



# DV NEWS

*A Newsletter of the Domestic Violence Program*

*of*

**Catholic Charities  
of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties**

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## Effects of COVID-19 on Domestic Violence Victims

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, people across the world have been faced with many new struggles and obstacles as to what was once just, “normal”, everyday life. These unprecedented times have left us searching and seeking for a new form of normalcy. But what does this mean for victims of domestic violence?

During this time of global crisis the number of domestic violence cases has increased. Individuals experiencing domestic violence are being exposed to additional dangers due to the current situation. Domestic violence goes up whenever families spend more time together. The risk increases because of confinement within the home. Victims become more vulnerable and unsafe. This makes it even harder to get away from their abuser. Home isolation gives the abuser even more power and control than before. Different types of abuse victims are facing may include further isolation from family and friends. They may be unable to work. Domestic violence victims may be restricted from basic necessities such as food, clothing, medications, etc. They are being forced to live under constant surveillance with very strict rules and living arrangements by the abuser.



To continue supporting victims during this difficult time, many resources are still available. Various agencies and partners are and have been collaborating to provide continuous support and advocacy for victims of domestic violence. Some resources include but are definitely not limited to posts on social media offering safety tools and contact information for victims seeking help. There are ZOOM and SKYPE meetings available to connect with victims as well as telephone counseling. Another strategy is hanging flyers with pertinent information and contact numbers in essential places such as grocery stores, banks, and gas stations. In April, a new hotline (800-942-6906) and text (844-997-2121) program was created for domestic violence victims during the COVID-19 pandemic. A confidential online service ([www.opdv.ny.gov](http://www.opdv.ny.gov)) for individuals to chat with a professional is also another way victims can reach out. The text and online service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Leaving an abusive situation can be very dangerous for victims at any given time but even more so during times of global crisis. It is very important to let individuals know that help and support is available for their safety and well-being.

*Sources:*

*nyscadv.org “All New Yorkers Encouraged to Support Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Abuse, and Child Abuse during Pandemic”*

*nnev.org “State launched new text hotline for victims of domestic abuse amid COVID-19 quarantine”*

*nytimes.com “A New COVID-19 Crisis: Domestic Abuse Rises Worldwide”*

*governor.ny.gov “Following Spike in Domestic Violence during COVID-19 Pandemic, Secretary to the Governor Melissa DeRosa & NYS Council on Women & Girls Launch Task Force to find Innovative Solutions to Crisis”*



**Domestic Violence Program**

489 West Main Street  
Cobleskill, NY 12043

Phone: 518-234-3581  
Fax: 518-234-8423

**24 Hour Crisis Hotline:**  
**(518) 234-2231**  
**Collect Calls Accepted**



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SCDVInfo.org



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Isolating at home has made it much harder for victims to break free from abusive relationships or get help.

Those hurt by a partner might be afraid to go to an emergency room for fear of contracting COVID-19, or concerned staying with elderly parents or friends that they could expose them to the virus.