

# AREA RESOURCE GUIDE

(Services listed are provided free of charge, or have income-based scheduling)

## Homicide Support/Advocacy

Compassionate Families  
354-0007, 721-3326  
Life Is Valuable  
908-0989  
Parents of Murdered Children  
262-0866, 713-9683  
Victim Services Center  
630-6300  
Jax. Sheriff's Office Victim Advocate  
630-1764

## Abuse (Domestic)

24 Hour Hotline  
1-800-500-1119  
Hubbard House Emergency Shelter & Counseling  
354-3114  
Quigley House (Clay County)  
1-800-339-5017

## Compensation (victim)

Victim Services  
630-6300  
MADD Victim Services  
388-0664

## Consumer Fraud

State Attorney's Office  
630-4994

## City of Jacksonville

Consumer Affairs Division  
630-3467

## Detoxification

Gateway Community Services  
387-4661

## Family

Family Nurturing Center of Florida  
389-4244

## Guardian Ad Litem Program

220 East Bay Street, 6th Floor  
Jacksonville, Florida 32202  
(904) 630-1200

## Legal Assistance

Legal Aid  
356-8371  
Three Rivers Legal Services  
126 W. Adams St., 7th floor  
Jacksonville, FL 32204  
904/394-7450

## Mental Health Center of Jacksonville

333 West 20th Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32254  
(904) 695-9145

## Mothers Against Drunk Driving

(MADD)  
388-2455

## Rape

Sexual Assault Response Center  
244-RAPE (244-7273)  
Office: 244-4600

## RAPE Recovery Team

722-3000

## State Attorney's Office

630-2400

## Trauma Counseling

Women's Center of Jacksonville  
722-3000  
City Victim Services  
630-6300

## Youth Crisis

Youth Crisis Center - The Safe Place  
3015 Parental Home Road  
Jacksonville, FL 32216  
904-725-6662

# Domestic Violence...

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threatening to shoot her. And a few weeks later, he did.

Recently, we read with horror how Kenneth Rader killed his wife and hid her body several weeks before finally setting their house on fire in an apparent attempt to cover up his crime. In Clay County two years ago Michael Jenkins held his wife hostage for several hours before killing her, then himself, inside their home. Another murder-suicide in an Arlington home followed a divorce and weeks of harassing the ex-wife. Then Christopher Robinson stabbed his estranged wife and killed her male friend in her Northside home. And so many more - too many.

## Power and control

Domestic violence can and does happen to people of all ages, races, and socioeconomic and educational backgrounds. It happens to men and women, but most often it involves men abusing their female partners. The Department of Health and Human Services estimates that as many as 4 million women suffer abuse from their husbands, ex-husbands, boyfriends or intimate partners in the United States each year.<sup>1</sup>

Domestic violence takes many forms, including coercion, threats, intimidation, isolation, and emotional, sexual and physical abuse. Without help, abuse will continue and could worsen. An abusive relationship is about power and control - not anger. In all cases, the abuser aims to exert power and control over his partner.

An abusive relationship can start subtly. The abuser may criticize his partner's appearance, be unreasonably jealous, and gradually the abuse becomes more frequent, severe and potentially life-threatening. He may deny the abuse occurs and shift the blame to the abused, leaving her confused and feeling as if she is going crazy.

The abuser controls finances, may sabotage work performance, uses put-downs, insults and criticism to lower self-esteem, intimidates and instills fear, limits contact with family and friends, and basically makes all major decisions, treating his partner as a servant or possession.

## Reclaim your life

Martha Coker understands quite well the patterns of abuse: she has two daughters who endured abusive marriages and in 1998 lost one of them after her husband shot her in the stomach.

Martha apologetically admits she liked David when her daughter, Nancy, first brought

him home. But before long, he disappeared and they learned he had been arrested by JSO for theft and battery and extradited to Pennsylvania. Following his release from jail, David entered a halfway house, then when he needed a sponsor so he could return to Florida, Martha agreed to let him live with them. Shortly afterward, he and Nancy got married.



Nancy Coker

From the beginning of the 5-year relationship David controlled Nancy's life, even when they were planning their wedding. He threatened Martha that if she wasn't nice to him, he would take Nancy to Pennsylvania or harm her. Eventually, she asked them to move when she could no longer tolerate what was happening to her daughter.

David wouldn't let Nancy eat

until he got home at night, and she was frequently hungry. After they had children, at one point one child suffered from malnutrition. He would hold a gun to his wife's head and tell her he could pull the trigger and get rid of her in minutes. He told her if she ever tried to leave him, he would kill the kids.

Martha did not realize the extent of his abuse until finally Nancy called her, very upset, and asked if her mother could try to do something with David, but he obtained a restraining order against her. Then on Feb. 23, 1998, police called her with a message no mother wants to hear: "You need to go to your daughter immediately; she's been shot."

Rushed to the hospital, Nancy underwent hours of surgery, then and later, where she lost most of her stomach, her kidneys and part of her intestines. She was on dialysis and life support most of the ensuing months, but she survived long enough to testify against her abuser in October and see him receive two life sentences, plus 16 years. She died suddenly in her sleep on Dec. 5.

<http://www.revolutionhealth.com/healthyliving/relationships/love-marriage/couplesmarriage/domestic-violence>

Martha's other daughter, Alice Bay, endured a 15-year abusive marriage to Danny. Her experience involved some physical abuse, but was mostly mental and psychological. He constantly belittled and ridiculed her, threatened and yelled at her, and tried to isolate her from family and friends. Finally, she believed those friends who told her she didn't deserve being treated like that and moved out one day while he was away.

Today Alice is happily remarried, very thankful to God and grateful she wasn't the ultimate victim, as was her sister. She and Martha have a message for any woman mired in an abusive relationship: *there is help for you.* No longer must domestic violence remain a hidden, shameful secret. You can escape your tormentor, receive tangible help (financial, housing, etc.), counseling, job training or whatever you need to reclaim your life.

If you or someone you know is frightened about something in your relationship, please call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or TTY 1-800-787-3224.

## J.B Coxwell Contracting, Inc. joins the Justice Coalition

in helping to make Jacksonville a safer place to live, work, and grow.



## J.B. Coxwell Contracting, Inc.

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