

SafeChoice Domestic Violence Program

clark county

Advocacy

The SafeChoice program offers individual advocacy sessions with an advocate trained in domestic violence. Sessions provide support, safety planning, DV education, community information, and referral services for people who have experienced domestic violence, including verbal, emotional, financial, and/or physical abuse. There is no cost.

Walk-in hours are Monday-Friday from 9 am -12 pm and no appointment is necessary. Appointments are available in the afternoon, please contact an advocate. All advocates are able to provide comprehensive domestic violence advocacy and support. In addition, advocates have specialized advocacy skills including:

Bilingual Advocacy: A Spanish-speaking advocate is available to meet with those whose primary or preferred language is Spanish. All advocates have access to interpretation services for other languages.

LGBTQ+ Advocacy: LGBTQ+ (lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and/or questioning) folks experiencing domestic violence face unique barriers. An LGBTQ advocate is available upon request.

24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline: The hotline is available to callers 24 hours/day for support, safety planning, education, and more information about the SafeChoice program. Call (360) 695-0501 or toll-free (800) 695-0167.

Legal Advocacy: Advocates cannot provide legal advice, but they can help guide participants through the civil legal system. This includes help with protection orders. An advocate is present at the domestic violence protection order docket each week.

Legal Clinic: Volunteer lawyers are available to meet with survivors of domestic violence twice a month to provide advice in matters relating to family law, by appointment only. Advocates can assist in the appointment process.

SafeChoice Domestic Violence Shelter: Our gender-inclusive shelter provides emergency shelter for those actively fleeing intimate partner violence, and their children/dependents. The SafeChoice shelter provides many in-house services including the opportunity to meet one-on-one with a trained Domestic Violence and Family Support Specialist to identify housing needs, potential barriers, and next steps in securing safe housing. Children and parents staying at the shelter have access to the Children's Advocacy Program (CAP), which includes trauma informed childcare services and support for families in dealing with the effects of domestic violence. Domestic violence victim/survivors may call (360) 695-0501 for more information.

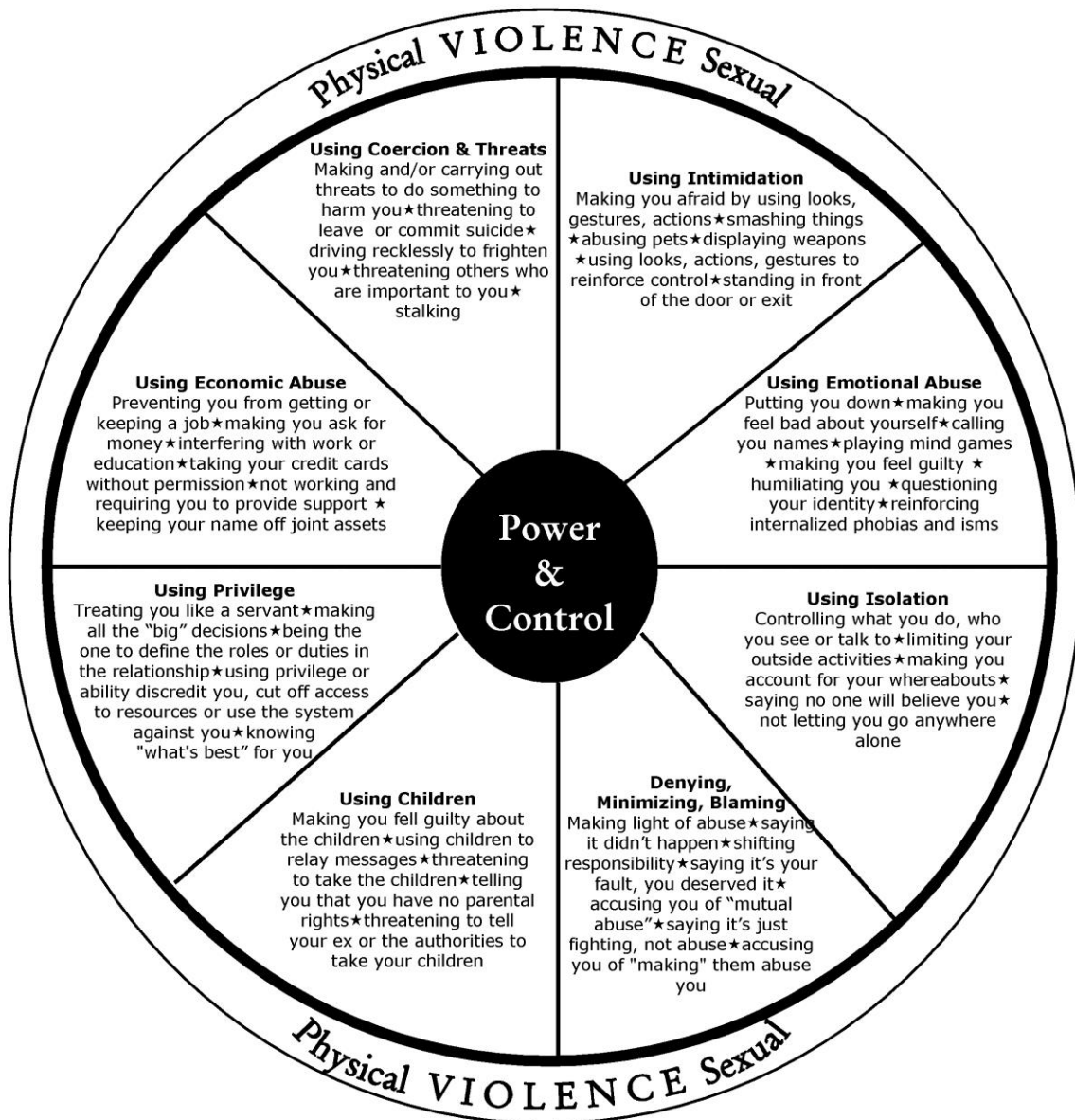
Domestic Violence Support Groups: SafeChoice support groups are for people who have experienced and/or are currently experiencing domestic violence. Individuals interested in attending are asked to meet with an advocate to complete an intake before attending their first group. Childcare is provided but is limited. SafeChoice offers the following kinds of groups: Gender-inclusive, female identified only, and Spanish-speaking.

Domestic Violence Workshop: The SafeChoice Domestic Violence Workshops are for survivors of domestic violence who are interested in gaining information and knowledge relating to DV. Interested people can call the Community Office at (360) 696-0167 for sign-up information. Workshops are offered monthly. Limited Childcare is provided.

Prevention and Outreach: Advocates are available for domestic violence presentations and trainings for youth, schools, businesses, organizations, social service providers, and community events. Our Prevention Specialist facilitates *Where We Grow (WWG)* in local schools. The *WWG* program is designed to build middle school-aged youth's knowledge and skills for healthier current/future peer and dating relationships through a series of interactive workshops. A *WWG* group held at the Community Office is available for youth who have been impacted by domestic violence/dating violence.

Power and Control Wheel

Physical and sexual assaults, or threats to commit them, are often linked to other abusive behaviors. Although physical assaults may occur only occasionally, they can instill the fear of future violence, allowing the abuser to take control of the partner's life. The Power and Control Wheel is a helpful tool to understand the overall pattern of abusive and violent behavior.



*Adapted from the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project
 Duluth, Minnesota*