

A Message from
**ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL
LISA MADIGAN**



Domestic Violence is not just a private family problem – it is a crime that impacts all of us. The thousands of women abused each year in Illinois are the obvious victims, as are the children who witness the violence, hear the threats and insults, and feel the isolation. But every person in Illinois is impacted by domestic violence.

Friends and families lose loved ones when abusers kill their victims. Neighbors endure the fear and anxiety of bearing witness to disturbing acts of violence and brutality. And businesses lose millions of dollars each year in medical expenses and lost productivity due to domestic violence.

Working together to end domestic violence, we can improve the lives of all Illinois citizens.

If you think you know someone who is in an abusive relationship, take it seriously. If you might be in an abusive relationship, call for help. We all have the right to be safe in our homes.

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ATTORNEY GENERAL



HELP IS AVAILABLE

The Illinois Domestic Violence Act protects domestic violence victims who have or had a relationship with their abusers, such as:

- families related by blood or marriage;
- current or former spouses;
- current or former boyfriends or girlfriends;
- parents of the victims' children; and
- current or former roommates.



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It doesn't have
to be physical
to leave a mark.

**DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE**



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ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL

KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Does your partner:

- Keep track of your schedule and whereabouts?
- Control you by being very bossy or demanding?
- Blame others, especially you, for his/her mistakes?
- Accuse you of flirting or cheating?
- Constantly criticize you?
- Control all the money?
- Humiliate you in front of others (including making “jokes” at your expense)?
- Threaten to hurt you, your children or pets?
- Use violence or intimidation to stop you from spending time with friends and family?
- Use violence or intimidation to stop you from working or going to school?
- Force you to have sex, or demand sexual acts that make you uncomfortable?
- Push, hit, slap, punch, kick or bite you or your children?

THE IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The numbers don't lie

31	Percentage of American women who report having been physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend.
240,000	Approximate number of pregnant women in the U.S. battered each year.
252,300	Nights of shelter provided to battered women and their children in 2002 by domestic violence programs in Illinois.
23,000	Number of adults and children in Illinois denied shelter from domestic violence in 2002 due to a lack of space.
\$5.8 billion	Cost of domestic violence to American businesses each year. Costs of direct medical and mental health expenses totaled \$4.1 billion with another \$1.7 billion in lost productivity.

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP

- In Chicagoland, call the Domestic Violence Help Line at 877-863-6338.
- Outside Chicago, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-7233.

The Office of Attorney General Lisa Madigan provides the web-based **Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services Directory**, containing comprehensive information about services provided by domestic violence programs statewide. For more information, visit: www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov/dvsa/.

The Office of Attorney General Lisa Madigan provides **financial assistance** through the **Illinois Crime Victims Compensation Program**, helping domestic violence victims cover counseling, medical and other expenses. For more information about these and other services available to crime victims statewide, call 800-228-3368.