

Mission Statement

The mission of the Office for Family Ministry is to walk with, support and respond to all families with compassion and understanding.



Please feel free to call the Office for Family Ministry with questions on additional family issues not highlighted in this brochure.

To find out how to obtain additional copies of this brochure please call the Office For Family Ministry

Archdiocese of Detroit
Office for Family Ministry
305 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226

Phone: 313.237.5892
Fax: 313.237.5752E-mail:
familyministry@aod.org



ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT **OFFICE FOR FAMILY MINISTRY**

Help Is Available



Family Support Resource

- Domestic Violence
- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Substance Abuse
- Project Rachel

Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence shouldn't happen to anybody. **Ever. Period.** But when it does, there is help. Maybe you've lived with abuse, maybe you experienced it, just once; maybe you work or live next to someone who is being abused right now. Whatever the case, there is help.

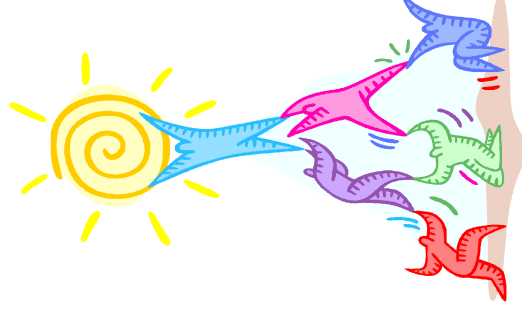
Domestic Violence is a learned pattern of behaviors used by one person in a relationship to control the other person. The partners may be married, gay or lesbian, living together, separated or dating.

The violence can be criminal i.e: physical assault (hitting, pushing, shoving, etc.), sexual assault (unwanted, forced sexual activity) and stalking. Emotional, psychological and financial abuse are not criminal **but they are** forms of domestic violence.

In their 1992 statement, *When I Call for Help*, the U.S. Bishops state "Abuse is any kind of behavior that one person uses to control another through fear and intimidation. It includes emotional, psychological, and sexual...occurs in families from every ethnic, economic, religious and educational backgrounds...violence whether committed against family members or strangers, is antithetical to the Judeo-Christian message of love and respect for the human person".

If you are in an abusive situation, **remember, you are not alone and Help is available.**

<u>The Family Violence Hotline</u>	1 800 99 NO ABUSE	(800 996 6228)
<u>National Domestic Violence Hotline</u>	1 800 799 SAFE	or (800 799 7233)
<u>First Step (Wayne)</u>	888 453 5900	
<u>Turning Point (Macomb)</u>	586 463 2300	
<u>Haven (Oakland)</u>	248-334-1284	
<u>DARES (St. Clair)</u>	810 985 4950	
<u>Family Counseling & Shelter (Monroe)</u>	734 242 7233	
<u>LACADA (Lapeer)</u>	810 667 4175	



Help Is Available

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Child Abuse and Neglect

While the tragedy of child abuse and neglect is beginning to come to light, many victims and family members continue to remain silent because of fear and embarrassment. Child abuse can be inflicted physically, sexually or emotionally.

Physical child abuse is any act of aggression directed at a child that causes injury (striking with hand, fist, foot or object; burning, shaking, biting, pinching...).

Child sexual abuse is the *exploitation of a child for the sexual gratification of an adult. It may range from exhibitionism and fondling to intercourse and the use of children in pornographic materials. Child sexual abuse over the centuries has been cloaked in a conspiracy of silence because the abuse often occurs in the home and the victims are children. People tend to think that certain authority figures, such as parents, stepparents, teachers, or clergy are above reproach; that 'pillars of the community' could not abuse children. Abusive behavior often hides behind the cloak of love and trust. (Walk in the Light, United States Bishops, 1995).*

Emotional child abuse affects or interferes with a child's mental health or social development and ranges from insults to acts of terror. Emotional abuse is almost always a factor within physical and sexual abuse and neglect.

Neglect results from a pattern of failing to provide basic needs for a child to the point where the child may be physically or psychologically at risk.

