

You(th) Have Rights

understanding your rights as a victim of domestic violence

What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior where one person tries to get or keep power and control over an intimate partner or family/household member. This can include:

- Physical abuse (hitting, slapping, shoving, pinching, hair pulling, grabbing)
- Sexual abuse (forcing or trying to force sexual touching without consent)
- Economic abuse (keeping money away from the other person, preventing them from going to school/work)
- Psychological abuse (threats to hurt others or themselves, hurting pets, keeping other person from their friends or family, breaking things)

How do I get the police to believe me when I tell them domestic violence happened?

To get the best response from police, you can:

- Ask them to interview you away from the person who abused you.
- Ask for an interpreter if you need one or call someone who can interpret for you.
- Explain every detail of what happened.
- Show them all injuries, bruises, or property damaged.
- Give names of witnesses.
- Tell them about any abuse that happened in the past.
- Ask them to make a report and get the case number and officer's card, name, and badge number so you can follow up.

Get Help: 612.825.0000

www.tubman.org

Give Help: 612.825.3333

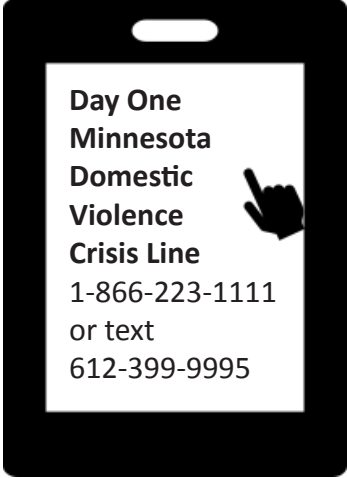
ABOUT TUBMAN: Safety. Hope. Healing. Each year, Tubman helps nearly 25,000 people of all ages, genders, and cultural backgrounds who are facing relationship violence, sexual assault, exploitation, homelessness, addiction, mental health challenges or other forms of trauma. We provide safe shelter, legal services, mental and chemical health counseling, youth programs and community education.

Domestic Violence Criminal Charges



What if I don't want to press charges?

Police send reports to prosecutors, and prosecutors decide whether to file a petition or bring criminal charges. Victims do not make that choice.



Day One
Minnesota
Domestic
Violence
Crisis Line
1-866-223-1111
or text
612-399-9995

Can I be charged with domestic violence since I'm under 18 and a victim?

Yes. Prosecutors can file a petition or criminal charges for youth who commit domestic violence. Sometimes youth who fight back are also arrested or charged with the attacker. The court must decide who the primary aggressor was and hopefully drops the charges on the victim.

What happens if the prosecutor decides to file a petition or criminal charges?

If a prosecutor files a petition or files criminal charges, the case may be resolved when the defendant and prosecutor come to an agreement (plea bargain), or the case might go to trial. Trials can take months to complete. If a trial happens, the victim may be asked to be a witness. An advocate will be assigned to the victim to help them through the process. Victims have the right to be notified of court hearings and plea agreements, to provide input, and to make a victim impact statement if the defendant is convicted.

What can I do if I need help now?

If you are in immediate danger, call 911. You also have legal options to increase your safety:

- **Order for Protection (OFP):** a court order to keep an abuser away from you. Only for intimate partners or family/household members.
- **Harassment Retraining Order (HRO):** a court order keeping an abuser away from you, including anyone who sexually or physically hurts you, stalks you, or harasses you.
- **Domestic Abuse No-Contact Order (DANCO):** a court order from a criminal case to keep an abuser from having contact with you.
- Contact a domestic violence advocate for help understanding your options and going through the legal process.

Remember: the law is only one tool to solve problems. To explore your options, go to tubman.org.