

Understanding Abuse

Abuse is a **pattern of behavior** used by an abuser to **establish power and control** over another person. Underlying all abuse is a **power imbalance** between the abuser and the other person.

Abuse is about:

- **A pattern of coercive and assaultive behaviors**, including verbal, psychological, sexual and physical attacks, as well as economic coercion that an abuser uses against an intimate partner.
- **A pattern of behaviors** which includes a variety of tactics – some of which cause physical harm, some which do not – some criminal and some not – carried out frequently and sometimes in daily episodes.

The backgrounds of people who use violence and abuse tactics in intimate relationships span all ages, cultural backgrounds, economic status, educational levels and geographic areas.



**Victoria Women's Transition House
is there to provide support!**



SPOUSAL ASSAULT VICTIM SUPPORT PROGRAM



- ❖ victim education and support services
- ❖ information resource program regarding the criminal justice system

**The Spousal Assault Victim Support
Program can help!**



24 Hour Crisis Line
(250) 385-6611

Community Office
#100 – 3060 Cedar Hill Road,
Victoria, B.C. V8T 3J5

Phone: (250) 592-2927
Fax: (250) 592-9279
Email: info@vwth.bc.ca
Website: www.transitionhouse.net



The Spousal Assault Victim Support Program is a confidential service available to victims of assault, threats or criminal harassment by an intimate partner or ex-partner. We assist our clients through the criminal justice system, providing emotional support, advocacy and referral information.

We receive referrals from police, Crown Counsel, Victim Services, community agencies and from individuals in cases where there has been police intervention.

We also work at the community level to reduce abuse against women in relationships through community coordination and research.



We provide assistance with the following:

- obtaining information on the criminal justice system, and court results
- supporting victims when they are considering police involvement
- going to court, including preparation and accompaniment to court
- obtaining protective orders
- understanding victim's rights, including information on completing a Victim Impact Statement
- developing a safety plan
- applying for compensation through the Crime Victim Assistance Program
- educating victims and criminal justice personnel.

Our offices are centrally located and provide services to people living in the Greater Victoria area, Port Renfrew, Sooke, the Western Communities, Sidney and the Gulf Islands.

For assistance, please call:
Victoria (250) 356-1201
Western Communities (250) 391-2864

What is the Victoria Women's Transition House Society?

The Victoria Women's Transition House Society provides shelter and services for women, with or without children, who are experiencing abuse in their intimate relationships. We are a charitable agency funded by the Ministry of Community Services, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, the Ministry for Children and Family Development together with community funding partners and private donations.

24 Hour Shelter & Crisis Line
(250) 385-6611

Children Who Witness Abuse Program
(250) 592-2927 ext. 204 or 205

Older Women's Outreach and Safe Home Program
(250) 592-2927 ext. 223

Resource Development Office
(250) 592-2927 ext. 214

Spousal Assault Victim Support Program
Victoria (250) 356-1201
Western Communities (250) 391-2864

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program
(250) 592-2927 ext. 202

Volunteer Program
(250) 592-2927 ext. 222

Community Office
Phone: (250) 592-2927
Fax: (250) 592-9279