

about domestic violence prosecution and probation:

Dorchester Court has a specialized prosecution unit in the District Attorney's Office. These prosecutors will ask for a 40 week batterer intervention program as a standard term of probation. They will also ask for incarceration on cases with serious physical injury or repeat violations.

Dorchester Probation has a special unit to supervise these cases.

Standard terms require probationers:

- Not to abuse the victim
- To report in person weekly
- To verify address and employment monthly
- To remain employed or in school full time
- To complete a 40 week certified batterer intervention program
- To comply with substance abuse testing and treatment ordered
- To comply with mental health treatment if ordered
- To allow probation officers to conduct random home visits

For more information contact
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domestic violence restraining orders:

how you can help



Do you know someone who's been served with a domestic violence restraining order?

Here are important things that you can do and say to help that person, regardless of how you feel about the situation.



Emphasize that a restraining order is a court order that should be taken seriously.

Encourage the person:

- **to obey the order.**
- **to avoid problems by not going anywhere near the person/people listed in the order** or near where they might be (home, school, work, daycare, parks, restaurants, bars, clubs).
- **to avoid any interactions/confrontations** with the person's relatives or friends.
- **to walk away...** it is **not worth** getting caught up in more problems.
- **to focus on himself/herself and not to fixate on the person** who took out the order.
- **to move on** instead of making the situation worse.

What NOT to do:

- **Do not** make fun of the restraining order or say that it is "only a piece of paper."
- **Do not** "bad mouth" the person who took out the order- You do **not** have all the facts. If you agree with negative statements about the person who took out the order and/or make negative comments, you could make the situation worse.

Emphasize that:

- If the person is being violent or threatening with his/her partner, that there is a problem with the relationship.
- Healthy relationships are built on mutual trust and respect and that threats and violence are never okay.

Tell the person there are serious consequences to domestic violence:

- Harm to the Victim
- Harm to Children
- Harm to Our Community
- Employment consequences
- Housing Consequences
- Immigration consequences
- Criminal Justice Consequences:
You can go to prison
- Stress that criminal justice agencies take domestic violence & restraining order enforcement very seriously.
- Violation of a restraining order or a domestic assault is punishable by up to 2 & ½ years in Suffolk County House of Correction for each count of each case.
- Boston Police Officers must arrest for violations of restraining orders.
- Arrest is the usual response for any crime of domestic violence.