

PURSuing HIS PROMISES

enditnowNAD

Breaking the
silence on abuse



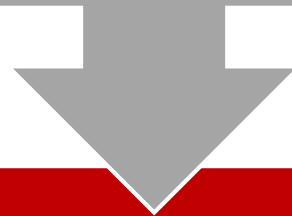
PURSuing HIS PROMISES

#churchtoo





68% of victims turn to pastor first



“I find this hard to believe. I have never seen any evidence of that in him. All the times I’ve ever been with him, he never even said a curse word or anything, so it’s hard for me to believe.”



- Survivor testimonies
- Faith-based Research
- Family Justice Center Reports
- Adventist Risk Management
- Deposition testimony
- Bullying
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Secondary Victimization
- Double Abuse
- Spiritual Abuse
- Abuse & Pornography

SUMMIT on ABUSE

QUESTION

PERCENTAGE

Have you thought about or attempted suicide

49

Is there anything you deeply regret

74

Have you been physically abused

40

Have you been physically abusive

29

Have you been sexually abused

30

Have you been sexually abusive

16

Have you used pornography

68

Have you been sexual with someone who wasn't spouse

66

Is there anything you feel unable to stop doing

51

Have you abused drugs, alcohol or food

46

Have you lied to hide actions or addictions

77

Do you secretly doubt that God is pleased with you

40

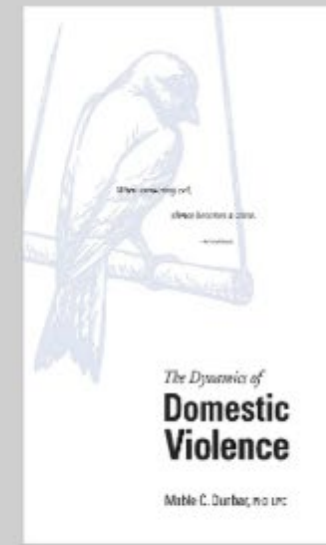


Decision Tree

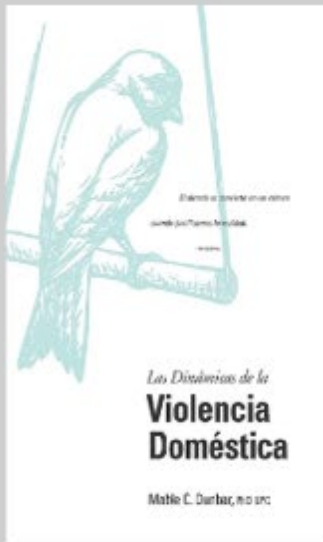
There's No Excuse for Abuse



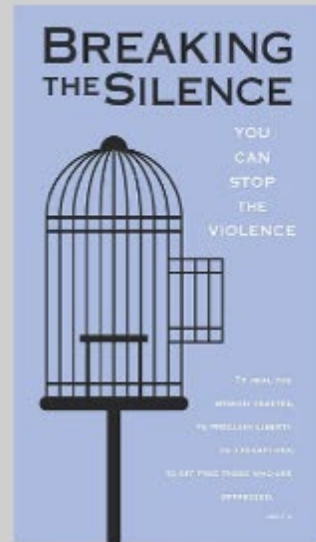
Love Doesn't Hurt/El Amor No Lastima



The Dynamics of Domestic Violence



Las Dinamicas de la Violencia Domestica



Breaking the Silence



Rompiendo el silencio

Abuse Brochure for Teens



starthere



! ARE THERE CHILDREN INVOLVED?

If children are involved, you are mandated to report to local child protective services.

