



Metropolitan Police  
Department

Domestic Violence Unit  
300 Indiana Avenue, NW  
Room 3018  
Washington, DC 20001  
Phone: 202-727-7137  
Fax: 202-727-6491  
[www.mpdc.gc.gov](http://www.mpdc.gc.gov)

Domestic Violence Intake  
Centers:

NW DVIC:  
202-879-0152  
500 Indiana Ave. NW  
Suite 4235  
Monday-Friday (except  
holidays)  
8:00 am to 4:00 pm

SE DVIC:  
202-561-3000  
Greater Southeast Com-  
munity Hospital  
1328 Southern Ave. SE  
Suite 311  
Monday-Friday  
(except holidays)  
8:00 am to 3:30 pm

D.C. Court Clerk's Office:  
202-879-0157

Victim Services Unit:  
202-724-4339

Asian Liaison Unit:  
202-724-8009

Gay & Lesbian Liaison Unit:  
202-727-5427

Latino Liaison Unit:  
202-673-4445

Deaf & Hard of Hearing  
Unit: 202-671-3350  
TTY: 202-671-2864

National DV Hotline:  
1-800-799-7233



## Who Are the Abusers?

People who abuse come from all class backgrounds, races, and religions. There is no "typical" abuser.

### People who abuse may often:

- Fear losing control
- Have stereotypical ideas about how people in a relationship should act
- Have low self-esteem
- Keep to themselves
- Have a history of family alcohol or drug abuse
- Have witnessed violence between parents or were abused as a child
- Have poor relationships with women in their lives, such as past girlfriends or family members
- Act extremely jealous and possessive
- Have controlling behavior
- Be quick to get involved in the relationship
- Have unrealistic expectations for their relationships
- Blame others for their own problems or for uncontrollable events
- Be cruel to animals or children
- Act verbally abusive
- Have abused former partners
- Threaten to use violence
- Use force during an argument
- Not take responsibility for their actions

### Why does someone batter?

- Battering is NOT a mental illness or an anger management issue, but a learned behavioral choice.
- Batterers choose violence and until recently, there have been few consequences to deter them. They batter because they CAN.
- Battering is an extreme expression of the belief in male dominance over women.
- They use physical force to maintain power and control in their relationships.
- Many batterers grew up in a home where either they were abused or they saw their mother abused.