

Domestic Violence Services

Domestic violence does not discriminate and has no boundaries. It is in almost every neighborhood and at every income and education level and in every racial and ethnic group. Alarming, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men will experience domestic violence in their lifetimes.

Breaking the cycle of violence has been an essential part of the services provided by Catholic Charities for many generations. No one should live in fear of someone they love. Yet, millions of people from all walks of life suffer from the tragedy of domestic violence.

Following is a sample of some of the programs Catholic Charities offers that support those impacted by domestic violence.



Domestic Violence Psychoeducational Workshops

Short-term support groups where victims and survivors of domestic violence have the opportunity to share stories in a safe and supportive environment. They can learn about the dynamics of abuse, cycle of violence, ways to stay safe, coping skills and ways to regain control of their lives.

Youth Counseling

Our youth counseling program has highly trained professionals who specialize in youth trauma counseling. Often children who have witnessed or been victims of domestic violence have special counseling needs. Youth trauma counseling is offered in English and Spanish.

Housing

The House of the Good Shepherd's domestic violence shelter and healing recovery programs help women and children survivors of domestic violence rebuild lives with hope and dignity. In addition to safe housing, the shelter provides residents opportunities to learn financial literacy skills, job training and access resources to become self-sufficient and maintain economically stable lives.

Legal Assistance

Catholic Charities provides comprehensive legal services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

In addition, we provide specific victim services such as orders of protection, representation in matters of child support and child custody issues, and Spanish/English translation and interpretation.

Case Management

Catholic Charities assists those seeking our services with other resources, including food pantries, child care, education, utility assistance and clothing. Often when those fleeing a domestic violence situation have very little – many times leaving with only the clothes on their backs. Catholic Charities is there to assist them in every way as they journey to self-sufficiency.

Parish Outreach

Catholic Charities works closely with the Archdiocesan Director of Domestic Violence Outreach to educate parishioners about domestic violence and assist parishes in starting domestic violence ministries. Abused men and women often seek help first from their church as they view it as a safe place. Many parishes within the Archdiocese rely on Catholic Charities professional support and training to help those living in or attempting to leave a home where domestic violence is occurring.

Client Eligibility

Intake assessment is completed on all referrals to determine appropriate level of treatment. Clients referred with a severe mental health diagnosis must be consulting a psychiatrist.

Clients may access services by calling the Counseling Intake line of Catholic Charities:

English: (312) 655-7725

TDD: (312) 236-2800

(for hearing impaired)