

Abuse from an intimate Partner

Domestic/Intimate partner violence

Pregnant women are at higher risk for experiencing violence and abuse from intimate partners. Domestic or intimate partner violence is a pattern of purposeful, assaultive and coercive behaviors. It includes physical, sexual and psychological attacks as well as economic control. The aim is to maintain power and control over another person. The number of women affected by violence in their own homes is overwhelming.

Abusive behavior

You may be going through emotional, physical, psychological or sexual abuse if your partner:

- Hits, slaps, kicks, pinches, pushes, burns, cuts or bites you
- Instills fear through looks, gestures, threats of destruction of property or threats to harm you
- Isolates you by controlling what you do, who you see or talk to or where you go
- Creates economic dependence by preventing you from working or having access to money
- Blames you, denies or makes light of abusive behavior
- Consistently demeans you by calling you names, swearing or treating you like a “servant”
- Uses the children as a “pawn” to keep you from leaving
- Forces and/or coerces sexual contact against your will

Violence is rarely an isolated incident. It will happen more often and become more severe over time. The

abuse is not your fault. You are not alone. You can get support.

At the hospital or clinic

When you come to the hospital and/or clinic, we ask all women about their safety related to violence and abuse in the home. You can talk privately to your provider, nurse or hospital social worker. We will ask questions about domestic abuse to you alone, and any information you share will be kept confidential. Staff will support and assist you in getting any help that you need. You can ask about resources, safety planning and, if needed, an Order of Protection.

Community resources

There is no need to wait to get help. The following placed are available to help when needed.

- Anna Marie’s Alliance (24-hour confidential hotline):
(320) 253-6900
www.annamaries.org
- Day One MN Domestic Violence Crisis Line:
(866) 223-1111 or (800) 950-2203
- Hands of Hope Crisis Line (Little Falls, Long Prairie): (800) 682-4547
- National Domestic Violence Hotline and website:
(800) 799-SAFE (7233)
www.thehotline.org
- Rivers of Hope (Sherburne & Wright & surrounding counties):
(800) 439-2642
www.riversofhope.org