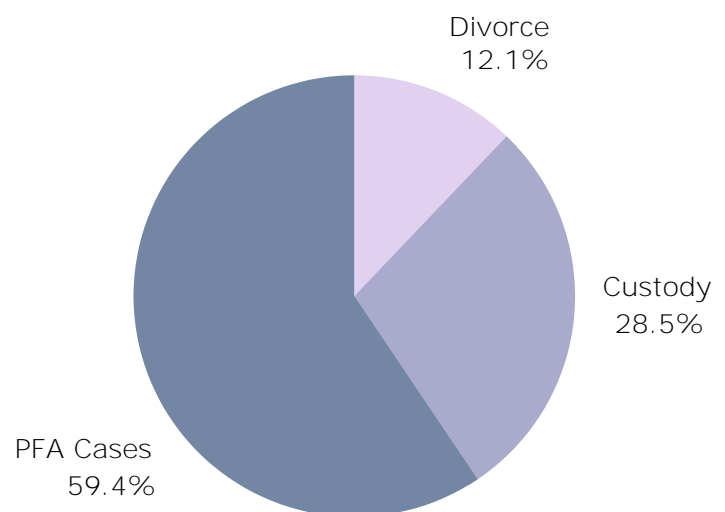
In Fiscal Year 2022, Community Legal Aid Society (CLASI) provided advice and representation in 986 cases for victims of domestic violence statewide. Of the 986 cases, 564 were PFA cases, 270 were custody/visitation cases, 115 were divorce cases, and 15 involved child support.

In addition, CLASI provided advice or referral to 315 victims of domestic violence. Of those 315 cases, 231 involved PFA cases, 59 involved custody/visitation, 10 involved divorce, and 15 involved child custody.

Delaware Volunteer Legal Services (DVLS) provides free representation in New Castle County to victims of domestic violence. In FY2022, pro bono and staff attorneys provided advice, brief services, and representation to 150 victims through the PFA Pro Bono Program in obtaining protection orders. Pro bono attorneys also represented 26 other clients with PFA matters, custody/visitation, and divorce matters. In-house staff attorneys provided representation, advice, or brief services on 351 additional PFA, custody, and divorce matters.

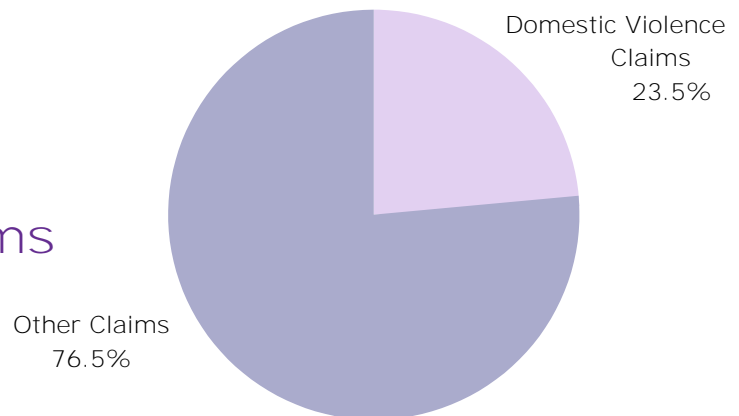
The Delaware Civil Clinic (DCC) at Widener University Delaware Law School provides practical legal experience to law students, admitted to the limited practice of law, pursuant to Delaware Supreme Court Rule 56. The interns are directly responsible for client legal matters and legal research, under close supervision by the program's director and a staff attorney. In the Fall of 2021, the DCC provided legal advice, assistance, research, and referrals to survivors of domestic violence seeking civil orders of protection from abuse, child custody, and/or visitation, as well as other community resources for a total of 2,784 hours of legal research and services.

Types of Cases Assisted by CLASI in FY22



VICTIMS' COMPENSATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

FY2022 VCAP Claims



Every state has a crime victim compensation program that can provide substantial financial assistance to crime victims and their families. Delaware's Victims' Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP), through the Department of Justice, is the agency to provide such relief.

