

Caught in the Crossfire: Addressing the Co- Occurrence Of Child and Adult Abuse and Domestic Violence

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OBJECTIVES

- To identify domestic violence across the life span.
- To discuss family violence in it's many forms.
- To identify the different perspectives of others also working to end family violence.
- To identify opportunities to collaborate.

What's Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behaviors used by one individual intended to exert power and control over another individual in the context of an intimate or family relationship.

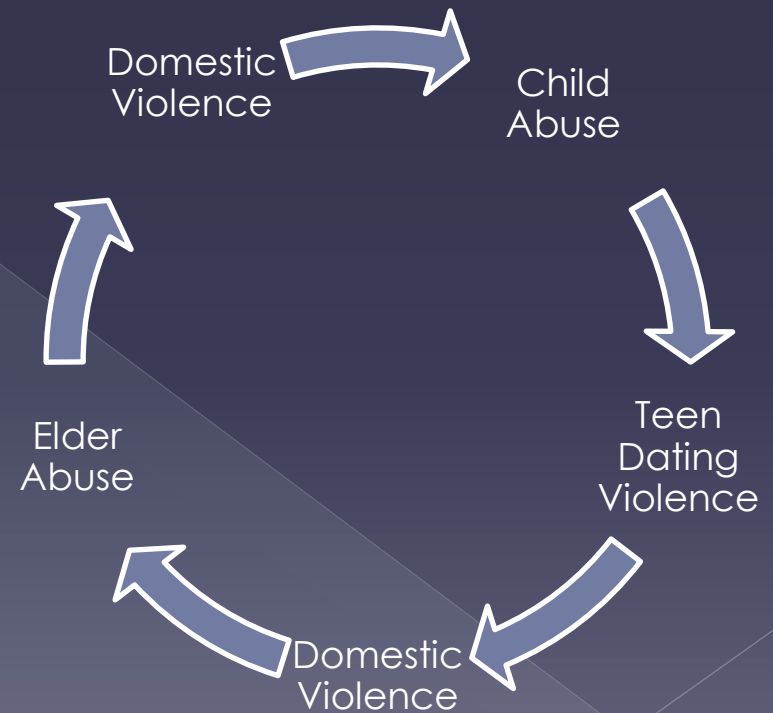
What is Family Violence

Different forms of abusive behavior fall into the broad category and may include:

- **Domestic Violence**
- **Elder Abuse**
- **Child Abuse**
- **Dating Violence**

Lifespan of Violence

- Family violence can begin at any point without a preceding incident



Primary Victims

Domestic Violence & Elder Abuse:

- The intended target of the physical, sexual or psychological abuse.
- The adult experiencing violence at the hands of the perpetrator.

WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?

- **Abuse, Neglect, and/or Exploitation of an Elder or Vulnerable Adult**
- **Includes Self-Neglect**
- **Age 60 and Older**

These are handled by Adult Protective Services

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE SECOND HALF OF LIFE?

- ⦿ **A pattern of coercive control and abuse of an older person in a trusted, ongoing relationship**
- ⦿ **Primarily women, but includes older men**
- ⦿ **Basis is “power and control”-**
- ⦿ **Age 50 and Older**

