

What is Domestic Violence?

"**Domestic Violence**" is violence that typically occurs between people who:

- * Are currently in, or have been in a significant relationship
- * Currently live, or have lived, together or are related by blood.

Although the violence is often in the form of physical injury, it may also be in the form of threats, isolation, emotional mistreatment, threats of "outing", verbal abuse, or forced sex.

If you are experiencing domestic violence, you are not alone. Although domestic violence is usually hidden, it is very common and probably affects many people you know. Domestic violence tends to get worse with time.

Domestic Violence occurs in all types of relationships regardless of race, national origin, sexual orientation, or socio-economic status.

This brochure was made possible by a grant from the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan, Hope Fund Grant awarded to Lakeshore Legal Aid in 2004.

The Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan, founded in 1984, is a permanent community endowment built by gifts from hundreds of individuals and organizations committed to the future of southeast Michigan.

The Foundation works to improve the quality of life in southeast Michigan by supporting a wide variety of activities benefiting education, arts and culture, health, human services, community development and civic affairs.

Funding for LAKESHORE LEGAL AID is provided by the United Way, the Michigan Bar Foundation, the St. Clair County Citizen Millage, and the federal Older Americans Act state and Tobacco funds from the Area Agency on Aging 1-B and Area Agency on Aging VII, the State of Michigan's Office of Services to the Aging, Region VII Area Agency on Aging; Area Agency on Aging, 1-B; and other supportive community organizations.

LAKESHORE LEGAL AID complies with the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Elliot-Larson Civil Rights Act (P.A. 453 of 1976), the Michigan Handicappers Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended in section 504 of the Social Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR SURVIVORS OF LGBT INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

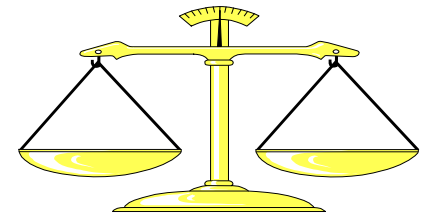
CALL:

**LAKESHORE LEGAL AID
CENTRAL INTAKE**

TOLL FREE: 1-888-783-8190

MACOMB OFFICE
21885 Dunham Road, Ste. 4
Clinton Township, MI 48036
(586) 469-6522

ST. CLAIR COUNTY OFFICE
803 Tenth Avenue, Ste. C
Port Huron, MI 48060
(810) 985-5107



What can I do?

There are many services available to help you obtain assistance and support, such as: shelters, hospitals, police, legal services, and community services.

Should I call the police?

Domestic violence is a crime.

If you are in immediate danger, get out and get help. If you are in danger but cannot leave, call 911.

If you are unable to contact the police, call your local domestic violence shelter.

In Macomb County, the crisis line is:
(586) 463-6990.

In Oakland County, the crisis line is:
(248) 334-1274.

For Oakland and Macomb Counties, call Lakeshore Legal Aid's LGBT Domestic Violence Project at
(586) 469-6522.

Should I leave my home if I am in danger?

Yes, go to a family member or friend's house, your local domestic violence shelter, or any other safe location. Shelters are usually free and the advocates there will help you decide what to do next. They will also have information about community services that may be able to assist you. Keep your location secret.

What if I think I may need to leave?

Have a plan. Prepare a small bag with your important papers in it (or at least copies of such papers). Hide this bag in a safe place (perhaps with a friend) where you can get to it quickly. You may want to call a domestic violence agency hotline and ask them to help you develop a plan for leaving.

What should I take with me?

Make every effort to take your children with you. It is also helpful if you can bring important documents and information with you, such as:

- * Driver's license
- * Marriage license
- * Leases and deed information for your apartment, house, and car
- * Checking and banking information
- * Birth certificates for yourself, and for your children
- * Recent pay stubs (yours and his/hers)
- * Medical records and police reports
- * Public assistance documents
- * Social security cards, visas, green cards or immigration papers, and passport for you and your children.
- * Copies of your abuser's green card/immigration card, social security passport, and birth certificate.
- * Name, phone number and address of anyone who has seen, or to whom you spoke about, your abuser's violence
- * Clothing or other items damaged by your abuser's violence
- * Photos of any injuries or property damage caused by your abuser.
- * Memorize important numbers (e.g., Hospital, shelters, friends, family)

I have heard of Protection Orders. What do they do?

A Personal Protection Order ("PPO") can prohibit your abuser from calling, contacting, or assaulting you, your children, or other family members. **Michigan law simply requires proof of a relationship between the victim and abuser regardless of race, sexual orientation or socio-economic class.**

You may also obtain temporary custody of the children, get economic support, and have the abuser removed from your home.

You do not have to be a U.S. citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident to get a protection order.

How will I support my children and myself if I leave home?

As a part of your protection order, your abuser may be ordered to pay you money each month to support you and/or your children.

An advocate can help you find safe housing and emergency food. Some can even help you apply for public assistance or find a job. An advocate can help with your other needs by putting you in contact with providers of legal, social, or medical services.

What if I am a lawful resident or refugee?

If you are a Lawful Permanent Resident or a Refugee/Asylee, your immigration status should not be affected by leaving your abuser. You have legal status: your abuser does not have the power to have you deported by the INS.