

Working Together To Heal

*Information On Domestic Violence
and Its Prevention*



Original Art: Kelly Strang



**Thunder Bay
Indian Friendship Centre**



What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence or abuse includes any physical violence, emotional, spiritual, mental, sexual, and financial abuse between two persons who are in a current, or have been in an intimate relationship. This includes heterosexual and same sex relationships. The couple does not need to be married, or living together and the assault can happen anywhere. It is also important to remember that both women and men can be victims of domestic violence. This definition does not include parent/child relationships or relatives who may also be in conflict.

Criminal Code offences include, but are not limited to: homicide, assault, sexual assault, threatening death or bodily harm, forcible confinement, harassment/stalking, abduction, break and enter and property-related offences. A criminal offence can be as simple as a slap, or as serious as a homicide.

These crimes often display a repeating pattern of assault and/or controlling behaviour, and can also include threats to harm children, other family members, pets and property. The violence is used to intimidate, humiliate or frighten victims or to make them feel powerless.

An incident could be a single act of abuse, but can also include a number of prior episodes that may appear minor in nature. Collectively however, these incidents form a pattern that can result in serious physical harm.

Partner assault/Domestic violence can be reported by phone or in person at any Police Station.

When the Police Become Involved

- Police will respond to the call for service and will do a thorough investigation. A report will be submitted. The police officer will ask you to provide a statement about the incident. If you have suffered any injury, photographs of the injury may be taken with your consent.
- If the officer has reasonable grounds to believe an offence has occurred in an intimate relationship, the accused will be arrested and a charge will be laid.
- Following an arrest, the accused may be released or held in custody. If the accused is released, they will be placed on conditions in the form of an Undertaking or Recognizance set out by the court. A condition may include a no contact order between the accused and the victim. The accused may also be held in custody pending a bail hearing.

- The accused will appear in bail court on the next business day following the arrest. The police officer may request that you attend the Bail Safety Program office to meet with the Bail Safety Officer on the morning of the bail hearing. This is an important meeting that allows you to speak about your concerns. You can call 807-625-1651 (call collect if long distance).
- The Children's Aid Society of Thunder Bay and District or Dilico Anishinabek Family Care will be notified when you have children under the age of 16. The agencies are notified whether the children are present or not during a partner assault incident. This is done for your safety and for the safety of the children.
- If needed, you will be assisted to find a safe place to stay.
- The Victim Witness Assistance Program will get involved once the police have laid charges. Staff will contact you and will provide information about the criminal court process and provide you with court documents specific to your case.
- When a charge has been laid, the case will be prosecuted by a lawyer from the Crown Attorney's office at no cost to the victim.
- If the accused pleads not guilty and the case proceeds to trial, you will receive a subpoena to appear in court. You must attend court. You should notify the investigator immediately if you change your address or telephone number in order to make communication easier. You can get assistance if you are afraid to go to court or do not know the court process.
- If the accused pleads guilty he or she may be approved for early intervention. The accused will be required to attend programming to learn how to live free from intimate partner violence.
- If you have any questions, or need assistance regarding the investigation of your case, you can contact the police officer assigned to your case or Victim Services.



Peace Bond

A Peace Bond is a court order under section 810 of the Criminal Code of Canada. You may apply to obtain a peace bond against a person whom you have reasonable grounds to fear may cause personal injury to you, your property, or your family. To obtain a peace bond, you must first attend the Ontario Court of Justice to meet with the Justice of the Peace. A peace bond requires that the accused keep the peace and be of good behaviour towards the applicant and/or the applicant's family (other conditions may be imposed).

- A court date will be set. The accused will receive a summons to attend court and a hearing will take place. You will be able to tell the Justice of the Peace what happened.
- A peace bond may be issued and an order will be made and the accused will be bound by that order for a period of twelve (12) months.

Restraining Order

A Restraining Order is a Family Court order that requires your partner or former partner to stop molesting, abusing, annoying or harassing you or your children, or from communicating with you or your children. You do not need a lawyer to obtain a restraining order.

This order may be obtained by applying to the Family Court. You may attend the Ontario Court of Justice and ask to speak to someone at the Family Law Information Centre. If an order is issued and the person breaches the order, report the breach to the police immediately. After an investigation, it could result in charges being laid.

Child Custody Issues

Often, the police are called to enforce court orders dealing with parents' rights of access to their children. Even though there may be an order in place allowing for visitation, the law does not give the police the power to intervene and to enforce the order. If one party refuses to grant access to children, you need to go back to the court that issued the order concerning access. Unless an order is obtained that contains specific information, the police are only able to keep the peace. Non-compliance with an order must be dealt with by the originating court and through the penalty section of the Family Law Act of the Children's Law Reform Act.

Private Complaint

Individuals may go before the Justice of the Peace at the Ontario Court of Justice to request that a charge be laid on their behalf.

Safety Planning

Dealing with the police can be scary and could cause you to feel anxious. It is important for you to share details of your experiences for your safety. While you may care about the person who has harmed you, it is also important for the behaviour to stop.

There is always someone to **ASK FOR HELP**. Plan for **SAFE LOCATIONS** to go to during a crisis.

There is **NO EXCUSE FOR ANY KIND OF ABUSE**. Do whatever you can to keep you and your children safe.

Be aware that there is an increased risk of violence when alcohol or drugs are being used.

