

Intimate Partner Violence

Is your partner:

- Calling you names, putting you down, insulting you, ridiculing or isolating you?
- Slapping, punching, kicking or biting you?
- Threatening to harm you, the children, your pets or belongings?
- Threatening you with a weapon?
- Threatening suicide?
- Forcing you to have sex or withholding affection as a punishment?
- Not allowing you to work?
- Controlling your access to family income, making you explain any expenses, withholding money or taking your money?
- Preventing you from having contact with or spending time with family and friends?
- Controlling what you wear, your use of makeup or hairstyle?

We can help!

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Facts about Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

It is important to recognize that you are **NOT** to blame.

Sexual assault is a horrific experience that can damage your life. Talking with others can be helpful. You may have trouble eating, sleeping or focusing and, you may feel anxious about sexual matters.

It is common to feel isolated, helpless, angry, afraid and out of control. You may feel guilty, but you are **NOT** to blame!

Parents, spouses, and friends will react to your experience. Some of their reactions may be worrisome to you.

Medical and counselling services are available to you, your family, and friends.

Together with the community, we are helping to build sustainable self-reliance. Educating, advocating and leading the way to social change.

The Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centre can help.

Call 807-684-6751



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This is a program of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, also affiliated with the Ontario Network for Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centres.



Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centre

General Information

A continuum of services inspired by the strength and resiliency of survivors.

Rebuilding lives.
Restoring hope.
Reviving the human spirit.



Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences
Centre

Sexual Assault

Sexual assault is any form of sexual contact or activity with another person without their consent.

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

Violence, also known as Intimate partner violence (IPV), is abuse committed by an intimate partner and does not always involve physical assault. Other types of mistreatment and brutality can be considered abuse, including emotional, psychological, financial, spiritual and sexual abuse. It may involve threats to harm children, other family members, pets or property. The abuse is used to intimidate, humiliate, frighten or to make you feel powerless. Intimate partner violence may include a single act of violence. It may also include a number of acts that may appear minor or trivial when viewed alone, but collectively form a pattern that amounts to abuse.

Both sexual assault and intimate partner violence are criminal acts. They can have long lasting effects on the physical and emotional health of survivors. It is important to seek health care to minimize the impact on current and future health and well-being.

If you or anyone you know are involved in a relationship where abuse is occurring, we are here to help!

Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centre (SA/DV TC)

The SA/DV TC is an individualized, 24-hour service available to survivors who have experienced sexual assault and/or intimate partner violence (IPV).

The care provided is patient-centered and focuses on informed choices made by the survivor.

Intimate partner violence and sexual assault survivors who present to the hospital for treatment will be offered the services of specially trained nurses from the SA/DV TC.

With the patients consent, the SA/DV nurse may give one-on-one care eliminating significant wait periods in the Emergency Department. The SA/DV nurse will meet with the survivor to offer care and support. In other circumstances non-urgent care can be scheduled with a follow-up nurse. The SA/DV TC can also be accessed through self-referral.



The initial Emergency Department care will be provided only with the patient's informed consent.

This may include:

- Physical assessment and treatment of injuries;
- Prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STI's), including emergency contraceptives;
- Reassurance and emotional support;
- Collection of forensic evidence (SAEK), including photographs;
- Storage of forensic evidence for up to 12 months, if the patient is uncertain about involving the police;
- Risk assessment and review of safety issues;
- Referral for medical follow-up;
- Referral to shelter and/or other relevant community resources;
- Police involvement.

Follow-up care is available and may include:

- Reassessment of injuries;
- Further consideration of safety;
- Continuing treatment and monitoring of STI's;
- Further photographs;
- Appropriate referral(s);
- Ongoing emotional support.