

Locations

For more information about services offered at The Center, please call any of our locations or visit our website.

KENTUCKY

Kentucky Campus

Open 24 Hours

226 West Weckinridge St.

Louisville, KY

(502) 581-7222 Domestic Violence Crisis Line

(502) 581-7242 TDD

(502) 581-7200 Office Line

West Louisville Campus

(502) 775-6408

Mt. Washington Office

(502) 538-0212

Shelbyville Office

(502) 633-7800

INDIANA

Southern Indiana Campus

Open 24 Hours

New Albany, IN

(812) 944-6743 Crisis Line

Corydon Office

(812) 734-0280

Marengo Office

(812) 365-2338

Scottsburg Office

(812) 752-7996

(877) 803-7577

Toll Free Crisis Line • 24-Hours

www.thecenteronline.org



The Center for Women and Families will employ and provide services to all qualified individuals regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, or disability.

These programs are funded, in part, by the following: under contract with the Cabinet for Human Resources & the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association with state funds allocated by the Kentucky General Assembly, Indiana Family & Social Services Admin., Community Foundation of Indiana, Jefferson Co., the City of Louisville, Metro United Way, Clark & Scott Co. United Ways, Victims of Crime Act, Crawford & Harrison Co. Community Foundations, Indiana State Dept. of Health, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, Preventative Health & Health Services Block Grant, Crime Bill Amendment, Purdue University Cooperative Extension, Younger Woman's Club of Louisville, other grants, foundations and donations.

You have the right to be free from violence!

INFORMATION ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FOR THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSSEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

Information from



THE CENTER FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES

Are you in an abusive relationship?

Does your partner:

- threaten to “out” you to your employer, family or others?
- control what you do, whom you see or talk to or where you go?
- take your important documents or money, make you ask for or refuse to give you money?
- slap, pinch, shove, hit, kick, punch or restrain you against your will?
- intimidate you with guns, knives or other weapons?
- act like the abuse is no big deal, it’s your fault or even deny doing it?
- tell you you’re a bad parent, threaten to take away or hurt the children?
- threaten to kill you?



Battering, also called domestic violence and dating violence, happens in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, transgender and straight communities. It crosses all social, ethnic, racial and economic lines.

Has your partner ever told you....

Men can’t batter other men. Women don’t hurt other women. People of any gender or sexual orientation can batter and be battered.

But I’ve never hit you!

Abuse and battering are not just about physical violence – they’re about non-consensual control.

How can you say I’m abusing you? You’re so much stronger than I am!

Battering is about control not about physical or emotional strength.

I’ll never do it again,

I promise. We’ll get counseling if you stay with me.

Abusers may be (or appear to be) sorry. Couples counseling rarely helps abusers stop battering and can actually be dangerous for you.

An individual’s size, strength, politics or personality does not determine whether she or he could be battered or be a batterer.

What is abuse?

Abuse or battering is a pattern of behavior where one person tries to control the thoughts, beliefs or conduct of a lover, friend or any other person close to them. It can include physical, emotional, sexual and or economic abuse.



Know your options

Call the police.

If you have been struck, beaten or threatened, you should call 911. If the police respond to a complaint of abuse by a gay or lesbian victim of domestic violence, (regardless of immigration status), they will follow the same procedure they use with heterosexual victims. In certain situations, this can include mandatory arrest of the batterer. You may call the police hours after the abuse or the next day.

Emergency: **911**

Non-emergency city police: **574-7111**

Non-emergency County police: **574-2111**

Indiana State Police: **317-232-8241**

Protective orders (DVO and EPO)

These are court documents to provide protection from future acts of domestic violence.

You can file an emergency protective order if any of the following have happened to you:

- physical injury or assault
- sexual abuse or assault
- threats of physical injury or assault

You must be an ex-spouse, spouse, or an unmarried couple who is currently or formerly living together, or who has a child in common.

The laws in KY and IN do not explicitly exclude or include protection for gays, lesbians or transgendered people. If you encounter people who are not responsive based on sexual orientation, ask The Center for help.

You do not need to be a citizen or legal resident to get a protective order.

If you are an undocumented victim of domestic violence, you may be eligible to receive a three-year visa, with a possibility of a green card after that time. Advocates at The Center can help you with this process.

Domestic violence occurs within same-sex relationships with the same statistical frequency as in heterosexual relationships.

- the prevalence of domestic violence among Gay and Lesbian couples is approximately 25 - 33% (Barnes, "It's Just a Quarrel", American Bar Association Journal, February 1998, p.25).
- each year, between 50,000 and 100,000 Lesbian women and as many as 500,000 Gay men are battered (Murphy, Queer Justice: Equal Protection for Victims of Same-Sex Domestic Violence, 30 Val. U.L. Rev. 335 (1995).
- many battered Gays or Lesbians fight back to *defend* themselves - it is a myth that same-sex battering is mutual (Murphy, Queer Justice: Equal Protection for Victims of Same-Sex Domestic Violence, 30 Val. U.L. Rev 335 (1995).

The Center for Women and Families can help...

Services offered include:

- 24 hour crisis line
- Emergency shelter for female victims
- We will find safe options for male victims
- Transitional Housing is available for people leaving the shelter
- Hospital Advocacy
- Legal Advocacy, including immigration
- Safety planning
- Counseling & therapy
- Casework
- Children's services
- Victims' support groups
- The Center serves 14 counties including Jefferson, Shelby, Henry, Oldham, Trimble, Bullitt and Spencer in Kentucky and Clark, Floyd, Harrison, Scott, Washington, Crawford and Orange counties in Indiana.



How you can help if you are not a victim of domestic violence...

- You probably know someone who is a survivor.
- Break the silence around domestic violence in same sex relationships.
 - Share the information in this brochure with a friend who is a victim of domestic violence.
 - Support a friend who is a victim of domestic violence.
 - Believe their stories and don't judge their choices. Let them know they can call you for help.
 - Don't criticize or turn away the survivor even if s/he doesn't leave the batterer right away. It's never easy to leave a lover even when that person is abusive. Let your friend know that whatever decision s/he makes, s/he can always call you.
- Get involved. Volunteer at the Center for Women and Families.