

DSS Connections



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

DFS Division of
Family Services

What is it?

Relationship with your local DSS

Each DVP should have at least one local department of social services (LDSS) that they work with. A strong connection with their LDSS can help with services to survivors of domestic violence.

Why is it important?

Connection to local resources

Services such as food assistance and temporary financial assistance and other community resources may be available to DV survivors. CPS and APS may also be a needed resource for DVP staff.

Is this required?

No, but it's encouraged!

Coordinating services with your local LDSS is recommended as part of Professional Standards. While there may not be a legal mandate, certainly a connection with your LDSS is encouraged.

How do we make it happen?

Build and maintain relationships

Learn about the services offered by your LDSS. Develop connections with individual staff at your LDSS and visit their offices in order to better assist your clients. Attend multi-disciplinary meetings that include LDSS staff. If serving multiple jurisdictions, be sure to develop connections in every LDSS in your service area. Cross training or in-service training is another option for making connections.