SCENARIOS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN LATER LIFE

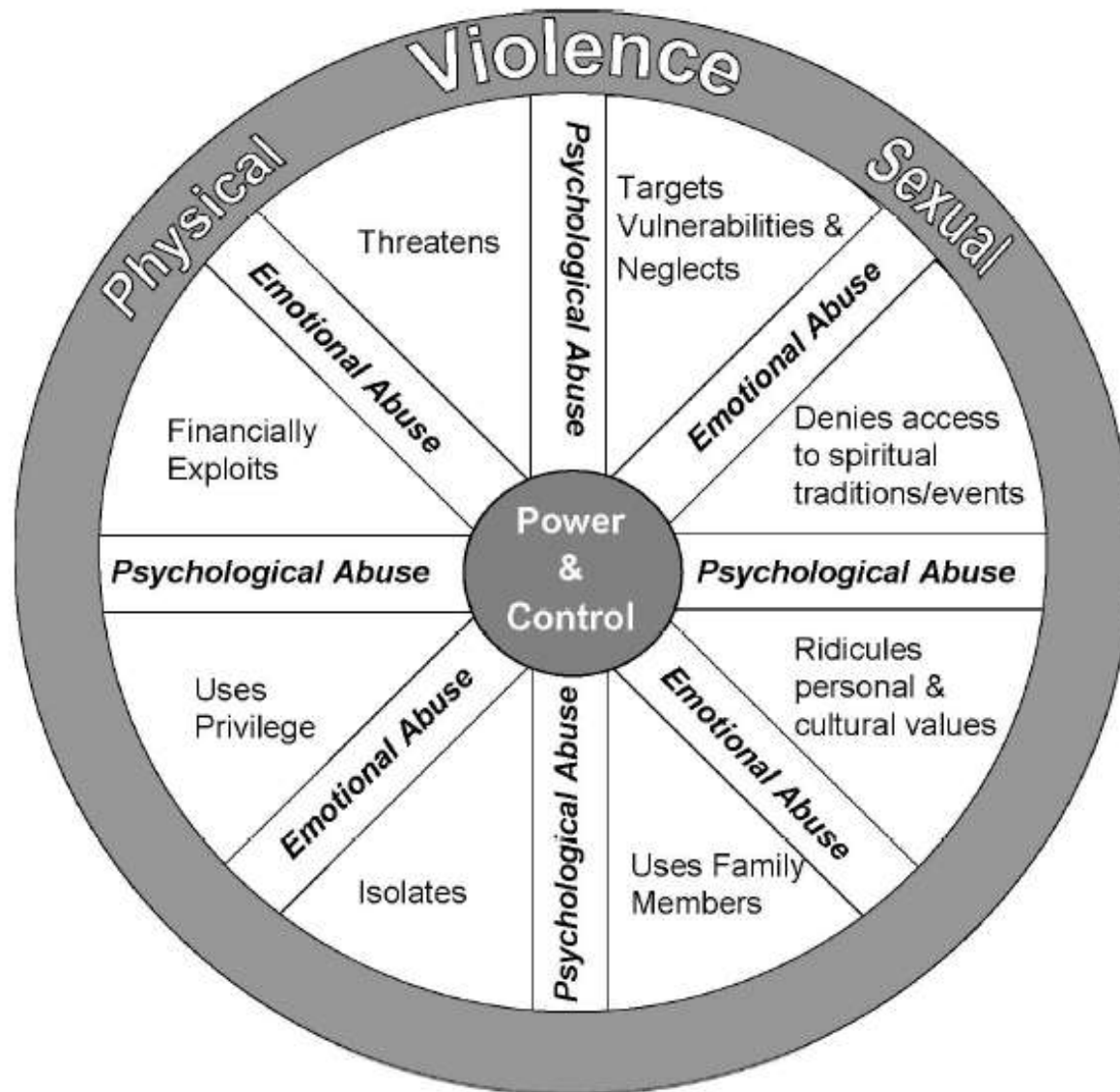
Intimate Partner/Spouse

- Domestic Violence Grown Old
- New Relationship
- Late Onset Domestic Violence
- “Reverse” Domestic Violence-
could be from adult child

Family Violence

- **Adult Children, Relatives/ Intimate Caregivers**
- **“Domestic elder abuse is a family problem- almost 90% of abusers were family members”**
- **“In the last decade domestic elder abuse reports investigated by APS have increased by more than 150%”**

Family Abuse in Later Life





POWER AND CONTROL WHEEL: THE INNER SPOKES

- These are behaviors that go on all the time. They make the victim feel trapped.
- Most of the abuser's acts are non-criminal (emotional abuse, control, ridiculing values)
- Only when you understand the victim's history (why she/ he stays, why she/he minimizes) can you develop a rapport





THE OUTER WHEEL: PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL ABUSE

These behaviors of physical and sexual abuse are how the abuser enforces control – they instill fear

These behaviors may be intermittent because the abuser is using *subtle threats* which are less able to be identified

