

# LGBTQ Relationships and the Law



love is respect org

The legal system is an important tool in your safety planning, whether you're straight or LGBTQ. It may seem overwhelming, but it's important to know your rights and how the system works. Remember, even if you're under 18 or feel like you can't tell anyone about the abuse, you still have the right to confidential legal assistance and protection.

If you're LGBTQ and experiencing abuse, know this:

- You can tell someone about the abuse if you choose. Some adults are required by law to report the abuse to authorities if you're a minor, but they can still help protect your rights and discuss your options
- You have the right to be safe when on school grounds.
- You have the right to call the police if you're in danger.
- You have the right to receive a protection order in most states.
- You have the right to seek custody of your child or visitation rights. A parent's sexual orientation is irrelevant to custody and visitation unless the parent's actions are directly harming the child.
- You may be eligible for a U-Visa ([www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)) if you're the victim of a crime and willing to cooperate with the police and prosecution.
- You may have the right to take time off from work to attend court hearings.

Chat with a peer advocate at [loveisrespect.org](http://loveisrespect.org) to learn your options and find resources in your community that can assist you before, during and after the process.

connect now!

chat at [loveisrespect.org](http://loveisrespect.org)

SMS text "loveis" to 22522

call 1-866-331-9474

Discuss your options confidentially.  
Peer advocates are available 24/7.

For more information, visit [www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)

Repurposing is allowed and encouraged.  
Please contact [loveisrespect](http://loveisrespect.org) for more information.

To report an incident of gender or sexual based harassment, discrimination, or sexual misconduct please contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX at: 408.551.3043 or report online at [www.scu.edu/osl/report](http://www.scu.edu/osl/report)



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**NATIONAL  
DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE  
HOTLINE**

Domestic violence is about power and control. Many victims will not talk about what goes on in their lives. Learn how to help.

# Recognize the signs.

Are you concerned that someone you care about is experiencing abuse? Maybe you've noticed some warning signs. Does your loved one:

- Constantly worry about making their partner angry?
- Make excuses for their partner's behavior?
- Have unexplained marks or injuries?
- No longer spend time with friends and family?

If someone you love is being abused, it can be difficult to know what to do. Contact The Hotline today to talk about how to best provide support.



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University**

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**Domestic violence, domestic abuse, or relationship abuse is a pattern of behaviors used by one partner to maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship.**

**Here are some ways you can support a person in an abusive relationship:**

- Acknowledge that they are in a very difficult situation. Be supportive and listen.
- Be non-judgmental, even if they leave and return to their relationship many times. They will need your support even more during these times.
- If they end the relationship, continue to be supportive of them healing takes time.
- Encourage them to spend time outside of the relationship with friends and family.
- Help them develop a safety plan.
- Encourage them to talk to people who can provide help and guidance.

**If you have concerns about what's happening in your relationship, call or chat today.  
We're completely free and confidential.**

**CALL 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) | TTY 1-800-787-3224 | CHAT THEHOTLINE.ORG**



*The production of this publication was supported by Grant Number 90EVD426 from the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the National Domestic Violence Hotline and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.*



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# A future without fear

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healthy  
relationships**

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# Recognize the signs of abuse.

Free and confidential.

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Introducing

## VICTIM LINK

Groundbreaking technology that revolutionizes sexual assault reporting and connects victims with community resources

### A NEW APPROACH TO ENCOURAGE REPORTING

The Victim Link agency portal works in partnership with the victim-focused site, Seek Then Speak. Together, they break down traditional barriers of shame and fear, so victims can gather information, explore options, and take action through gradual dialogue on a new multilingual platform (web, phone, or mobile app).

### LAYER TRANSPARENCY INTO YOUR RESPONSE TO SEXUAL ASSAULT

Victim Link puts law enforcement agencies and victim advocacy organizations in direct contact with victims who reach out for help. Information is accurate and up-to-date, and accountability is built into the system, ensuring victims get the support they need.

### NO-COST SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR ELIGIBLE AGENCIES

With funding provided by the Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice, a limited number of no-cost subscriptions are available for eligible law enforcement agencies and victim advocacy organizations. To learn more, please visit [VictimLink.com](http://VictimLink.com).



## Nationally Respected Training Meets Up-to-the-Minute Technology

Developed in collaboration with End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI), using the most up-to-date recommendations for best practices when responding to sexual assault.



### Transparency Accountability Professionalism

The nation demands better handling of sexual assault cases, but it can be hard to know how to create change within your agency.

This project is supported by cooperative agreement number 2017-VF-GX-K024, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this product are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Create the power of change in your community: [www.VictimLink.com](http://www.VictimLink.com)



# VictimLink

## Stop the Cycle of Silence

Enhancing transparency in sexual assault cases



# Santa Clara University



## Connecting Victims to Help

Victims connect to SeekThenSpeak.org via the web, phone, or mobile app. Then they engage with gradual and supportive dialogue prompts within Seek Then Speak. This dialogue can take place in many languages, increasing access for victims.

