

Bergen County Department of Human Services

ALTERNATIVES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIVISION DIRECTOR

Knowledge is Power!

We are thrilled to welcome you to our July 2024 edition of our newsletter. This month has been nothing short of transformative as we continue our relentless fight against domestic violence in our community. Our collaborative workshops with Jersey College School of Nursing have empowered future healthcare professionals to identify and support victims of intimate partner violence, a crucial step in our mission to end this cycle of abuse. In a groundbreaking development, Governor Phil Murphy has signed legislation that recognizes coercive control in civil restraining order cases. This monumental step forward offers survivors the legal validation and protection they deserve, reinforcing our commitment to justice and safety.

Mark your calendars for our Annual Wear Purple Day on October 17th, a powerful opportunity to stand together in solidarity against domestic violence. Let's make this event our most impactful yet, raising awareness and showing our unwavering support for survivors.

Remember, our 24-hour crisis hotline is always here for you at (201) 336-7575. Together, we can create a safer, more compassionate community. Thank you for your dedication and support.

Marisa Heluk, M. Ed.
ADV Division Director

Caring Together: Nursing Students Join the Fight Against Domestic Violence

In collaboration with our neighbors at the Jersey College School of Nursing in Teterboro, ADV's Prevention Through Education team hosted workshops for nursing professionals about supporting patients affected by intimate partner violence.

The sessions covered identifying signs of domestic violence, addressing associated health risks, and implementing screening and intervention best practices. We commend the faculty and students at Jersey College for their commitment to combating domestic violence!



To learn more on how you can reserve a custom educational workshop or professional training for your organization, visit our [website](#) or fill out our [online request form](#).

JULY 2024 IN REVIEW 7TH EDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- ✦ [Addressing Coercive Control in the Legal System](#)
- ✦ [Caring Together: Nursing Students Join the Fight Against Domestic Violence](#)
- ✦ [Survivor Serv. Highlights: Legal Assistance & Advocacy](#)
- ✦ [NOW HIRING: Analyst- Grant Application Coordinator](#)
- ✦ [Know Your Legal Rights: Domestic Violence Law 101](#)
- ✦ [Survivor Resource Spotlight: NNJLS](#)

ADDRESSING COERCIVE CONTROL IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM

Coercive control is a form of psychological abuse that undermines a person's autonomy and well-being through tactics such as manipulation, intimidation, and emotional or economic deprivation. It often manifests in a pattern of controlling behaviors that can leave victims feeling trapped in their relationships.

In a significant step towards addressing this issue, on January 18, 2024, New Jersey's Governor Phil Murphy signed a law that recognizes coercive control in civil restraining order cases. This legislation allows victims to present evidence of coercive control during restraining order hearings as a legitimate reason for seeking protection. It aims to provide survivors with more legal options and support, and to recognize how serious this abuse can be.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, nearly 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men experience severe intimate partner physical violence, but a staggering 50% of women and 40% of men report experiencing psychological aggression from an intimate partner. Additionally, research shows that victims of coercive control often face challenges within the legal system. Many report feeling that law enforcement and courts fail to recognize or comprehend their experiences.

ADV welcomes more efforts to educate the public about coercive control and other covert forms of abuse in our systems. We also invite advocates working within or in proximity to the legal system to recognize the impact of coercive control and to take a stand against systemic violence by joining [Bergen County's Coordinated Community Response to Domestic & Sexual Violence \(CCR-DSV\)](#).

Reference

National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. (2019). 2019 Annual Report. Retrieved from [National Sexual Violence Resource Center](#).



EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Victoria Wel

Meet Vicky, one of ADV's legal advocates! She is the newest addition to the ADV family. Vicky is a passionate advocate, dedicated to helping individuals and families navigate challenging issues that could potentially escalate into formal criminal complaints. Using effective counseling techniques, Vicky works to determine the cause of disagreements, empowering her clients to find resolution and peace. In her collaborative work with the Legal Unit and Domestic Violence Intake Unit, Vicky ensures she's always in the know about the latest laws and regulations. Additionally, she assists in coordinating a panel of volunteer attorneys, providing essential support to victims during restraining order hearings and ensuring their voices are heard.



Through court preparation sessions, she equips her clients with the knowledge and confidence they need to approach the legal process ready to advocate for themselves. Vicky's commitment and energy make a real difference, transforming what can be a daunting experience into a pathway toward justice and empowerment!

Vicky's vibrant spirit is evident in her passion for dance and her enthusiasm as a devoted Harry Potter fan, despite her fear of clowns. Furthermore, she takes pride in being the first among her nine siblings to achieve both a bachelor's and a master's degree.

We are so lucky to have Vicky on our team!

