

Law Enforcement



What is it?

For some DV survivors, their first contact with an outside party may be with law enforcement when the police or sheriff's department is called. A strong connection with law enforcement can increase the likelihood of a referral to a DV program. A program should build relationships throughout their service area and recognize how different jurisdictions respond to DV calls.

Why is it important?

Domestic violence calls can be dangerous for law enforcement officers as well as for the survivor. If your locality has a lethality assessment program, connections with law enforcement can increase the potential success of this program.

Is this required?

Connections with law enforcement are part of Professional Standards. Law enforcement agencies are required by Virginia law to have domestic violence procedures which include guidance about available community resources.

How do we make it happen?

Reach out to law enforcement agencies in your community. Ask to be included in training. Attend roll calls as a way to talk about your program's services. Participate in community collaborations that include law enforcement. Build upon other connections, such as with Victim Witness personnel.