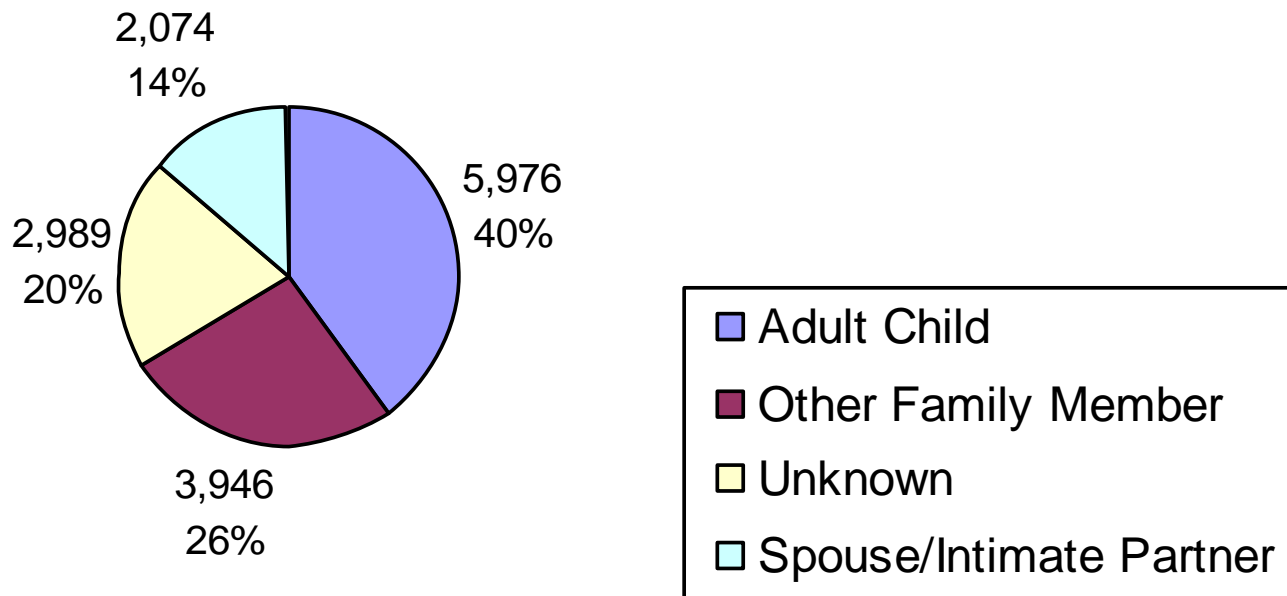
Code of Virginia 16.1-228.

Definitions

- "Family abuse" means any act involving violence, force, or threat including, but not limited to, any forcible detention, which results in bodily injury or places one in reasonable apprehension of bodily injury and which is committed by a person against such person's family or household member.
- "Family or household member" means (i) the person's spouse, whether or not he or she resides in the same home with the person, (ii) the person's former spouse, whether or not he or she resides in the same home with the person, (iii) the person's parents, stepparents, children, stepchildren, brothers, sisters, half-brothers, half-sisters, grandparents and grandchildren, regardless of whether such persons reside in the same home with the person, (iv) the person's mother-in-law, father-in-law, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law who reside in the same home with the person, (v) any individual who has a child in common with the person, whether or not the person and that individual have been married or have resided together at any time, or (vi) any individual who cohabits or who, within the previous 12 months, cohabited with the person, and any children of either of them then residing in the same home with the person.

Who Abuses?

Relationship of Identified Perpetrator to Victim



Virginia Adult Abuse Statistics

THREE YEAR REVIEW OF APS REPORTS			
	2007	2008	2009
Total Reports Received	13,515	14,314	15,625
Reports Investigated ^[1]	11,802	12,150	13,629
Total Reports Substantiated ^[2]	7,615	7,482	8,076
Unfounded	4,187	4,668	5,553
Pending ^[3]	829	807	157
Invalid ^[4]	884	1,357	1,839
<i>Percent of Reports Substantiated</i>	65%	62%	59%
DISPOSITIONS OF SUBSTANTIATED REPORTS			
Needs and Accepts Services	4,237	4,174	4,440
Needs and Refuses Services	1,259	1,259	1,314
Need No Longer Exists	2,081	2,039	2,322

