

Important Telephone Numbers

Domestic Violence Resources

- Plymouth County District Attorney's Office
508-584-8120
- A New Day
508-588-8255
- South Shore Women's Resource Center
508-746-2664
- Family and Community Resources
508-583-6498
- Police -Emergency
9-1-1

Plymouth County Courts

- Brockton District Court
508-587-8000
- Hingham District Court
781-749-7000
- Plymouth District Court
508-747-8400
- Wareham District Court
508-295-8300



Assistance

Domestic Violence

The Plymouth County District Attorney's Office

166 Main Street
Brockton, MA 02301

508-584-8120

www.plymouthda.com



TIMOTHY J. CRUZ
Plymouth County District Attorney

The Plymouth County District Attorney's Office



Assistance



Domestic Violence

Timothy J. Cruz
District Attorney

508-584-8120
www.plymouthda.com

A Message from the District Attorney:



As your District Attorney, I am committed to ensuring the safety and protection of every resident of Plymouth County.

When it comes to the issue of violence, we often assume that it comes from the hands of a stranger. Unfortunately, that is not always the case. Domestic Violence occurs in many homes, at the hands of the people we may know or love. A way in which we can keep our families safe, and combat this violence is by educating our communities and creating a greater awareness of Domestic Violence.

If you or someone you know is in a relationship that is abusive, I urge you to call for help. There is no excuse for Domestic Violence, we all have the right to live without fear.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Cruz".

Timothy J. Cruz
District Attorney

What is Domestic Violence?

- Domestic violence is a pattern of control used by one person (the abuser) to exert power over another (the victim).
- Threats and abuse, i.e.: verbal, emotional, physical, sexual and financial, are all behaviors that are used by the abuser to maintain power and control within a relationship.
- Domestic violence is not caused by alcohol or drug abuse, depression, lack of money, lack of a job, mental illness or abuse as a child. However, the abuser often uses these stressors as their reason, or their excuse for their violent behavior.
- Domestic violence crosses all social, economic, racial, cultural and religious boundaries. Experience indicates that the incidents of violence and the severity of the violence tends to increase over time.
- Battering is a violent act which the abuser chooses to commit. Battering is not caused or provoked by the action or inaction of the victim.
- While the abuser may blame the victim, abuse is never the victim's fault.

Under Chapter 209A of Massachusetts General Laws, you may obtain an order of protection from a judge if you are being abused by a family or household member.

What is a 209A?

A 209A is an Abuse Prevention Order, or a "Restraining Order", It is a civil court action that provides immediate protection from abuse. You may obtain an order of protection if you are:

- a spouse or former spouse.
- a present or former household member, including roommates and same sex partners.
- a relative by blood or marriage.
- the parent of your minor child.
- a person with whom you have had a substantial dating relationship.

Where can I obtain a 209A?

You may apply for an order from the District or Probate and Family Court and Superior Court in your towns jurisdiction. You may request an emergency 209A through your local police department after court hours and on weekends.

You do not need an attorney to file a 209A.

A SafePlan Advocate will be available at the Court to assist you.



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