

#### **Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in a relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, psychological, or technological actions or threats of actions or other patterns of coercive behavior that influence another person within an intimate partner relationship.

#### **Sexual Assault**

Sexual Assault is any unwanted sexual contact that includes rape, attempted rape, intentional sexual touching, incest or molestation. It is committed without consent and often through the use of force, intimidation or coercion. Perpetrators can be strangers, spouses, acquaintances, friends, family members or anyone else. Sexual assault is not about sexual desire, it is about power and control. If this happens to you or someone you know, remember it is NOT your fault.

You Are Not Alone!

#### **Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Hotlines:**

SafeLink – statewide 24hr hotline 877-785-2020 National Domestic Violence Hotline 24hr hotline 800-799-7233 The Network la Red (LGBQ/T) 617-742-4911 24hr Toll-Free 800-832-1901

National Sexual Assault 24hr Hotline: 800-656-HOPE Local Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Agencies: South Shore Resource and Advocacy Center, Plymouth, MA (508) 746-2664

South Shore Resource and Advocacy Center (formerly South Shore Women's Resource Center) is a victim service, not-for-profit, community-based program that has been assisting survivors of domestic violence for over 40 years. SSRAC is a program of Southeast Massachusetts Council on Addiction, which believes that all people have the right to live free from violence and abuse. We provide free and confidential support, advocacy, prevention, and educational programs. SSRAC services are free and confidential and are available to all, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, identity, orientation, religious beliefs, gender, nationality, immigration status, income, and/or ability.

## Health Imperatives, Brockton, MA (508) 588-8255

Health Imperatives' A New Day program offers free assistance for sexual assault, human trafficking, and sexual exploitation survivors and their family members. Services include crisis counseling, support groups, case management, emergency housing, court advocacy, 24/7 accompaniment for medical care following a sexual assault, and connections to community resources. Our mission is to improve the health and well-being of low-income or vulnerable families and individuals in Southeastern Massachusetts.

#### Other Hotlines:

National Runaway 24hr hotline 800-RUNAWAY Child at Risk 24hr hotline 800-792-5200 Elder Abuse 24hr hotline 800-922-2275 Substance Abuse 24hr hotline 800-327-5050 Parental Stress 24hr hotline 800-632-8188

# Court and Legal Resources Plymouth District Court

52 Obery St., Plymouth, MA 02360 508-587-8000 Clerk's Office (508) 747-8400

### Probation Department (508) 747-8430

Probation is a court disposition that provides an alternative to incarceration. The role of the Probation Officer is to monitor the probationer's compliance with the orders of the court and report any non-compliance issues back to the court. Various special conditions such as stay away / no abuse orders, Certified Batterers Intervention Programs, random testing for alcohol and drugs, and substance abuse treatment may be ordered.

#### **SAFEPLAN (Restraining Orders)**

SAFEPLAN is a statewide program under the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance in which specifically trained court-based advocates assist survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking with obtaining protection from abuse. The mission of SAFEPLAN is to provide a statewide system of court advocacy for victims of domestic violence considering a 209A restraining order. SAFEPLAN advocates are available to help individuals with the restraining order process and all that it entails.

Keep yourself safe when preparing to leave an abusive relationship. Consult with an advocate from your local domestic violence program who can inform you of your rights and options.

#### **South Coastal Counties Legal Services, Inc.**

62 Main Street, Suite 302 Brockton, MA 02301 800-244-9023