After providing information on their options, victims are asked if they would like to request advocacy services or initiate the process of reporting to law enforcement. They can provide as much or as little information as they choose; they can even remain anonymous, if they wish.

This is when the program shifts from "Seek" to "Speak." If victims choose, they are connected directly with law enforcement and/or a victim advocacy organization for support. Victim Link triggers a notification to alert law enforcement and/or victim advocacy via phone call, text message, or email.

How can I talk about what happened?

What are my options?

Who can help me?

**SEEK** THEN **SPEAK**

## How It Works



## Improving Responses

- Reliability in public information
- Victims connect directly to request agency services
- Transparency for your agency's response
- Configurable, real-time notifications and reports
- Dashboard display to track all victim reports
- Platform is cloud-based in Microsoft Azure Gov. and complies to law enforcement data security guidelines
- Multilingual voice reporting, web reporting, and mobile apps
- Public awareness tools educate victims and their support people about sexual assault response, recovery, and resources



# What is domestic violence?

It's not easy to tell at the beginning of a relationship if it will become abusive. Anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender can be a victim of domestic violence.

If your partner physically harms, arouses fear, prevents you from doing what you wish, or forces you to behave in ways you don't want to, you may be experiencing domestic violence.



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**Domestic violence, domestic abuse, or relationship abuse is a pattern of behaviors use by one partner to maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship.**

**You may be in an abusive relationship if your partner:**

- Shows extreme jealousy of your friends and time spent away.
- Insults, demeans, or shames you with put-downs.
- Controls every penny spent in the household.
- Controls who you see, where you go, or what you do.
- Intimidates you with guns, knives, or other weapons.
- Tells you that you can never do anything right.



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# What is digital abuse?

A photograph of a man and a woman looking at a smartphone together. The woman is embracing the man from behind. The image is overlaid with a purple tint.

You never deserve to be mistreated – online or off. It's never okay for your partner to use technology, such as texting or social media, to bully, harass, stalk, or intimidate you.

You have the right to feel comfortable and safe in your relationship. Your partner should respect your relationship boundaries, even online. If they don't, you may be experiencing digital abuse.

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Digital abuse happens when one partner uses technology to maintain power and control over another in a relationship.

You may be experiencing digital abuse if your partner:

- Tells you who you can or can't be friends with on Facebook and other sites.
- Sends you negative, insulting, or even threatening emails or social media messages.
- Uses social media or GPS on your phone to monitor you.
- Pressures you to send explicit video or text messages.
- Steals or insists on being given your passwords.
- Looks through your phone frequently to read your texts or look at your call history.



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“Mi hija murió en un accidente de automóvil.”

“Pues eso es lo que le pasa por no tomar el autobús.”

## TU REACCIÓN HACE LA DIFERENCIA.

Cuando alguien te cuenta que fue violada, hay una respuesta sencilla. Empieza Por Creer.

La campaña Empieza Por Creer de EVAWI se enfoca en la respuesta del público a la violencia sexual, porque un/a amig@ o familiar típicamente es la primera persona en que una víctima confía después de una agresión sexual. Saber como responder es crítico porque una respuesta negativa puede empeorar el trauma. Nuestra meta es informar al público, unir a simpatizantes y aliad@s, y mejorar nuestras reacciones – cambiando el mundo, una respuesta a la vez.

Cuando alguien confía en ti...¿cuál será tu respuesta?



Se utilizó el arroba en este documento para prevenir referencias exclusivamente masculinas o femeninas.  
Traducción por Arte Sana (2012)



# Empieza por Creer

Visítenos en línea para compartir su historia y extender la palabra.

evawintl.org | 509.684.9800 | www.startbybelieving.org |

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# When someone tells you they were sexually assaulted, how will you respond?



I believe you.  
I'm sorry this happened.  
How can I help?

## YOUR RESPONSE MAKES THE DIFFERENCE



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SEEK <sup>THEN</sup> SPEAK

*Feeling confused  
and alone after  
being sexually  
assaulted?*



There are many steps a sexual assault survivor may take on the road to justice and healing. Taking those first steps can be hard, but there is help.



*Available on your desktop, mobile phone, and even a landline.*

Gather information. Explore options. Take action.

1-888-865-9863 | [SeekThenSpeak.org](http://SeekThenSpeak.org)



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# YOUR VOICE HAS POWER.

**BELIEVE SURVIVORS. END VICTIM BLAMING.  
ASK FOR CONSENT. RESPECT BOUNDARIES.**

[WWW.NSVRC.ORG/SAAM](http://WWW.NSVRC.ORG/SAAM)

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