The purpose of VCAP is to alleviate some of the financial burdens faced by victims—those that are directly related to the specific offense—by providing compensation for certain pecuniary losses. Compensation may be available for the payment of medical and dental expenses, mental health counseling, prescription medication and eyeglasses, loss of earnings, loss of support, temporary housing and moving and relocation costs.

During FY2022, VCAP rendered a total of 1,996 payments to, or on behalf of, victims of crime. Those payments totaled \$2,029,189.48. Of those payments, \$624,300.36 (23.5%) were for victims of domestic violence.

For more information about Delaware's VCAP, please visit:

<https://attorneygeneral.delaware.gov/vcap/>

VICTIM INFORMATION & NOTIFICATION EVERYDAY

VINE and VINO Protection Order (VPO)

Victim notification in cases involving domestic violence can be critical to a survivor's ability to make well-informed decisions regarding their safety. The Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (DELJIS) operates the Delaware VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) System. VINE is an automated service that lets victims and survivors track offender's custody status or court case. The VINE Protective Order (VPO) is a free and confidential service that allows petitioners to register for notification when a protective order (Ex-Parte or Final) has been served by law enforcement. VPO also provides advance notice when the protective order is about to expire.

Victims are not automatically registered for VPO upon issuance of a protective order. It is the victim's choice to register for this service. Knowing when the order has been served helps victims create safety plans and take additional precautions to protect themselves.

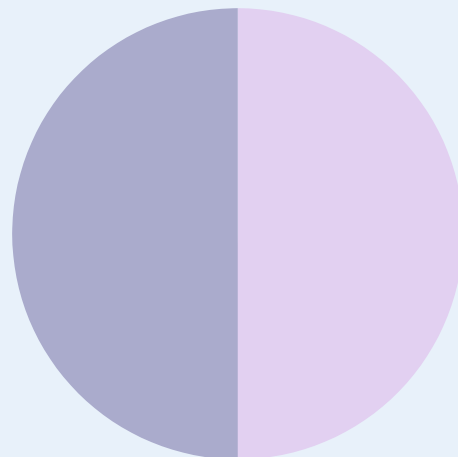
For FY2022, of those registered, the VINE VPO program made 107 successful notifications related to protective orders.

For more information about Delaware's VPO, please visit:

<https://deljis.delaware.gov/vines.shtml>

VPO Program Order Notifications

Final
Orders
50%



Ex-Parte
Orders
50%

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

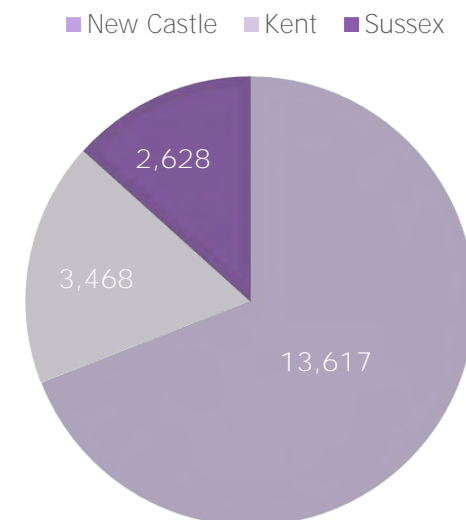
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT

The Domestic Violence Unit is a part of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice. The Criminal Division is responsible for the prosecution of criminal cases throughout the State. Its mission is to represent the State in criminal cases, and in so doing safeguard the human rights of victims and their families. This responsibility includes the preparation and presentation of criminal cases before the Superior Court, the Court of Common Pleas, Family Court, and in some matters, before the Justice of the Peace Courts.