Virginia APS Stats 2008

Abuse Type—SFY 2008 Substantiated Reports[1]	#
Self-Neglect	4,843
Neglect	1,716
Financial Exploitation	670
Physical Abuse	607
Mental Abuse	469
Other Exploitation	181
Sexual Abuse	79
Total	8,565

[1] Source: ASAPS. Reports may contain more than 1 type of abuse

Secondary Victims

- Children who witness the abuse of a parent.
- Children who experience abuse in the home

Witnessing violence

Nicole is 7 years old. While she is upstairs in her house, she hears an argument erupt between her mother and father. The argument escalates and Nicole hears the sound of breaking dishes. She turns the volume on the TV up to avoid hearing more.

How prevalent is it?

- Nationally, approximately 7 to 14 million children are exposed to domestic violence each year. (Carlson, 2000)
- Based on the national data and Virginia's population, approximately 362,021 children in Virginia are exposed to domestic violence each year. (VDSVAA, 2010)

2007

Of the children served by local domestic violence programs:

- 53% of the children had directly witnessed violence in their family
- 21% had been emotionally abused or neglected
- 14% had been physically abused
- 8% had been physically neglected
- 6% had been sexually abused (includes sexual assault, attempted sexual assault, and sexual harassment) (VSDVAA)

Children and youth who witness domestic violence

Children from violent homes suffer the consequences as adults, where they are more likely to:

- commit suicide
- abuse drugs or alcohol
- be unemployed, or
- commit violence against their own partners versus their peers from non-violent households.

These behaviors create a continuous cycle of domestic violence, as their children may create a new generation of victims and witnesses.

Child Abuse

An abused or neglected child is one under the age of 18 whose parents or other person responsible for his/her care:

- 1. Causes or threatens to cause a non-accidental physical or mental injury;
- 2. Causes a high risk of death, disfigurement or impairment of bodily or mental functions;
- 3. Fails to provide the care, guidance and protection the child requires for healthy growth and development;
- 4. Abandons the child;
- 5. Commits or allows to be committed any act of sexual exploitation or any sexual act upon a child in violation of the law.

Child Abuse

- Behavioral problems exhibited by children who witness domestic violence are magnified when a child also experienced physical abuse.

Dating Violence

Dating violence is the physical, emotional and/or verbal abuse of one partner by the other partner in a current or former dating relationship. Abusive behavior is any act carried out by one partner aimed at hurting or controlling the other.

Primary Victims

Dating violence:

- Teens in all ethnic groups, socioeconomic groups, and geographic regions experience dating violence.
- Both male and female teens may be victims-but boys inflict more serious physical injuries on girls than girls inflict on boys.

Dating Violence

- ◉ Women ages 16-24 years old experience the highest per capita rate of intimate violence in the U.S.
- ◉ 40% of teenage girls know someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend.

National Statistics

- 1 in 11 adolescents reports being a victim of physical dating abuse (CDC 2006)
- 1 in 5 female high school students report being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner (J.E. Hathaway, L. A. Mucci, A.Raj, & J.G. Silverman, 2001).
- Acceptance of dating abuse among friends is one of the strongest links to future involvement in dating abuse (Bergman, 1992; Arriaga & Foshee, 2004).

Key Issues

Self Determination

APS and Domestic Violence Service Providers share an understanding of this person centered philosophy.

Key Issues

- Child welfare workers prioritize the safety of the child and seek options to increase the child's safety through options such as parenting education, family treatment, and as a last resort, removing the child or children from the home.
- The service plan may be developed collaboratively with the family, but becomes a required course of action.

Collaborations

- Collaborations between child abuse and domestic violence advocates and members of the community can make families safer
- Increasingly, domestic violence advocates and social workers are finding ways to work together on behalf of families experiencing both DV and either child or elder abuse.