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS/UPDATES

Legal Assistance & Advocacy Services

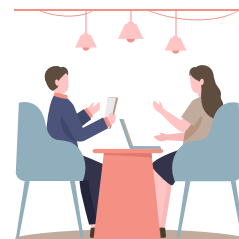
Did You Know?

- **66%** of domestic violence victims who seek a protective order do not have legal representation (American Bar Association)
- **50%** of victims report not being able to afford an attorney (National Center on Domestic Violence)
- Victims of abuse are **70%** more likely to experience further violence if they do not have legal protection (Bureau of Justice Statistics)

ADV offers Legal Assistance & Advocacy services for survivors of domestic violence and dating abuse. Our team of trained legal advocates provide free services to community members seeking civil legal remedies and protections against abuse.

Court Preparation Services

Our court preparation services assist survivors who are interested in or have filed a temporary restraining order (or protective order) in civil court. Our trained legal advocates provide survivors with one-on-one orientation to the process of obtaining both temporary and/or final restraining orders Bergen County, review safety concerns, and linkage survivors to other community resources.



JOB & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We're Hiring

- ★ Full-Time Legal Advocate
- NEW** ★ Full-Time Analyst & Grant Application Coordinator

Go to our Get Involved page to learn more or to apply for a position!

SAVE THE DATE: WEAR PURPLE DAY

ADV's Annual Wear Purple Day will be held on **Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 5:30pm.**



Join us for a week filled with observance, education, and advocacy opportunities, culminating in our annual ceremony where we will honor the lives of our brave survivors with a resource fair, giveaways, music, and light refreshments. More information to come!

Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy Project (DVLAP)

Our Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy Project (DVLAP) allows ADV's legal advocates to screen survivors of domestic violence for their eligibility to receive pro bono legal representation in an upcoming restraining order hearing.



Court Accompaniment

Our court accompaniment services are available to plaintiffs seeking Temporary or Final Restraining Orders in Bergen County Superior Court. Legal advocates connect with survivors the day of their restraining order hearing, provide them with legal education and emotional support, and linkage them to community resources.

Information and Referrals

ADV's team of advocates can provide clients with information and referrals to community partners that may assist with family law rights, such as relating to child custody and visitation, establishing parentage, child support and spousal support, divorce, and legal separation. We can also provide immigrant clients with referrals, advocacy, and help in assessing what immigration relief they might qualify for as victims of domestic violence.

To learn more, go to www.co.bergen.nj.us/adv.
To sign up for our services, contact our main line **201-336-7575**.
We are available to talk 24/7, 365 days a year.

KNOW YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAW 101

In New Jersey, domestic violence is defined under the New Jersey Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (PDVA) (N.J.S.A. 2C:25-19). According to this law, domestic violence refers to certain criminal acts and behaviors committed by one individual against another in a domestic context. The law specifically recognizes domestic violence when it occurs between:

**SPOUSES OR
FORMER SPOUSES**

**PARTNERS OR FORMER
PARTNERS IN A DATING
RELATIONSHIP**

**INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE
PRESENT OR FORMER
HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**

**INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE
A CHILD TOGETHER**

The PDVA protects individuals 18 years of age or older, or who are emancipated minors, and who have been subjected to the following criminal offenses:

**1 HOMICIDE
N.J.S.A. 2C:11-1 ET SEQ**

**6 ASSAULT
N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1**

**11 TERRORISTIC THREATS
N.J.S.A. 2C:12-3**

**16 CRIMINAL COERCION
N.J.S.A. 2C:13-5**

**2 KIDNAPPING
N.J.S.A. 2C:13-1**

**7 CRIMINAL RESTRAINT
N.J.S.A. 2C:13-2**

**12 FALSE IMPRISONMENT
N.J.S.A. 2C:13-3**

**17 ROBBERY
N.J.S.A. 2C:15-1**

**3 SEXUAL ASSAULT
N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2**

**8 CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONTACT
N.J.S.A. 2C:14-3**

**13 LEWDNESS
N.J.S.A. 2C:14-4**

**18 CONTEMPT
N.J.S.A. 2C:29-9B**

**4 CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
N.J.S.A. 2C:17-3**

**9 BURGLARY
N.J.S.A. 2C:18-2**

**14 CRIMINAL TRESPASS
N.J.S.A. 2C:18-3**

**5 HARASSMENT
N.J.S.A. 2C:33-4**

**10 CYBER-HARASSMENT
N.J.S.A. 2C:33-4.1**

**15 STALKING
N.J.S.A. 2C:12-10**

The PDVA grants victims of domestic violence the right to file both civil and criminal complaints. Criminal complaints can be filed at your local police station, and civil complaints can be filed both at your local police station or at Superior Court. For more information, contact our main line **201-336-7575**. Our counselors are available to speak to you 24/7, 365 days per year.

