

### How can this affect my children?

Children who live in a home where violence takes place are affected emotionally by what they see and hear, even if they are not the target of abuse. Living in a home with domestic violence can make children fearful and anxious. It can affect their sleeping and eating habits, as well as their behavior in school and socially. Children may learn that domestic violence is acceptable and model the abusive behavior later in life.



### What if the police took a gun from my household?

A family or household member may request to be notified 72 hours before police return a privately owned firearm to the person from whom it was taken. Please contact the Stillaguamish Police Department (360-474-9111) and leave a message with your name, the case number, and your contact information. A representative will contact you to gather necessary information. No firearms will be returned outside the normal business hours of the evidence control unit.



An individual who knowingly makes a request for notification under this section based on false information may be held liable under RCW 9A.76.175.



### How will I know if the person who hurt me is being released from jail?

Register with the Washington State SAVIN program (Washington Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification) for automatic notification by phone or email when there is a change in an offender's custody status (including release, transfer, or escape). Register online or by calling (877) 846-3492. Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish County can help with registration (425-25-ABUSE).

### Who can help me? Who can I talk to about my rights and options?

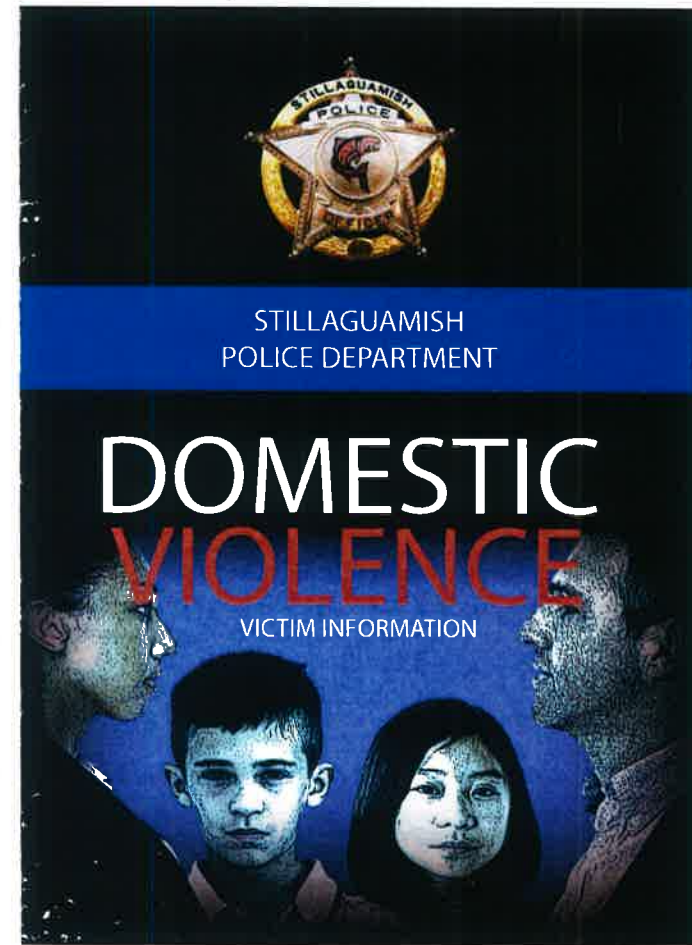
Snohomish County has several community resources that provide assistance for people who have experienced domestic abuse:

- Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish County 24-Hour Crisis Hotline: (425-252-2873)
- Domestic Violence Services has advocates to listen to you, talk about your safety, support your decisions, and help you through court processes such as protection orders. DVS has a confidential shelter and community support groups. Call them at 452-25-ABUSE (425-252-2873)
- Providence Intervention Center for Assault and Abuse (425-252-4800)
- Prosecutor's Office Victim/Witness Assistance (425-388-3333)
- Washington State Domestic Violence Hotline (800-562-6025)
- Stillaguamish Court (360-474-8562)

Officer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Case #: \_\_\_\_\_



Domestic violence is a crime. The safety of the public is our primary mission. The Stillaguamish Police Department thoroughly investigates and aggressively seeks prosecution of abusers and those who perpetrate domestic violence.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior used by someone to control an intimate partner, or a family or household member. Washington State law defines domestic violence as

- Physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury or assault, between family or household members
- Sexual assault of one family or household member by another
- Stalking of one family or household member by another family or household member.

## "Family or household member" means:

- Current or former spouses or domestic partners
- People with a child in common, regardless of whether they are or have been married or lived together at any time
- Adults related by blood or marriage
- Adults who are living together or have lived together in the past
- People 16 years or older who currently live together or who have lived together in the past and who have or have had a dating relationship
- People 16 years or older who have or had a dating relationship with another person 16 years or older
- People who have a biological or legal parent-child relationship, including step-parents, grandparents and foster parents

## Why was my partner, or family member, arrested?

Washington State law requires arrest when police have cause to believe that an assault has occurred between persons listed in the domestic violence law. Arrest is mandated by the law as a means of protecting everyone involved.



## How do I know if my partner, spouse, or family member has been abusing me? What are the behaviors that are part of domestic violence?

- Does a family member or partner's behavior scare you?
- Are you afraid to disagree with your spouse or a family member?
- Do you find yourself apologizing for a family member's behavior when they treat you or your children badly?
- Has someone hit, kicked, shoved, or thrown things at you?
- Is your partner jealous of you spending time with friends or family?
- Does your partner make you uncomfortable or afraid of having sex?
- Are you forced to justify everything you do, every place you go, and every person you see to avoid your partner's temper?
- Has your partner wrongly and repeatedly accused you of flirting or having sex with others?
- Does your partner make it difficult for you to go out, get a job, or go to school?
- Does your partner threaten to commit suicide, or hurt you or someone else, if you try to leave?
- Does your partner blame you when he or she mistreats you or make excuses?

## What are my options? How do I obtain a protection order?



Domestic violence victims can ask the tribal, city, or county prosecutor to file a criminal complaint. Victims also have the right to file a petition in court requesting an order for protection from domestic abuse which could include any of the following:

- An order restraining the abuser from further acts of abuse;
- An order directing the abuser to leave your household;
- An order preventing the abuser from entering a victim's residence, school, business, or place of employment;
- An order awarding the victim or the other parent custody of or visitation of children;
- An order restraining the abuser from molesting or interfering with minor children in the victim's custody.

Forms are available in any tribal, municipal, district, or superior court. The court will need a location or address where the abuser can be served with this order as well as a safe address where you can be served with a response. Help with the protection order process is available at Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish County (425-25-ABUSE).

## I need medical care and don't have the money to afford it. Where can I get help?



Crime victims can apply for benefits from the Crime Victim Compensation Program. Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish County (425-25-ABUSE) can help find those resources.

