

**Domestic Violence:** (link to [www.cispark.org](http://www.cispark.org))



Domestic violence is, sadly a crime that the Powell Police investigate on a regular basis and is defined under Wyoming Statute Title 35, Chapter 21. Domestic abuse can take on many forms, from verbal and emotional abuse, physical abuse, to sexual abuse. When a person is arrested and charged with Domestic Violence, they are in reality being charged with one of several crimes, Simple Assault or Battery, or Aggravated Assault and Battery, or Reckless Endangerment, with a special provision of Domestic Violence. With the provision attached this opens up a list of options to the police for making an arrest, to courts regarding penalties for the suspect and protections for the victim.

**Domestic Abuse is defined by Wyoming state statute as:** physically abusing, threatening to physically abuse, attempting to cause or causing physical harm or acts which unreasonably restrain the personal liberty of any household member. Placing a household member in reasonable fear of imminent physical harm or causing a household member to engage involuntarily in sexual activity by force, threat of force or duress.



**Question:** Who should report domestic violence?

**Answer:** Anyone who suspects there may be an instance of domestic violence. This would include your observations, maybe a co-worker who shows up at work with unexplained bruises or injuries, may miss a lot of work without a convincing reason, loud screaming and yelling coming from the neighbors, with the sound of items being broken in that home. Many times the victim of domestic violence may be too scared to make a report, and too intimidated by their spouse to call for help.

**Question:** Who is most likely to be the victim of Domestic Violence?

**Answer:** Although most cases involve the female spouse or partner as victim, the victim of domestic can be either party to the relationship. Domestic Violence occurs in every social/economic group, race and culture in America including Park County.



**Question:** Is the victim of Domestic Violence the only victim in the home?

**Answer:** No, numerous studies have found that the children in an abusive home relationship are influenced by what they witness. One study by the University of Durham, N.H., said that kids in these homes are 1000 times more likely to be abusive as adults.

**Question:** Who can be involved in a Domestic Violence report?

As defined by Wyoming state law a person who can be involved in Domestic Violence are defined as a “household member” they are:

1. Persons married to each other
2. Persons living together as if married
3. Persons formerly married to each other
4. Persons formerly living together as if married
5. Parents and their Adult children
6. Other adults sharing common living quarters
7. Persons who are the parents of a child but who are not living with each other
8. Persons who are in, or have been in, a dating relationship



**Question:** How do Police investigate cases of Domestic Violence?

**Answer:** We investigate by talking to all parties involved, including children who may have witnessed the incident. Checking the victim for any signs of injury, usually documenting those injuries with photos. If injury is involved making sure the victim receives proper medical treatment. Referring the victim to the proper victim advocacy groups who can help with a protection order issued by the court. If warranted, removing the victim and children to a safe house, and may involve arresting the perpetrator.

**Question:** What is a protection order?

**Answer:** A protection order is granted by the court for the protection of the victim of domestic violence. Usually the order prohibits the perpetrator from having any contact with the victim, requiring them to stay a certain distance away from the victim, no matter if the victim is at home, work or even

the grocery store. A violation of the protection order is a violation of State Statute and can result in arrest.

**Question:** How do I get a protection order?

**Answer:** When the police are investigating a domestic violence complaint, they are required by state law to inform the victim of domestic violence their rights pertaining to domestic violence. A protection order is one avenue that a victim of domestic violence may want to pursue. In Powell and Park County CIS, Crisis Intervention Services, is the agency that will assist victims of domestic violence. Police will give the victim information on contacting CIS and may, if the situation is warranted, put the victim in touch with CIS as soon after the situation is resolved as possible.

Crisis Intervention Services [www.cispark.org](http://www.cispark.org) CIS provides 24 hour services to victims of physical and emotional abuse, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking and incest.

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