Child abuse knows no boundaries – it occurs in all racial and cultural groups, in rural, suburban and urban areas; and in all socioeconomic and educational levels. Ninety percent of cases are with someone the child knows, trusts and loves.

The effects of neglect and abuse are sometimes obvious and immediate, but other effects may not appear for some time or erupt like time bombs later in life. Effects can last a lifetime. For many survivors, the ability to trust or believe in people or even in God as loving and just is shattered. The hope of being clean, of being a whole person, of being lovable has been taken away by the abuser. We know, however, that when abuse is acknowledged and dealt with, many victims can and do move forward to discover healthy self-esteem which leads to healthy relationships.

Remember, for victims, survivors, abusers and witnesses, **help is available.**

The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline 1 800 4 –A-CHILD (1 800 422 4453)
www.childhelp.org/get_help

Michigan Child Abuse Hotline 1 800 942 4357

Michigan Department of Human Services www.michigan.gov/dhs

Lapeer 810 664 5968 Oakland 800 975 5010

Macomb 877 412 6109 St. Clair 810 966 2173

Monroe 734 243 7400 Wayne 313 396 0300

Parents Help Hotline 1 800 942 HELP (1 800 942 4357)

Website – Archdiocese of Detroit, Safe Environments

www.aodonline.org/AODOnline/SAFE+Environments+14627/safe+environments+-+Program.htm

Website Out-Wayne County www.childshope.org

Substance Abuse

Substance abuse, alcohol and drug dependency, does **not indicate** weakness in character nor is it deliberate in nature. Substance abuse **is** a disease – and there is help. Substance abuse does not only affect the individual, but rather it profoundly impacts the entire family, friends and co-workers.

The U.S. Bishops, in their statement *New Slavery: New Freedom: A Pastoral Message on Substance Abuse (1990)* state that our “church response to drug and alcohol dependency must draw upon all of our spiritual, pastoral, social and institutional resources...As a believing community, we try to confront chemical dependency with both the honesty to recognize its power for human destruction and the faith that we can prevail with the grace and power of God...to every family struggling to confront and heal chemical dependency, we pledge solidarity and support...in the case of chemical use problems, experience has shown that an individual *cannot* win the battle alone...”

Chemical dependency is a reality in the lives of too many people. United States statistics estimate one in ten persons is chemically dependent and one in four is affected by abuse of alcohol in their own families. Don't face alcohol and drug problems alone – **help is available:**

Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence (NCADD)

800 344 3400 or 313 341 9891
<http://www.ncadd.org/>

Alcoholics Anonymous 248 541 7490

www.alcoholics-anonymous.org

Al Anon Family Groups 248 888 8586

www.al-anon-alateen.org

Narcotics Anonymous 248 543 7200

www.na.org

NARNO Family Groups 810 447 2868

Alcohol & Drug Helpline 800 821 HELP

Project Rachel

Without a doubt, abortion can be one of the most traumatic moments a person can face. Both before and after the abortion, feelings of **fear, anxiety, guilt, panic and pressure** are common not only for the woman who undergoes the abortion, but also for the father, the grandparents, close friends, even medical personnel. The pain of abortion is often intensified by a sense of alienation from God and from church.

In his 1995 encyclical, *The Gospel of Life*, Pope John Paul II says “I would like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. Certainly, what happened was and remains terribly wrong. But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. Try rather to understand what happened and face it honestly. If you have not already done so, give yourselves over with humility and trust to repentance. The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.” (#99)

Cardinal Adam Maida addresses post-abortive women “It may surprise you that the Church welcomes you back. Perhaps, we are negligent in not telling you enough. What we often do not see, particularly in the case of abortion, a sin the church so vehemently denounces, is that the church as strongly as it condemns sins, profoundly forgives sinners. And there is no unforgivable sin. The Church is not interested in penalties, but in reconciliation. No amount of evil and guilt will change the nature of God...may grace be yours in this healing journey. Welcome home. It's a joy to have you back.”(1995)

Project Rachel is a private, sensitive, structured, confidential post abortion reconciliation experience with the assistance of counselors, priests, support group programs and/or persons.

Project Rachel 1 888 RACHEL5
(1 888 722 4355)