Ending a relationship can sometimes be very hard and dangerous. Try to end the relationship in a public place and plan ahead for support. Take care of yourself and do what you need to do to feel healthy, cared for and loved. Trust a close friend to support you. After ending the relationship, change your phone number and change your email and passwords.

Apps

One Love Foundation created the **One Love DA** app to educate, create awareness, and provide resources about domestic violence for 16 to 24 year olds. You can download the free app to your phone. These apps are available in English only.



Go to: <http://www.joinonelove.org/main.asp?page=78>

The **One Love My Plan** determines if a relationship is unsafe and helps you to create the best action plan. You can download the free apps to your phone. These apps are available in English only.



Go to: <http://www.joinonelove.org/main.asp?page=78>

Community Resources

Anishinawbe Mushkiki

29 Royston Court, Thunder Bay, ON
Tel: **807-343-4819**
mushkiki.com

Beendigen

1121 Ontario Street, Thunder Bay, ON
Tel: **807-344-9579**
Crisis Line: **807-346-4357**
Toll Free: **1-888-200-9997**
beendigen.com

Bail Safety Officer

1805 E. Arthur Street, Thunder Bay, ON
Tel: **807-625-1651**

Catholic Family Development Centre

380 Dufferin Street, Thunder Bay, ON
Tel: **807-345-7323**
catholicfamilycentre.ca

Centre des Femmes Francophones du Nord-Ouest de l'Ontario (CFFNOO)

P.O. Box 26058, Thunder Bay, ON
Tel: **807-684-1955**
cffnoo.com

Dilico Anishinabek Family Care

200 Anemki Place, Fort William
First Nation, Thunder Bay, ON
Tel: **807-623-8511**
dilico.com

Faye Peterson Transition House

PO Box 10172, Thunder Bay, ON
Tel: **807-345-0450**
Crisis Line: **1-800-465-6971**
www.fayepeterson.org

Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre

184 Camelot Street, Thunder Bay, ON
Tel: **807-345-7802**
www.nwowomenscentre.org

Ontario Native

Woman's Association

380 Ray Blvd, Thunder Bay, ON
Tel: **807-623-3442**
Toll Free: **1-800-667-0816**
www.onwa.ca

Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centre - Thunder Bay

Regional Health Sciences Centre
980 Oliver Road, Thunder Bay, ON
Tel: **807-684-6751**
www.tbrhsc.net/programs_&_services/SA-DVTC.asp

Thunder Bay and Area Victim Services

1200 Balmoral Street, Thunder Bay, ON
Tel: **807-684-1051**
tbayvictimservices.com

Thunder Bay Counselling Centre

544 Winnipeg Avenue, Thunder Bay, ON
Tel: **807-684-1880**
tbaycounselling.com

Thunder Bay

Indian Friendship Centre

401 N. Cumberland Street,
Thunder Bay, ON
Tel: **807-345-5840**
www.tbifc.ca

Victim Witness Assistance Program

1805 Arthur Street E., 2nd Floor,
Thunder Bay, ON
Tel: **807-625-1627**

Talk 4 Healing

A help line for Aboriginal Women
Tel: **1-855-554-HEAL (4325)**
www.talk4healing.com

Emergency Numbers

Police 911

Thunder Bay Police **807-684-1200**

Anishinabek Police **807-625-0232**

Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service **1-800-654-6277**

Ontario Provincial Police **1-888-310-1122**



Native Court Worker Program

This program meets the needs of First Nation individuals who come into conflict with the law and are unfamiliar with the legal system in an urban environment. Through the program, First Nation people access support and gain an understanding of their legal rights and responsibilities, enabling an effective transition through the judicial system. The Native Court Workers can provide assistance in the courts by explaining court procedures to those charged and are a liaison between the Client, Crown Attorneys, Lawyers, Duty Counsel, Police, Service Providers and other related agencies/programs. Native Court Workers make referrals to domestic abuse intervention programs and provide follow-up on court appearances. For males charged with domestic assault, referrals are made to the Kizhaay Anishinaabe Niin program. For females charged with domestic assault, referrals are made to the Anishinabe-Kwe Domestic Abuse Intervention Program at the Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre.

The Court Workers attend Provincial Court Monday to Friday. They also attend out-of-town court in Nipigon and Armstrong on a regular basis in order to meet the needs of clients in outlying communities.

Family/Combined Court Worker

Courthouse Tel: **807-475-7371**

TBIFC Tel: **807-345-5840**

Ext. 231 (Family)

Ext. 230 (Combined)

Criminal Court Worker

Courthouse Tel: **807-475-7370**

TBIFC Tel: **807-345-5840**

Ext. 229





Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre

Programs

- Akwe:go
- Aboriginal Alcohol/Drug Worker
- Aboriginal Family Support
- Gladue Services
- Kizhaay Anishinaabe Niin
- Anishnawbe Skills Development
- Aboriginal Community Council Program
- Native Court Workers
- Life Long Care
- Apatisiwin Employment
- Youth Justice Committee
- Community Support
- Aboriginal Healing and Wellness
- Urban Aboriginal Healthy Living
- Wasa-Nabin
- Children's Wellness

Call (807) 345-5840
www.tbifc.ca



Original Art: Darrel Monias

Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre

401 N. Cumberland St., Thunder Bay, ON P7A 4P7
Fax: (807) 344-8945

Monday to Friday from 9am-5pm
(closed during lunch from 12-1pm)



Ministry of Community Safety
and Correctional Services