

PROVIDER GUIDE:

MALE-IDENTIFIED SURVIVORS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV) AND SEXUAL ASSAULT (SA)

This guide is designed to help health and human service professionals provide support and safety planning for male-identified individuals experiencing IPV and/or SA.

OBSTACLES YOUR CLIENT MAY FACE

- Not being believed
- Stigma and shame
- Fewer specialized services designed for men
- Fear of losing children



THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN INTERACTING WITH THE CLIENT

Gender and "Safety"

The client may interpret questions about safety as questions that don't necessarily address underlying abusive dynamics of power, control, fear, and isolation. Let the client know that abuse can also be emotional, verbal, financial, or related to immigration status.

Stigma

The client may face judgment and contempt from family, friends, police, and courts. In addition, they may feel shame and confusion stemming from the belief that IPV or SA can't or shouldn't be happening to them. The client may not have the freedom to comply with all treatment guidelines.

"Women-centered" Services

The client may be hesitant to receive services from an agency with "women" in the title. Recommend them to welcoming services in the "Resources" section and complete a warm referral when possible. Domestic violence and sexual assault services are open to people of any gender.

Child Welfare System

Acknowledge that the client may fear or assume that agencies like DHS or certain systems (family court, the custody system, etc.) are stacked against them.



USEFUL QUESTIONS TO ASK THE CLIENT

① Who are the people you're able to talk with honestly?

Work with the client to identify trustworthy and supportive individuals. People experiencing abuse are often very isolated, and fear and stigma worsen this isolation.

② Do you have any support networks outside of your partner and shared friends?

Recommend options for developing other emotional support networks including domestic violence counselors, peer specialists and support groups.

③ Are you and your partner using the same services, like support groups, health centers, faith communities, or community centers?

Brainstorm with the client different resources they could use or consider whether a friend could accompany them to appointments/meetings, etc.



RESOURCES

HOTLINES

Philadelphia Domestic Violence Hotline
1 (866) 723-3014

Confidential help 24/7 with interpretation available for questions, resources, and shelter related to intimate partner violence.

WOAR Philadelphia Center Against Sexual Violence
(215) 985-3333

Confidential help 24/7 with interpretation available for questions, resources, and counseling related to sexual assault.

SHELTER

For those experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, visit an intake center to get help. Find more information at <https://www.phila.gov/services/property-lots-housing/buy-sell-or-rent-a-property/find-housing/find-emergency-housing/>

Appletree Family Center
1430 Cherry St., Mon.-Fri., 7am-5pm
(215) 686-7150

Men seeking shelter with children.

Roosevelt Darby Center
802 N. Broad St., Mon.-Fri., 7am-5pm
(215) 686-5671

Single men seeking shelter.

Red Shield Family Residence
715 N. Broad St., Weekdays 5pm-7am and holidays and weekends
(215) 787-2887

Families seeking shelter

Mike Hinson Resource Center
1701 W. Lehigh Ave., Weekdays 3pm-7am and holidays and weekends
(267) 737-9099

Single men seeking shelter.

IPV AND SA SERVICES FOR ANY GENDER

Congreso de Latinos Unidos Latina Domestic Violence Program
(215) 763-8870 ext. 1353
www.congreso.net

Free counseling for adults who have experienced IPV and children who have witnessed IPV.

Lutheran Settlement House Bilingual Domestic Violence Program
(215) 426-8610 ext. 1278
lutheransettlement.org/

Free counseling for adults and teens who have experienced IPV and children who have witnessed IPV.

WOAR Philadelphia Center Against Sexual Violence
(215) 985-3333

Individual trauma therapy related to sexual assault. Group therapy for male-identified survivors offered based on client interest.

Women In Transition
(215) 751-1111
helpwomen.org

Free counseling for adults who have experienced IPV and substance use.

LEGAL RESOURCES

Philadelphia Legal Assistance
(215) 981-3838
philalegal.org

Free legal advice and representation for survivors of IPV in domestic relations matters, including child custody and protection from abuse.

Women Against Abuse Legal Center
(215) 686-7082
womenagainstabuse.org

Free legal advocacy and representation for relationship violence-related legal matters, including PFA orders, child custody, and child support.

ONLINE RESOURCES

1in6
<https://1in6.org/>

Weekly online support groups for men who were sexually abused or assaulted.

Male Survivor
<https://malesurvivor.org/>

An online healing community for male survivors of sexual assault and sexual abuse.