Deputy Attorney Generals at the Department of Justice handle both misdemeanor and felony domestic violence cases in each county. Felony cases, which are cases that carry more than year of potential incarceration, are assigned to one Deputy throughout the criminal process, while misdemeanor cases are handled by Deputies assigned to a calendar, due to volume. The information provided in this report reflects the Family Court calendar events for the domestic violence misdemeanor cases.

The total number of domestic violence hearings for FY 2022, including intimate partner violence and child abuse cases, totaled 19,713. Appearances by the Department of Justice in these cases include trials, pleas, dismissals, capiases, continuances, and cases that are nolle-prosequed.

FY 2022 Domestic Violence Hearings



ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM (ACP)

The Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) provides participants with a legal substitute address and a confidential mail-forwarding system. Survivors use the substitute address when they create or change public records. For example, participants can (and should) place the substitute address on their driver's license or state ID. Participant mail goes to the substitute address and is routed to the ACP. The ACP then forwards participant mail to their actual address.

The Address Confidentiality Program started enrolling victims in 2011. For the Fiscal Year 2022, the Address Confidentiality Program has 20 primary participants and 21 co-participants, for a total of 41 active participants. A co-participant is a member of the same household as the primary victim.

House Bill 359 was passed this legislative session adding human trafficking to the Address Confidentiality Act. The Department of Justice's Human Trafficking Unit will now be able to better support and protect victims of trafficking by providing **them with the resources of the DOJ's** Address Confidentiality Program.

For more information about the Delaware Address Confidentiality Program, please contact the Delaware Department of Justice Victim/Witness Assistance Program at one of three locations throughout the state.

New Castle County

820 N. French St
Wilmington, DE 19801

800.870.1790

Kent County

102 W. Water St
Dover, DE 19904

800.870.1790

Sussex County

114 E. Market St
Georgetown, DE 19947

800.870.1790

FAMILY VISITATION CENTER PROGRAM STATISTICS

Family Visitation Centers provide safe, supervised visits between visiting parents and their children, as well as supervised exchanges of children between parents for off-site visits.

Visitation Centers are designed for families with a history of violence, including intimate partner violence, or in other situations when there is concern for the child's welfare. Families are most often referred by Family Court or the Division of Family Services (DFS), but families may also self-refer. Staggered arrival and departure times along with separate entrances for parents promote safety for families. Family Visitation Centers employ experienced security guards for the safety of children and parents.

Family Visitation Centers provide a continuum of services designed to help address custody and visitation issues in families with a history of domestic violence and abuse. Each Center provides a safe, structured and nurturing environment where children can maintain or re-establish a relationship with a non-custodial parent. The Centers are equipped with age appropriate toys, games, and crafts. Trained staff support parents in engaging children in activities and positive interactions.

The Delaware Family Visitation Program is a federal and state funded program for the operation of the Family Visitation Centers. The Delaware Department of Health and Social Services/Division of State Service Centers (DHSS/DSSC) administers the program on a contractual basis with CHILD, Inc. and Family Visitation Centers at People's Place II. The Centers in Delaware are located at CHILD, Inc. (Main Office), the Hudson State Service Center, the Dover Center, the Milford State Service Center, and the Adams State Service Center.

- **On-Site Individually Supervised Visitation:** 100% continuous supervision by trained staff is provided for one family in a separate room.
- **On-Site Group Supervised Visitation:** Trained staff monitor up to two unrelated families within one room.
- **Monitored Exchanges Off-Site Visits:** Facilitation of monitored exchanges ensures regular off-site visitation without adults having contact. Children can be exchanged on-site for both the pick-up for the visit and drop-off for return.

FAMILY VISITATION CENTER PROGRAM STATISTICS

SERVICES PROVIDED BY FAMILY VISITATION CENTERS IN FY2022

	CHILD, Inc New Castle County	People's Place II Kent and Sussex County	Total Statewide
Visitation Exchanges	411	863	1,274
Group Visits	352	461	814
Individual Supervised Visits	651	507	1,158
Children Served	88	121	209
Visiting Parents Served	125	83	208
Non-Visiting Parents Served	130	80	210
Total Parents Served	255	163	418

DIVISION OF FAMILY SERVICES STATISTICS

The Mission of the Division of Family Services is to promote the safety and well-being of children and their families through prevention, protection, and permanency.

