



7 Myths of Domestic Violence

- 1. Domestic violence doesn't happen here.** Domestic violence happens everywhere. 1 in 4 women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime.
- 2. He didn't mean to hit her. He just had too much to drink.** Domestic violence is about power and control. It is more than physical violence.
- 3. If it was really that bad, she would leave him.** Leaving is not so easy. Leaving can be dangerous.
- 4. It doesn't effect me. I'm not abused.** Domestic violence effects everyone. Children who witness domestic violence suffer long-term effects. Outsiders can become victims of violence.
- 5. She doesn't want to press charges.** The decision to press charges is made by the prosecutor—not the victim. A lot of factors come into play with how a criminal case proceeds.
- 6. It is only a criminal court issue.** Domestic violence issues are handled by civil court (Orders for Protection), family court (divorce and child custody), juvenile court (Child In Need of Protective Services), as well as criminal court.
- 7. It is a private matter. There is nothing I can do.** Several agencies exist for the sole purpose of providing domestic violence awareness, resources, and assistance to victims. Victims can get **free** assistance in obtaining Orders for Protection.

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