

When would an arrest be made?

For a domestic violence incident, if an NYPD police officer has *probable cause* to believe that a **crime has been committed**, the officer must attempt to **identify** and **arrest** the perpetrator. This happens when:

- A felony was committed;
- An Order of Protection was violated;
- A misdemeanor was committed; or,
- An offense was committed in the police officer's presence.

In cases involving a **misdemeanor**, or **when an offense is committed in a police officer's presence**, and the victim does not want an arrest to be made, the officer may take the victim's wishes into consideration. However, an arrest can still be made at the officer's discretion.

When **two or more family members** accuse each other of committing a family offense misdemeanor, the police will attempt to identify and arrest the **primary physical aggressor**. This process includes evaluating different factors such as injuries sustained, threats made, character histories, and who was acting in self-defense.

The NYPD responds to and assists with over 240,000 "911" calls of domestic violence annually.

Every NYPD precinct and PSA has ***Domestic Violence Prevention Officers and Victim Advocates*** who are specially trained to help victims of domestic violence.

Don't wait.
Seek help today.

Contact the *Domestic Violence Prevention Officers* or the *Victim Advocates* at your local precinct or PSA.

For emergencies, dial "911."

Visit www.nyc.gov/nychope
Call the 24-hour NYC Domestic Violence Hotline:
1 (800) 621-HOPE (4673)
TTY: 1 (866) 604-5350



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

HOW THE POLICE CAN HELP

Are you experiencing domestic violence?

Know the signs.
Seek help today.



Know the signs. Don't wait. Seek help.

Does your partner or family member:

- Criticize you as a spouse, partner, or parent?
- Humiliate or embarrass you?
- Become possessive or extremely jealous?
- Threaten to harm you or your children, pets, family members, or friends?
- Prevent you from visiting family and friends?
- Become suddenly irate?
- Destroy or throw your possessions?
- Deny you access to joint assets like bank accounts, credit cards, or vehicles?
- Control all finances and force you to account for what you spend?
- Use intimidation or manipulation to control you or your children?
- Prevent you from traveling when you wanted?
- Prevent you from finding employment, or pursuing education?
- Deny you access to food, beverages, sleep, medicine, or medical care?
- Hit, punch, slap, kick, shove, or bite you?
- Sexually assault you?

If **any** of these apply to you, **you may be a victim of domestic abuse.**

The police can help you:



Reach safety at a **shelter or safe home.**



Obtain an **Order of Protection**, a legal order for your abuser to cease harming or threatening you and/or your children.



Access **medical care, legal advice, social services assistance, emergency housing transfers, crisis intervention, and counseling support** for you and your children.



Develop a **safety plan.**



Send an officer to perform a **security survey** of your home.



Arrange to have your **locks changed for free.**

The NYPD helps
thousands of victims of
domestic violence in
New York City every year.

When Someone Calls the Police

If you or someone else contacts the police to report domestic violence, **we are required to investigate**, even if you did not request our presence. This means that we will:

1. **Interview you privately.** We will also interview others who may have witnessed what transpired.
2. **Prepare a report** of the incident, called a *Domestic Incident Report*. You may write and sign a statement about what happened, though **you are not required to do so.**
3. **Take photos** of any injuries sustained, damage caused to property, and threatening communications (e.g., text messages, social media posts, etc.) relating to the incident.
4. **Make an arrest**, when necessary (*see inside brochure*)
5. **Follow up** with you after a *Domestic Incident Report* has been filed.