DFS screens for domestic violence when an allegation of child abuse or neglect is reported to the DFS hotline. In FY2022, DFS received 23,598 reports alleging child abuse or neglect. Of those, 8,610 (36%) were accepted for investigation. Of those reports accepted for investigation, 1,730 (20%) also alleged domestic violence.

Domestic Violence Liaison Program:

The Domestic Violence Liaison Program is a partnership of the Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families (DSCYF), DFS, CHILD, Inc. and the SAFE Program of People's Place II, Inc. Implemented in 2002, the domestic violence advocates from CHILD, Inc. and the SAFE Program have been co-located at DFS offices. The domestic violence liaisons provide on-site case consultation, safety planning, support and supportive counseling, home visits, information and referral, and advocacy for the non-offending parents and their children.

67

Victims Served by DFS Liaisons
in New Castle County

94

Victims Served by DFS Liaisons in
Kent and Sussex Counties



SERVICE FOR CHILDREN EXPOSED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Trauma-informed therapeutic services are essential to help children who have witnessed domestic violence recover from the trauma it causes. Counselors providing these clinical services use age appropriate techniques including play therapy for younger children. Safety planning, working through feelings related to the violence, and developing skills to break the inter-generational cycle of violence are the focus of this healing therapy. In New Castle County, services are provided by CHILD, Inc. In Kent and Sussex Counties, Turning Point at People's Place II provides these services to children.

Total people served by Helping Children Heal program at CHILD, Inc.

72 Children/Adolescents Served

61 Parents/Caretakers Served

133

Total people served by Turning Point program at People's Place II

28

22 Children/Adolescents Served

6 Parents/Caretakers Served

TREATMENT PROGRAM STATISTICS

In FY2022, there were three certified treatment providers offering batterers' intervention programs in Delaware. Each of these programs followed the guidelines established through the Domestic Violence Intervention Standards and were certified by the DVCC Batterers' Intervention Certification Panel. The three programs are CHILD, Inc., in New Castle County; Turning Point at People's Place II in Kent and Sussex Counties; and the Family Advocacy Center at Dover Air Force.

	CHILD INC.		TURNING POINT PEOPLE'S PLACE II	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
PROBATION EVALUATED	84	8	141	39
WITH PFA ORDER EVALUATED	48	7	41	4

**The number of people served includes those who attended orientation, had an evaluation, intake or completed the program.*

***The number of people served includes the number of people who were evaluated and attended at least one treatment*

SUPERVISED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDER DATA

Probation and Parole has a specialized Domestic Violence Unit in each county with probation officers specially trained in the dynamics of domestic violence. Domestic violence cases are assigned to the DV Unit based upon criteria including offense, victim/offender relationship, and active PFA orders. The philosophy of the Probation and Parole DV Unit is to hold the offender accountable and maintain victim safety. In addition, Victim Service Agents are available to serve as a liaison between victims and probation officers and provide guidance through the criminal justice system once an offender is placed on community supervision.

Domestic violence offenders supervised in New Castle County.

671

11 Probation Officers Assigned to DV Cases

153 Number of Victims Served by Victim Service Agents

Domestic violence offenders supervised in Kent County.

330

4 Probation Officers Assigned to DV Cases

118 Number of Victims Served by Victim Service Agents

Domestic violence offenders supervised in Sussex County.

