

# **Domestic Violence**

## **What is domestic violence?**

Domestic violence is any behavior the purpose of which is to gain power and control over a spouse, partner, girl/boyfriend or intimate family member. This may include physical violence, threat of violence, sexual, emotional and psychological intimidation, verbal abuse, stalking and economic control.

## **What is sexual abuse?**

Unwanted sexual activity, with perpetrators using force, making threats or taking advantage of victims unable to give consent.

## **What is dating abuse?**

The perpetration or threat of an act of violence by at least one member of an unmarried couple on the other member within the context of dating or courtship. It is also when one partner tries to keep power and control over the other through abuse/violence.

## **What is stalking?**

The willful and repeated following, watching and/or harassing of another person.

## **Where do I find a shelter if I'm a victim?**

Visit the South Dakota Network Against Victims of Sexual Assault for a list of shelters available in SD. <https://sdnafvsa.com/home/shelter/>

## **How do I stay safe?**

For more information, see Department of Social Services' [guide to developing a safety plan for victims of domestic violence](#).

More information on sexual assault can be found in the guide below.

Last updated on May 19, 2022.

[Family Law Domestic Violence](#)

Files

[SexualAssultGuide\\_GrantNumber.pdf](#)

Print

Table of Contents