

# What is Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault is any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient. Falling under the definition of sexual assault are sexual activities such as forced sexual intercourse, forcible sodomy, child molestation, incest, fondling, and attempted rape.



If you are a survivor or know of a survivor please know that sexual assault was not yours or the survivor's fault. "To a survivor of sexual violence, you have endured a trauma, a significant event or series of events that fall outside the range of normal, everyday human experience." (Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence)

"Unlike other types of trauma, sexual violence is a deliberate violation of your most personal space by one or more individuals that you likely knew and may have even trusted or loved." (Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence) Recovery takes time and the recovery process is unique as each individual survivor.

If you or someone you know or love is dealing with sexual assault and wish to learn more please call us at our **24 Hour Hotline: 419-289-8085 or 800-656-4673 (HOPE)**



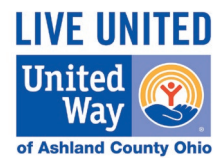
Rape Crisis & Domestic Violence

## Our Mission

To provide prevention, intervention, support and advocacy, with emphasis on empowerment, to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, intimate partner violence and stalking in Ashland County **24 Hours a Day, 365 days a year.**

If you or someone you know is a victim/survivor of domestic violence or sexual assault, please call Rape Crisis Domestic Violence Safe Haven for information/assistance. **There is help available!**

## Our Sponsors



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**24 HOUR HOTLINE: 419-289-8085**  
[www.appleseedmentalhealth.com](http://www.appleseedmentalhealth.com)



Ashland County  
**Safe Haven**  
Rape Crisis & Domestic  
Violence Services



**There is Help.**

**There is Hope.**

**24 HOUR ANONYMOUS HOTLINE:**  
**419-289-8085 or 800-656-4673 (HOPE)**

# What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence, also known as domestic abuse, spousal abuse, battering and family violence, is described as a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner.

Domestic violence knows no boundaries and can happen to anyone regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion or gender. Domestic violence affects individuals of all socioeconomic statuses and educational backgrounds. Domestic violence occurs in both opposite-sex and same-sex relationships and can happen to intimate partners who are married, living together, or dating.

Stalking is a pattern of repeated and unwanted attention, harassment, contact, or any other course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear. Stalking may include any of the following: repeated, unwanted, intrusive, and frightening communications from the perpetrator by phone, mail, and/or email. Repeatedly leaving or sending the victim unwanted items, presents, or flowers.



## Abuse is *Never* your fault.

Advocates will believe you. Abuse in any relationship, no matter the relationship is unacceptable. Abusers make a conscious, rationalized decision to abuse. Abusers have “reasons” to act violently. Remember that none of those “reasons” are justified. Behind an abuser’s reasoning is a need to have **POWER** and **CONTROL** over another person. No matter your action or inaction, you do not deserve abuse.

**Physical Abuse:** Hitting, slapping, shoving, grabbing, pinching, biting, hair pulling, etc. This type of abuse also includes denying a partner medical care or forcing alcohol and/or drugs upon him or her.

**Sexual Abuse:** Coercing or attempting to coerce any sexual contact or behavior without consent.

**Emotional Abuse:** Put downs, name calling, making the partner think they are crazy, playing mind games.

**Isolation:** Preventing the partner from seeing family and friends, controlling what the partner does or who they talk to.

**Using coercion and threats:** Threatening to leave, hurting their partner, or hurting themselves, coercing the partner into doing things you don’t want to do.

**Using economic abuse:** Controlling all of the money, ruining credit, giving an allowance.

**Using male privilege:** Treating the partner like a servant, making all of the big decisions, being the “master of the castle.”

**Using children:** Threatening to take the children away, teaching the children to not respect their partner.

**Minimizing, denying, and blaming:** Not taking abuse seriously, blaming abusive behavior on their partner, telling their partner everything is their fault.



## Our Services

- All services are FREE & CONFIDENTIAL
- All services are available to domestic violence and sexual assault victims/survivors
- **24 Hour Hotline (419-289-8085) or 800-656-4673 (HOPE)**
- Information and Referrals to/from assisting agencies
- Court Advocacy, such as court support and assisting with protection orders
- Community Education and Training on domestic violence and sexual assault
- Hospital Advocacy
- Support Group for victims and survivors
- On-site peer support
- Safety Planning
- Case Management
- 12 bed emergency shelter

## What is *Human Trafficking*?

Human Trafficking is the illegal trade of human beings for commercial sexual exploitation and/or forced labor. In Ohio, an estimated 1,078 children are victims of human sex trafficking every year, with thousands more who are at risk of becoming potential targets every year.



Sex Trafficking victims are forced to participate in sexual activity against their will. They may be sold by romantic partners, family members, acquaintances, or strangers for financial gain. Victims may also be coerced into sex trade in order to obtain food or shelter. Sex Trafficking victims may be forced to have sex, work in strip clubs, or participate in pornographic material. A victim may be a minor or an adult.

Forced Labor Trafficking victims are forced into labor or services such as domestic workers held in a home or farm workers.

## Become a *Catalyst*.

**Volunteers are the heart of the Rape Crisis Domestic Violence Safe Haven.** Become a catalyst for victims by volunteering with our program. Volunteers may respond to hotline calls by providing support and information to survivors and the community, or become an advocate for all victims and assist survivors through many court, hospital or community processes. Help us in the community by staffing tables at events or volunteer to help at the shelter with projects. Make a tax-deductible financial contribution, and know that your dollars go directly to support free services to Ashland County residents or make in-kind donations of goods or services such as office and art supplies.

## About *Us*

Rape Crisis Domestic Violence Safe Haven is a private, non-profit agency located in Ashland, Ohio. We provide victim services to survivors and secondary survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence, including safety planning, shelter, and court, hospital, and family advocacy. We also offer community education and training, outreach and prevention programming.

## Our *Values*

**Compassion:** We care deeply about primary and secondary victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, intimate partner violence and stalking.

**Safety/Shelter:** We provide safe shelter to victims and their children fleeing domestic violence, intimate partner violence or stalking.

**Accountability:** We hold ourselves accountable to all victims, survivors, community and funding sources.

**Collaboration:** We work as a team in the community and with victims and survivors to ensure resources are available.

**Passionate:** We are propelled by the belief that sexual assault, domestic violence and intimate partner violence can be stopped.

**Trained Staff:** Our staff and advocate volunteers are trained to provide support and advocacy to victims/survivors, empowering victims by focusing on personal decision making.