228

4 Probation Officers Assigned to DV Cases

95 Number of Victims Served by Victim Service Agents

FATAL INCIDENT REVIEW TEAM REPORT

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council's Fatal Incident Review Team (FIRT) was established by statute in 1996 and became the first statewide team in the country. FIRT members are dedicated professionals who conduct system audits of State agencies and private organizations that had contact with the victim or perpetrator to assess the system's response. Although domestic violence fatality reviews are retrospective in nature, their purpose is prospective. Reviews focus on identifying trends, patterns and obstacles in services, assessing agency interventions, and most importantly, developing practical recommendations aimed at improving the system and preventing future injury and death. In 2009, the General Assembly granted FIRT the authority to conduct near-death reviews. These reviews enhance the Team's ability to improve Delaware's response to domestic violence with the wealth of knowledge that can be gained from speaking directly with the domestic violence survivor about the incident, the history of violence, system involvement, and awareness of resources.

The 2022 Fatal Incident Review Team (FIRT) Annual Report is available online at the DVCC website. This report provides a summary of the Review Team's activities and accomplishments over the last year; statistical data for the domestic violence fatalities that occurred in calendar year 2021; and information and recommendations from the death and near-death cases that were previously reviewed.



RESOURCES & INFORMATION

If you are in danger, please call 911.

Hotline Numbers

DV Hotline, New Castle County
302.762.6110

DV Hotline, New Castle County
Bilingual/ Espanol 302.672.6110

DV Hotline,
Kent and Sussex Counties
302.422.8058

Abriendo Puertas/ Bilingual DV Hotline,
Kent and Sussex Counties
302.745.9874

Contact Lifeline
1.800.262.9800

Sexual Assault Response Center at
YWCA Delaware 1.800.773.8570

National DV Helpline 1.800.799.7233

National Sexual Assault Helpline
1.800.656.4673

National Suicide Hotline
1.800.273.8255

Capitol Police

Domestic Violence Intervention
Program (VIP)

150 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd
PO Box 1401
Dover, DE 19901

<http://capitolpd.delaware.gov/>

DVCC Information

DVCC Main Office
900 N. King Street, Suite 300
Wilmington, DE 19801

DVCC Kent & Sussex Office Milford
State Service Center Annex
13 S.W. Front St.
Milford, DE 19963

Phone: 302.255.1700

<http://dvcc.delaware.gov/>

RESOURCES & INFORMATION

You Are Not Alone...

- Domestic violence is NOT just violence leading to physical injuries. It is a pattern of abusive behavior used to gain control over another person that can include: threats, emotional, sexual or economic abuse; intimidation; deprivation; social isolation or repeated battering and injury.
- Over time the violence usually becomes more frequent and more severe. It does not go away without intervention.
- Children can be devastated by domestic violence. They are hurt by seeing or hearing the violence and they are more likely to be the victims of violence if you are being abused.
- Although you do not have control over your partner's violence, you DO have a choice about how to respond to them and how to best get yourself and your children to safety.

Safety Tips

To increase your safety and the safety of your children:

- Have important numbers accessible to you and your children (i.e. 911, family members, etc.).
- Ask a neighbor to be aware of suspicious activity in your home. Plan an escape route in case of an emergency and practice the plan with your children.
- Think in advance of where you may be able to go with your children in a hurry.
- Leave extra money, car keys, clothing and copies of documents with someone you trust.
- Call a Domestic Violence Hotline for assistance in planning.
- If you are in danger, please try to use a safer computer to which someone abusive does not have direct or remote access

RESOURCES & INFORMATION

If you leave the relationship:

- Obtain a Protection From Abuse (PFA) Order and keep a copy with you AT ALL TIMES. Keep extra copies in your car, at school, work and/or with someone you trust. Remember -- leaving your abuser is a very dangerous time.
- Notify all childcare providers if your partner has been restricted from seeing the children in addition to who has permission to pick up your children.
- Change the locks and make sure all outside lights are working.
- Have your calls screened at work and use voicemail to screen your calls at home.
- Avoid places where your partner knows you will be (grocery stores, banks, etc.).
- When you feel down and ready to return to the relationship, call a domestic violence support group.





www.dvcc.delaware.gov