

The City of Minneapolis' Pledge to Reduce Domestic Violence

The City of Minneapolis and its residents cherish their children, value education, embrace diversity, respect their neighbors and protect their environment. Their promise to future generations is an even greater, more beautiful city than the one they inherited. This vision can only be obtained by making a commitment to partner with Neighborhood groups, Advocacy groups, private corporations, the schools and other government agencies to strengthen families and make the City of Minneapolis a safer place to live.

Domestic violence occurring in the City of Minneapolis threatens the safety of our families and our communities. The City of Minneapolis has adopted this Domestic Violence Plan as a statement that domestic violence will not be tolerated in the City of Minneapolis, and we pledge to partner with other agencies and groups to provide effective intervention services to reduce the number of domestic related incidents.

The City acknowledges that domestic violence is a complicated societal problem that requires a multi-faceted approach, which includes:

- Prevention education efforts to support healthy intimate partner relationships;
- Interventions by the criminal justice system in collaboration with community based social service entities to protect victims and children caught up in domestic violence;
- Evidence based investigation and prosecution of domestic violence cases;
- Courts holding batterers responsible for their actions;
- Providing services to victims to assist with emergency housing, legal assistance, and medical needs;
- Ensuring access to all intervention and support services to all communities;
- Providing training to Minneapolis Police patrol officers and 911 call takers responding to initial domestic calls;
- Providing domestic violence investigative units with adequate resources to provide timely investigations to be submitted to the City and County Attorney's offices;

By increasing public awareness and the coordination of efforts in responding to domestic violence, the City hopes to see a decrease in the number of domestic related incidents occurring in the City of Minneapolis, thus making the City and its residents safer, providing more accessible services, and ultimately making families stronger.

The City of Minneapolis's pledge to reduce domestic violence incidents will be realized by a coordinated approach to include the following:

- Partnering with community groups, service providers and the schools to encourage non-violence and practical conflict resolution to promote healthy families and appropriate ways to deal with anger;
- Early intervention and identification of children living in homes that regularly experience domestic violence by assisting those mandatory reporters working with children to better recognize and ask questions about domestic violence;

- Partnering with children's mental health professionals to provide acute crisis assessment, stabilization, and follow up mental health services to children who witness domestic violence as well as education to their caregivers about the symptoms of trauma in children and youth;
- Promoting through the media, awareness of the societal issues that evolve out of allowing domestic violence to exist in the community;
- Ensuring that pro-active advocacy is available to all victims of domestic assault. Victims in crisis cannot be expected to find help, but rather should be contacted and offered assistance Partnering with advocacy groups operating out of the City of Minneapolis to maintain a list of services available to victims by those groups;
- Partnering with advocacy groups to increase cultural awareness and improve community relations with immigrant and refugee communities within the City of Minneapolis;
- Providing accessible information about services for victims of domestic violence on City of Minneapolis websites with translations of the information provided in the primary languages spoken in immigrant communities in Minneapolis;
- Ensuring equal access to the criminal justice system, health care services, government benefits and the shelter system for immigrant and refugee victims of domestic violence;
- Working with probation, service providers and the courts to ensure that perpetrators of violence are referred to services that help break the cycle of violence by changing their behavior and demanding that perpetrators be held accountable for their actions;
- Supporting community groups that monitor the courts to ensure proper dispositions of cases in the courts;
- Ensuring that adequate interpreter services are available to non-English speakers at every stage that services are offered;
- Developing a protocol to ensure victim safety when there are firearms in the home;
- Working with Hennepin County District Court to set up and maintain a system to seize guns from those parties convicted of domestic assault charges and those with current Order for Protection;
- Training all first responders to better document and obtain evidence at a crime scene to assist the investigators in presenting cases that are evidence based;
- Ensuring that the investigative units responsible for investigating domestic assaults have the necessary resources to ensure that cases are fully investigated;

By strengthening these partnerships, ensuring that adequate resources are devoted to domestic violence and working in collaboration with these groups, the City believes that Minneapolis will become a safer and stronger place for its families and communities.

If you are experiencing domestic violence or know someone else who is, or if you just want more information about domestic violence, an advocate can assist you. Advocacy agencies working in the City of Minneapolis include:

Asian Women United of Minnesota 612-724-8823 www.awum.org

Casa de Esperanza 651-772-1611 www.casadeesperanza.org

Communication Services for the Deaf 651-297-6700 TTY www.c-s-d.org
 Domestic Violence Specialist 651-487-8870 TTY

Domestic Abuse Project (including advocates who speak Somali)	612-673-3526	www.domesticabuseproject.org
Outfront Minnesota (GLBT)	612-822-0127	www.outfront.org
Phyllis Wheatley Community Center	612-374-4342	www.phylliswheatley.org
Tubman Family Alliance	612-825-0000	www.stopfamilyviolence.com
Women of Nations	651-222-5836	www.women-of-nations.org
Domestic Abuse Service Center (OFPs)		612-348-5073
MN Domestic Abuse Crisis Line (statewide)		1-866-223-1111