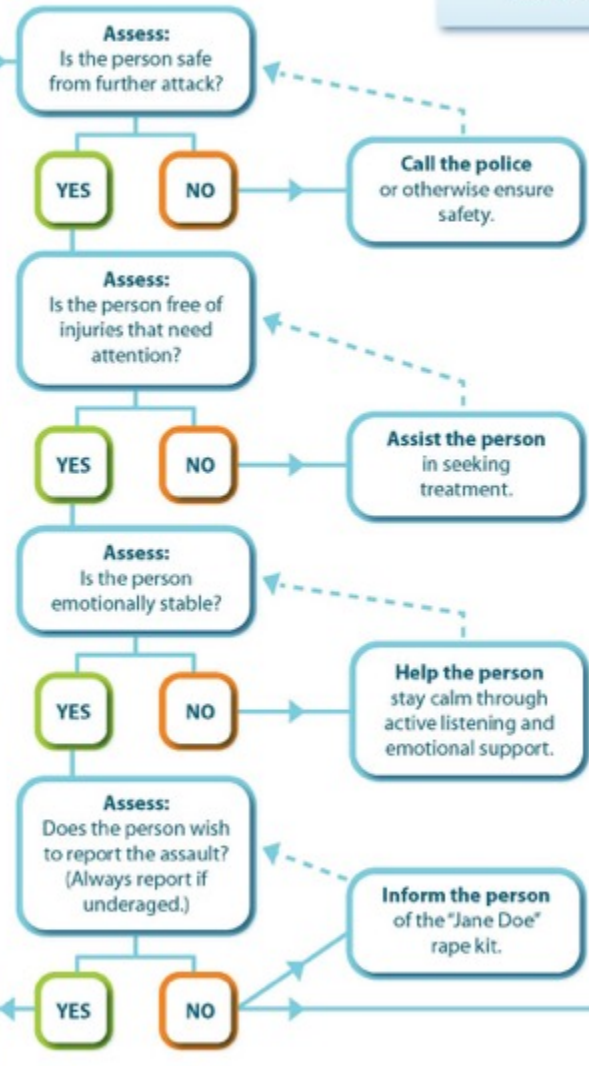
RESPECT

Believe the victim.

Do not ask for proof of violence.

Assure the victim it is not their fault.

Re-assure that confidentiality will be maintained but explain its boundaries.



ACTION

Outline available realistic options—e.g. police, Domestic Violence agency, shelter, court for restraining order.

Supply appropriate information, leaflets and contact numbers.

Make a referral on the victim's behalf (with their permission) if that is wanted.

Document the incidents and actions and keep safely.

H HEALTH AND SAFETY

Immediate needs come first. Make sure the person is safe from the perpetrator and any physical injuries are treated. Escort them to the hospital if there are any injuries that need medical attention.

E EMOTIONAL

Assess the person's emotional state. Listen empathically. Use PIEES: paraphrasing, "I" statements, emotional labeling, and summarizing, like this:

Paraphrasing is simply repeating a thought back to the person in your own words.

I statements are subjective responses, such as, "I'm so angry at the person who did this to you. I want to help you in any way I can."

Emotional labeling involves identifying something for what it is. If the person says, "I feel so ugly and stupid," you can say, "It's normal to feel badly when someone violates your dignity."

Summarizing is also repeating back, but generally after the person has told the entire story.

Assure the person that the sexual assault was not their fault and that they can, and will, feel better in time.

L LEGAL

Share their legal options. If the survivor is a minor, reporting the assault is mandatory. If the survivor is over 18, they may choose. Does the survivor want to report the assault? If so, they must collaborate with legal services, local police, and forensic services. Crime scenes must be processed immediately while evidence remains viable. The survivor should avoid showering or bathing, and even urinating if possible. Do not clean the room, change clothes, or comb their hair.

In some states, individuals can access treatment and counseling free of charge when they report an assault. Reporting can contribute to a survivor's regaining of a sense of agency; but it doesn't guarantee prosecution of the perpetrator. A 2016 CNN report states that of nearly 300,000 USA victims reported from 2005-2010, only about 12% ended in arrest.²

In most states, survivors of sexual assault incur no cost for a forensic exam, but check to be sure. If they will be charged, tell the survivor so they can make an informed decision. A sexual assault exam is performed by a trained professional. Go to <https://www.rainn.org/articles/rape-kit> for details on what to expect.

Some survivors don't want to report. Fear of retaliation, social condemnation, fear of getting the perpetrator in trouble, fear of illegal activity being discovered in the reporting process, cultural beliefs, religious beliefs, and financial dependency upon the perpetrator are just some possible reasons. The survivor may need time to consider his or her options. Never pressure or force a survivor into reporting (after all, they've already been forced once).

But make sure the survivor knows that she may be able to obtain a "Jane Doe rape kit," meaning she can anonymously undergo a forensic exam, receive a code, and report later if she chooses. Accompany her to the hospital and request this if she chooses it.

P PSYCHOLOGICAL

Depending upon the person's support group, natural resilience, and other factors, long-term psychological help may be needed. Assure the survivor this is not weakness on his or her part. Encourage the survivor to take advantage of free counseling that may be available through state funding. The RAINN website has a database of trained professionals at <https://centers.rainn.org>.

USE THIS DECISION TREE TO GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE INITIAL PROCESS.

With each **NO** resolve the situation, then return to the last **YES** to proceed.

PROJECT SAFE CHURCH

Making Churches Safer in the Lake Union

[LEARN MORE](#)

[REPORT ABUSE](#)



10 percent of Protestant churchgoers under 35 have previously left a church because they felt sexual misconduct was not taken seriously. That's twice as many as the 5 percent of all churchgoers who have done the same.

Among the younger demographic, 9 percent said they have stopped attending a former congregation because they personally did not feel safe from misconduct.

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