

Our Mission Statement

The mission of Domestic Violence Services of Benton and Franklin Counties is to empower all recipients; to assist clients in making their own choices and reclaiming their decision-making ability and autonomy, while providing safe, confidential emergency and support service to victims of domestic violence.



About us:

As a member of the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Domestic Violence Services of Benton & Franklin Counties (DVS) is dedicated to providing a wide array of services to victims of domestic violence in our communities. DVS is available 24-hours a day to assist anyone who has questions or concerns about domestic violence.

If you have questions or need help please contact DVS:

24-Hour Crisis Line & Shelter

509.582.9841
800.648.1277

Domestic Violence Services of Benton and Franklin Counties offers:

- Emergency Housing
- 24-hour Crisis Line
- Advocacy Counseling
- Legal Advocacy
- Resources & Referrals
- Outreach Education
- Children's Program
- Emergency Food & Clothing

DVS services are free of charge and confidential.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND YOUR HOUSING RIGHTS



Administrative Office:

3311 W. Clearwater Ave., Ste. C-140
Kennewick, WA 99336
509.735.1295
fax: 509.736.0649
info@dvsbf.org

Understanding Domestic Violence

- Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior by an abuser that repeatedly punishes or victimizes the other partner. It is a destructive behavior which occurs between family members or between people involved in a intimate relationship.
- Domestic violence is not caused by your behavior, but by your abuser's overwhelming need to control.
- Domestic violence does not always include physical violence.
- Domestic violence can cause physical, psychological and emotional pain, loss of self-esteem, feelings of isolation, shame and depression.
- Nothing you have done makes it alright for another person to abuse you in any way.
- Domestic violence usually gets worse unless there is intervention.

Your Rights:

According to the Residential Landlord-Tenant Act:

- “A landlord may not terminate a tenancy, fail to renew a tenancy, or refuse to enter into a rental agreement based on the tenant's or applicant's or a household member's status as a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, or based on the tenant or applicant having terminated a rental agreement under RCW 59.18.575. A landlord who refuses to enter into a rental agreement in violation of this section may be liable to the tenant or applicant in a civil action for damages sustained by the tenant or applicant.” **(RCW 59.18.580)**
- “When a copy of a valid order for protection or a written record of a report signed by a qualified third party is made available to the landlord, the tenant may terminate the rental agreement and quit the premises without further obligation under the rental agreement or under chapter 59.12 RCW.” **(RCW 59.18.575)**
- “A tenant who has obtained a court order from a court of competent jurisdiction granting him or her possession of a dwelling unit to the exclusion of one or more cotenants may request that a lock be replaced or configured for a new key at the tenant's expense. The landlord shall, if provided a copy of the order, comply with the request and shall not provide copies of the new keys to the tenant restrained or excluded by the court's order.” **(RCW 59.18.585)**

For complete text visit:

www.leg.wa.gov

What you can do to stay safe:

- Make a safety plan.
- Begin to develop or re-establish your support system..
- Have car keys, identification for you and your children, extra money and other important papers in a safe, hidden place.
- Get a protection order.
(Our legal advocates can assist in every step of this process.)
- Let your landlord know.
 - You may ask your landlord to change your locks (at your expense).
 - You may end your lease by giving your landlord the proper notification within 90-days of when the incident occurred.
(For a sample record of report to a qualified third party or a sample letter to your landlord to terminate your lease, please contact us.)

If you believe your rights have been violated by your landlord please contact our agency at 735.1295 or the Northwest Fair Housing Alliance at 509.325.2665 or the Human Right Commission at 800.233.3247