Keys to Collaboration

- Communication – with consent
- Cross Training
- Acknowledgement of the differences in
 - > agency purpose,
 - > service methodology
- Willingness to allow others in

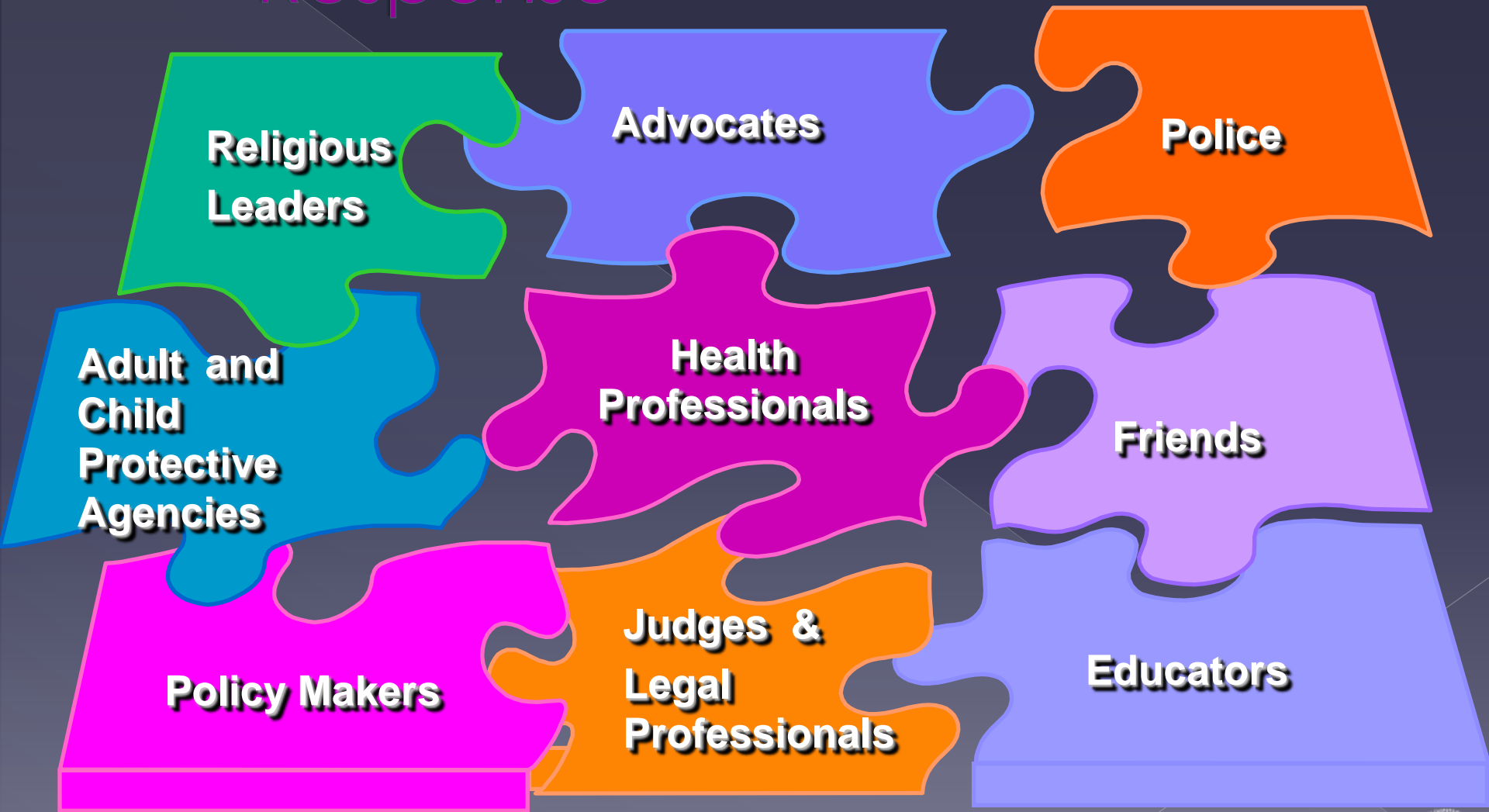
When to Collaborate

- ◉ When a connection to domestic violence is made
 - > Screening
 - > Observation
 - > Self-report

What does collaboration look like?

