

The Domestic Violence-Free Zone

On January 11, 1993, 23-year-old Sherry Morton and her 18-month-old son Cedric were murdered by Sherry's ex-boyfriend. The tragic death of Sherry and her son soon became for our community a rallying point against domestic violence.

On January 11, 2003, the Mayor and City Council of Northampton marked the 10-year anniversary of Sherry and Cedric's death by designating the whole City of Northampton a Domestic Violence-Free Zone.

The purpose of this proclamation was to implement and promote a coordinated and educated community response to the problem of domestic violence.

As employees of the city, we serve as guardians of our community. We hope that, together, we can continue our commitment towards ending domestic violence in Northampton and keep our community free of violence within the household.



Mary Clare Higgins
Mayor, Northampton



Yoko Kato
Mother of Sherry Morton
Grandmother of Cedric Morton

State/Public Services

Northampton Police Department
Emergency: 911*
Non-Emergency: 413.587.1100

Northwestern District Attorney's Office
Northampton 413.586.9225

Mother's Against Domestic Violence
Northampton 413.586.8870

Victim Services

Safe Passage Battered Women's Shelter
Northampton 413.586.5066*
Toll Free Hotline 888.345.5282*

Everywoman's Center: Rape Crisis Center
Amherst 413.545.0800*
Toll Free Hotline 888.337.0800*

Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project
Toll Free Hotline 800.832.1901*

Child Abuse

Department of Social Services
Toll Free Hotline 800.792.5200*

Elder and Disabled Persons Abuse

Highland Valley Elder Services
Northampton 413.586.2000
Toll Free 800.322.0551

Disabled Person Protection Commission
Toll Free Hotline: 800.426.9009*

Men Challenged by Violence

Men's Resource Center
Amherst 413.253.9887

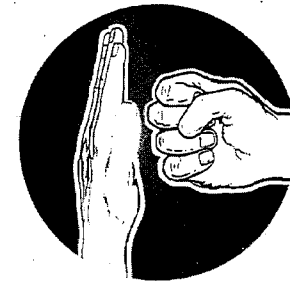
*24-hour

City of Northampton



Domestic Violence-Free Zone

NORTHAMPTON IS A
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-FREE ZONE



IN MEMORY OF SHERRY MORTON
AND HER SON CEDRIC



In Partnership with
District Attorney
Elizabeth D. Scheibel
and David Sullivan, Register
of Hampshire Probate Court

Definition of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is the use of physical, sexual, emotional, or financial abuse by a partner or family member.

Anyone can be a victim of domestic violence, whether they are:

- married
- unmarried
- separated
- heterosexual
- gay
- lesbian
- adults
- elderly
- persons with a disability
- children
- teenagers
- dating

Domestic violence exists across all nationalities, ethnicities, cultures, and religions.

Indicators of Domestic Violence

- Bruising or scarring indicative of restraint, hitting, or kicking
- Threatening words or behavior towards a partner
- Calling a partner names
- Humiliating a partner
- Exhibiting extreme jealousy of a partner
- Controlling a partner's behavior
- Refusing to allow a partner to speak for his/herself
- Isolating a partner from family or friends
- Controlling a partner's access to money or denying a partner access to work
- Stalking
- Past history of abuse

Keeping Northampton Domestic Violence Free

- Be a positive source of support to victims
- Educate yourself on domestic violence and its prevalence in your community
- Know and be able to recognize the indicators of domestic violence
- If you witness domestic violence, call the police immediately
- If you suspect domestic violence but are unsure of how to act, contact a professional agency for advice
- Be an outspoken voice against violent behavior committed by friends or family
- Model respectful relationships among your friends, family, and children
- Address topics of relationships, non-violent communication, and non-demeaning behavior with your children
- Encourage batterers to seek help and change their behavior

If you are being abused, REMEMBER

- **You are not alone**
- **It is not your fault**
- **Help is available**

Helping the Victim

- **Toll Free Hotline 888.345.5282**
- Recognize that anyone can be a victim
- Listen to the victim
- Be sensitive and supportive
- Do not be judgmental
- Remind her/him that no one deserves to be abused
- Recommend or help initiate contact with an agency that can provide professional help
- If he/she is injured, help them seek medical attention
- If you suspect child abuse, call the Department of Social Services
- As an employer, allow employees who have been victims of domestic violence time off to go to court, therapists, or seek medical attention

Helping the Offender

- Express your concern for everyone involved in the violence, including the victim, any children, and the offender
- Be non-judgmental and non-accusatory
- Remind the offender that no one deserves to be abused
- Show your concern and recommend or help initiate contact with an appropriate agency (such as the Men's Resource Center)
- Contact a professional agency