

## Domestic Violence (DV)/Sexual Assault (SA) Officer's Guide 101

Domestic violence includes but is not limited to, physical & verbal assault, mental & emotional abuse, communicating threats & intimidation. Recognizing the signs of abuse is often the first step in taking action.

**ASSESS VICTIM SAFETY** – take victim aside to assure privacy & confidentiality.

- ❖ Questions appropriate for both DV & SA:
  - ❖ Are you afraid?
  - ❖ Are you pregnant?
  - ❖ Can you stay with friends or family or do you need to go to a shelter?
- ❖ Questions appropriate for DV victims:
  - ❖ Have there been threats of homicide or suicide?
  - ❖ Are there weapons in the home?
  - ❖ Are you concerned for the safety of other family members or pets in the home?
- ❖ Questions appropriate for SA victims:
  - ❖ Has someone been stalking you?
  - ❖ Has someone been harassing you at your job, school or activities?

**SEND IMPORTANT MESSAGES TO VICTIM** (avoid victim blaming):

- ❖ You are not alone
- ❖ You do not deserve to be treated this way
- ❖ There is help available

### **DOCUMENT FINDINGS**

- ❖ Take photos of injuries
- ❖ Download photos to Shareall in timely fashion
- ❖ IMPORTANT: Take follow up photos the next day, if possible
- ❖ Serve victim with a subpoena

### **MAKE REFERRALS**

- ❖ Explain 50B process (Safe on Seven)
- ❖ Obtain all names, ages & schools attended of children who are present in home
- ❖ Route copy of report to CPS (when children are present)
- ❖ IMPORTANT: Route copy of reports to 770 if DV incident
- ❖ Give WSPD Victim Assistance contact information-
  - 336-773-7860 or 336-773-7741
- ❖ Inform victims of Savan registry – to be notified when offender is released from jail-
  - 1-877-627-2826

### **OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

Safe on Seven - (336) 761-2320

Family Services, Inc

Domestic Violence Crisis Hotline - (336) 723-8125

Sexual Assault Crisis Line – (336) 722-4457

Forensic Nurse Examiners Unit, WFUBMC Emergency Department – (336)713-9100

Domestic Violence Advocacy Center – (336) 725-9166

**Alabaster Place, Inc – (336) 764-5133 – this is a faith-based agency that provides support for DV victims, regardless of faith. They can make referrals to the appropriate clergy**