- ◉ Screening for domestic violence
- ◉ Providing preliminary safety planning
- ◉ Talking with other service providers before and after working together
- ◉ Joint public awareness activities
- ◉ Involvement of the client and others in the development of a goal plan.
- ◉ Collaborative grant projects

Coordinated Community Response



Source: CANDACE HEISLER CONSULTING ATTORNEY



Resources:

Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance is a statewide coalition that:

- Brings people together to **build networks** and to learn from one another in order to make Virginia safer.
- **Educates** individuals, communities, professionals, and legislators on how to stop sexual and domestic violence from happening and how to help those who have been hurt by violence.
- Makes sure your **community** has necessary **resources** to respond effectively to sexual and domestic violence.
- **Advocates** for people affected by sexual and domestic violence to make sure they get the help they need.

<http://www.vsdvalliance.org/> 1800-838-8238

Resources - Adults:

- ◉ **NCALL**- National Coalition On Abuse in Later Life- Wisconsin State coalition www.ncall.us
- ◉ **Clearinghouse on Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly (CANE)**. This site contains many resources to help you find assistance, publications, data, information, and answers about elder abuse.
www.elderabusecenter.org/clearing/index.html
- ◉ **National Association of Adult Protective Services Administrators (NAPSA)** This site contains many resources to help you find assistance, publications, data, information, and answers about elder abuse.
<http://www.apsnetwork.org/>

Resources:

- ◉ **Virginia Adult Protective Services** APS investigates reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of adults aged 60 and over and incapacitated adults over 18 years of age and provides services when persons are found to be in need of protective services. The goal of APS is to protect a vulnerable adult's life, health, and property without a loss of liberty. When this is not possible, APS attempts to provide assistance with the least disruption of life style and with full due process, protection, and restoration of the person's liberty in the shortest possible period of time. APS seeks to achieve simultaneously and in order of importance: freedom, safety, and minimal disruption of lifestyle and least-restrictive care.
http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/as/prevention_month.cgi
- ◉ To report suspected financial exploitation or other kinds of abuse of the elderly or adults with a disability, call your local department of social services or the Virginia Department of Social Services' 24-hour, toll-free Adult Protective Services hotline at: **1(888) 832-3858**.

More Resources - Youth

- ◎ loveisrespect.org is a new 24 hour resource that utilizes telephone and web-based interactive technology to reach teens and young adults experiencing dating abuse.
- ◎ <http://www.chooserrespect.org/scripts/materials/videos/videos.asp> Choose Respect is an initiative to help adolescents form healthy relationships and prevent dating violence before it begins.

Resources – Domestic Violence

- © www.endabuse.org A website by the Family Violence Prevention Fund that contains media campaigns, policy updates, funding resources and more.

Resources:

- The goal of the **Child Protective Services Unit (CPS)** is to identify, assess, and provide services to children and families in an effort to protect children, preserve families, whenever possible and prevent further maltreatment. CPS is non-punitive in its approach and is directed toward enabling families to provide adequate care for their children.
- This program offers a specialized continuum of service for abused, neglected or exploited children. The focus of services is on identification and assessment in an effort to protect children, preserve families, and prevent further maltreatment.
- Local departments of social services are responsible for receiving reports of abuse and neglect; conducting investigations to determine the validity of CPS reports; and providing services that enhance child safety and prevent further abuse and neglect to families and children.
- In addition to its administrative responsibilities, the CPS Unit provides direct services to the public. A 24-hour child abuse and neglect hotline provides access to social services 24/7.

For more information, please contact:

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www.itscloserthanyouthink.org



**Central Virginia Task
Force on Domestic
Violence in Later Life**



OUR MISSION



Central Virginia Task Force on Domestic Violence in Later Life

- **A regional collaboration of aging, domestic violence, law enforcement, and criminal justice organizations founded in 1998 to raise awareness and improve the community response to older women who experience domestic violence and sexual assault.**
- **Serves the City of Richmond and Henrico, Hanover, and Chesterfield Counties- also provides technical assistance statewide.**