

What Can I Do If I Am Threatened or Assaulted?

Call The Police!!

- ✍ Write down the emergency number for the police in your area.
- 📞 If you don't have a phone, make prior arrangements or have a secret code with a neighbor so that they can call the police for you.
- ✓ When the police arrive, be specific as to what happened. Tell the police exactly how you were assaulted/injured.
- ☹ Show the police any injuries and tell them if you felt pain due to the assault.
- File for a protective order.

IF YOU DECIDE TO LEAVE...

- Take identification records for you and your children. (Driver's license, birth certificates, social security cards)
- Take money, credit cards, check book, income tax records.
- Take legal papers-protective order, health and life insurance papers, vehicle registration, visa's, passports, divorce and custody papers, case numbers from police reports.

Due to alarming frequency in Harris County, family violence is the number one cause of injury to women. No one should have to endure family violence, No one. Ever. Period. But unfortunately it does occur and when it does there is help. The Harris County Pct. 4 Constable's Office, Victim Assistance - Family Violence Division was established in 1994 to combat this problem.

Our goal is to intervene where violence has occurred by placing a priority on victims' safety and promoting a community wide response to reduce violence against women.

The Constable's Department approaches these concerns in several different ways. First, with the criminal justice system by making lawful arrest of batterers. Secondly, with the victim, by providing an immediate response and crisis intervention with emotional support, counseling referrals, and alternatives to violence. Thirdly, in the community with public awareness and education in the prevention of family violence.

Family violence is a criminal offense and prosecuted like any other violent crime!

For more information please call:
Harris County Precinct Four Constable
FAMILY VIOLENCE DIVISION

6831 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, Texas 77379
(281)-401-6249/(281)-401-6250
24 Hour Dispatch (281)-376-3472

FAMILY VIOLENCE

and

PROTECTIVE ORDER

INFORMATION



**Harris County
Precinct 4
Constable Ron Hickman**

THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

Most batterers exhibit a behavioral pattern that has been described as a cycle of violence. The cycle of violence has three phases. **PHASE ONE:** The need for power and control, a history of family violence, and learned behavior are some factors underlying battering behavior. For some men, phase one begins with anger, blaming and increased tension. It is followed by **PHASE TWO:** This may be a one time slap, shove, push or punch, or it may be hours of repeated beatings and ritualistic terror, with or without the use of weapons. After this begins **PHASE THREE:** The man may deny or minimize the behavior and battering, promise never to hit again or blame the woman for “causing” him to “lose his temper.”

PHASE ONE:

Increased tension, anger, blaming and arguing.

PHASE TWO:

Battering - hitting, kicking, shoving, slapping, choking, verbal threats, use of objects or weapons.

PHASE THREE:

Honeymoon stage - May deny violence, say he's sorry and it will never happen again, promise he'll go to counseling.

WHAT IS ABUSE

HAS YOUR PARTNER EVER....

- Pushed or shoved you?
- Held you to keep you from leaving?
- Bit or slapped you?
- Kicked or punched you?
- Pulled your hair?
- Twisted your arm or finger?
- Thrown objects at you?
- Threaten to hurt you?
- Taken away your purse/keys?
- Locked you out of the house or car?
- Deny the abuse after it happened?
- Rape you?

OR

- Ignored your feelings?
- Ridiculed or insulted you?
- Made all the decisions for you?
- Controlled you?
- Manipulated you with lies?
- Acted jealous with no reason to?
- Accused you of infidelity?
- Isolated you from friends and family?
- Say mean cruel and hurtful things?
- Prevented you from getting or keeping a job?
- Taking the money you earn and controlling it's use?

Protective Orders and Emergency Orders for Protection

A **Protective Order** is a criminally enforced court order, issued by a Judge, designed to protect one or more present or previous members of a family or household from harm by another member of a family or household.

A **Protective Order** may be obtained through the Family Criminal Law Division of the District Attorney's Office, or through a private attorney.

If the court finds that family violence has occurred and is likely to occur in the future a **Protective Order** may be issued and is effective for the period specified in the order, not to exceed two years.



A **Magistrates Order for Emergency Protection** is issued at the first defendant's appearance before a magistrate *after* an arrest involving family violence.

Protection Orders may prohibit the arrested person from committing family violence or stalking or communicating directly with a protected person in a threatening or harassing manner; or going to or near the residence, place of employment or business, child care facility or school where a child protected under the order resides.