

March 1, 2008 – Blotter Bits

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic Violence is hitting, choking, kicking, threatening, harassing or interfering with the personal liberty of another family or household member. Family or household members are: family members related by blood or marriage, people who are married or used to be married, people who share or used to share a home, apartment, or other dwelling, people to have or say they have a child in common, people who have or say they have a blood relationship through a child, people who are dating or used to date, including same sex couples, and people with disabilities and their personal assistants.

What is Law Enforcement's Role?

Law Enforcement Officers are to use all reasonable means to prevent further abuse, including: Arranging for or transporting the victim to a medical facility or shelter or place of safety and/or accompanying the victim back to the residence to get belongings; arresting the abuser where appropriate and completing a police report on all bona fide incidents; and advising the victim of his or her right to an order of protection and the importance of preserving evidence, such as, damaged clothing, and property and photographs of injuries or damage.

Where can you get help and advice?

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE

Rockford Area PHASE / WAVE: 815-963-6102