SURVIVOR RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY LEGAL SERVICES

Northeast New Jersey Legal Services' (NNJLS) mission is to ensure equal access to justice for residents of Bergen, Hudson, and Passaic Counties, NJ who are experiencing poverty. No one should be denied a meaningful opportunity to have their day in court simply because they cannot afford a lawyer. NNJLS focuses on four core areas of civil law- housing, consumer, family, and public benefits.

Their Family Law Unit provides legal representation and advice for issues affecting family and domestic relationships. They help survivors of domestic violence and survivors of sexual assault obtain restraining orders and other relief to keep them and their families safe and secure from violence.

For survivors of domestic violence, NNJLS can help with:

- Final Restraining Order (V) or Final Protection Order (SA)
- relief such as custody, support, and possession of a residence
- other civil legal matters that result from victimization, such as housing, immigration, and federal tax issues
- referral to partner agencies for counseling and safety planning
- assistance with New Jersey Victims of Crime Compensation claims

Family issues NNJLS can help with include:

- custody
- child support
- spousal support/alimony
- parenting time/ visitation
- uncontested divorce



**190 Moore Street
Suite 100
Hackensack, NJ 07601**

To learn more about NNJLS' free legal assistance, call **201-487-2166** or go to www.northeastnjlegalservices.org. NNJLS also accepts walk-ins during their office hours, Mon -Fri: 8:30am-5:00pm.

ADV'S TRAINING INSTITUTE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

ADV's Training Institute on Domestic Violence provides online and in-person training for community advocates and professionals to enhance their skills in assisting domestic violence survivors. The training aims to empower advocates to interrupt abuse and intervene effectively for survivors.

The **40-Hour Training Program** is open to all and is especially geared toward individuals and groups looking to volunteer or work directly with survivors of domestic violence at victim service agencies requiring victim privilege certification. The training provides a comprehensive overview of domestic violence topics, including in-depth exploration of abuse dynamics in intimate relationships, the effects of abuse on diverse survivor populations, and anti-oppressive perspectives on abuse intervention and healing work.

The training operates in a cohort model with both live virtual sessions and independent self-paced modules granting participants additional flexibility. We offer the training four times per year with additional offerings on request. Participants are required to participate in live virtual ZOOM sessions to receive credit.

Training Topics Include:

- Domestic Violence Dynamics
- Continuum of Abuse
- Trauma-Informed Advocacy
- Values & Ethics for Advocates
- Societal Attitudes on Violence
- Anti-Oppressive Advocacy with Diverse Survivor Populations
- Crisis Intervention & Safety Planning
- Communication & Counseling Skills
- Domestic Violence Law in NJ
- Impact on Children & Teen Dating Abuse
- Healing Work with Survivors
- Abuse Intervention Programs & Coordinated Community Responses to Violence



LAST CALL FOR 2024!

UPCOMING TRAININGS

**40-Hour Training - Standard Fall Cycle
9/17/24 - 10/17/24**

Weekly Tuesdays & Thursdays
5:30pm - 8:30pm
Virtual via ZOOM

**Ready to register?
Fill out our
Online Registration Form**

For more information, go to our [Training Institute for Domestic Violence](#) page.

JOIN THE CCR-DSV MOVEMENT



The **Bergen County Coordinated Community Response to Domestic & Sexual Violence (CCR-DSV)** is a community network of individuals and organizations in the County that coordinates and supports collaborative efforts to reduce domestic and sexual violence, dating abuse, and coercive control. We accomplish this through awareness-raising, prevention, education, and advocacy.

The CCR-DSV recognizes violence as a critical community problem that poses significant threats to individuals, families, and the community. The CCR-DSV also recognizes that the power dynamics between the victim/survivor and perpetrator in domestic and sexual violence cases, when viewed through the lens of coercive control, calls for a specialized system of response.

No one individual or entity alone can end domestic violence which is why we are putting out a call to action for all of our community partners to join the Bergen County Coordinated Community Response Team.



HAVE AN IDEA TO HELP US GROW?

We are constantly looking to transform and improve our programs to benefit survivors and their loved ones in Bergen County. Do you have any **feedback, ideas, or suggestions** for ADV?

Submit your comments anonymously through our confidential form or scan the QR code with any smart device.



WANT TO STAY IN THE LOOP?

Make sure you are subscribed to **ADV's newsletter and email list** to receive more exciting updates on our agency programs, community events, professional trainings, and opportunities to get involved in the movement to end domestic violence and dating abuse in Bergen County!



Click [here](#) to sign up or scan the QR code with any smart device.

To add your agency or organization to the team, complete our interest form or scan the QR code with any smart device.

