SUBJECT: RULE 327A – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SITUATIONS INVOLVING DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

The BPD has reviewed various documents related to police response to domestic violence and sexual assault, including our current rules and procedures as well as best practices, model policies and related City of Boston documents.

As a result, BPD Rule 327A has been revised. Enhancements include:

- Strengthening investigation and reporting requirements for BPD employees and other law enforcement personnel who have been involved in a domestic violence incident, including:
  - Immediate placement of BPD personnel alleged to have been involved in incidents of domestic violence as the suspect on administrative leave while the investigation is underway.
  - Notification to OPAT and POST if a sworn BPD member has been charged with violating MGL c. 265. Section 13a-29.
  - Notification to the executive with immediate oversight over a law enforcement executive and the appropriate county prosecutor’s office if a law enforcement executive was involved in a domestic violence or sexual assault incident. This would include a BPD Commissioner as well as any law enforcement executive (Police Chief, Commissioner, Sheriff) involved in an incident within the City of Boston.
  - Notification to other jurisdictions if one of their law enforcement officers was involved in an incident in Boston.
- Emphasis on victim centered investigations protecting privacy and confidentiality while connecting them to services and supports.
- Including resources for victims at the Family Justice Center as well as referring them to the City of Boston’s Domestic Leave Policy for employees.
- Highlighting to BPD employees the City of Boston Zero Tolerance for Violence Policy.
- Updating procedures related to specific roles and responsibilities of Operations Division call-takers, dispatchers and supervisors; responding officers; Patrol Supervisors; Duty Supervisors; Family Justice Division Investigators and Supervisors; District Detectives; Civilian Advocates; the Bureau of Professional Standards; and employees involved in domestic violence and/or sexual assault incidents.
Rule 327A, Domestic Violence Situations Involving Department Employees, is hereby amended superseding all previous rules, special orders, memos and directives on this subject and is effective immediately.

Specifically, revisions have been made to:

Section 1. General Considerations (new)
Section 2. Purpose (renamed, was previously General Considerations)
Section 3. Policy (new)
Section 4. Professionalism (new)
Section 5. Safety (new)
Section 6. Definitions (new)
Section 8. Responsibilities of the Responding Officer: E
Section 9. Responsibilities of the Patrol Supervisor: B, C, D, F, L, M, N
Section 10. Responsibilities of the Domestic Violence Unit Supervisor: B
Section 12. Responsibilities of the Involved Employee: D, E
Section 13. Responsibilities of an Employee’s Commanding Officer: A
Section 15. Post-Incident Administrative Decisions: new second and fourth paragraphs
Section 16. Criminal Investigations and Decisions: A – new bullet point regarding photographic evidence
Section 17. Protecting Victim’s Rights and Providing Services and Supports (new)
Section 19. Training (new)
Section 20. Additional Considerations
Attachment #1: Resources Information (new)

Gregory P. Long
Superintendent In Chief
Domestic Violence Situations Involving Department Employees

Section 1: General Considerations:

The Boston Police Department is committed to providing a professional, victim-centered approach to domestic violence and to proactively investigate these crimes and prosecute perpetrators in a manner that helps restore the victim’s dignity and sense of control, while decreasing the victim’s anxiety and increasing the understanding of the criminal justice system and process.

The Boston Police Department is committed to collaboration. The Department maintains ongoing partnerships with local community stakeholders and victim advocacy organizations to develop a holistic approach to responding to victims and ensuring they are notified of all available services.

The Department’s Family Justice Division (FJD), established in 2006 in conjunction with the Family Justice Center, includes the Sexual Assault Unit (SAU), the Crimes Against Children Unit (CACU), the Domestic Violence Unit (DVU), and the Human Trafficking Unit (HTU) – all of which have important roles in investigating sensitive and classified investigations. In many instances these units collaborate on investigations where victims have been subjected to multiple crimes.

Section 2. Purpose:

The Boston Police Department recognizes domestic violence as a universal problem that affects people from all walks of life. Domestic Violence is criminal activity and it is Department policy that arrest is the preferred response. No person is exempt, whatever his or her occupation, from the consequences of their actions that result in a violation of M.G.L. c. 208, 209, and/or 209A. This rule guides officers responding to incidents of domestic violence involving both sworn and civilian personnel. The purpose of this rule is to:

- Ensure the safety of the victims;
- Provide procedures for the uniformity of the investigation of said incidents;
- Provide notification and reporting procedures;
- Provide for the securing and safeguarding of Department weapons, equipment, and personally owned weapons taken into custody;
- Ensure compliance with all provisions of a court order; and
- Ensure Departmental compliance with Federal law. Federal law prohibits police officers that have been convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence crimes from possessing a firearm.
Section 3. Policy:

It is the policy of this Department that such incidents will be recognized and responded to as a criminal activity. They will receive a priority one response (two officers) and, consistent with state law, the arrest of the suspect is presumed to be the preferred response to domestic violence incidents. In the institution of this procedure, it is understood that it will not cover every conceivable situation that may arise. When provisions of this rule are found to be incomplete or inapplicable to a particular set of circumstances, officers are expected to act intelligently and exercise sound judgment.

Section 4. Professionalism:

Officers should act in a professional manner at all times when responding to a domestic dispute. Officers should not let their own opinions and emotions govern their words or actions. Officers shall not threaten, suggest, or otherwise indicate the arrest for all parties for the purpose of discouraging requests for law enforcement intervention. It should be noted that the statute provides that no officer shall be held liable in any civil action regarding personal injury or property damage brought by any party to a domestic violence incident for an arrest based on probable cause when the officer acted reasonably and in good faith and in compliance with the statute.

Section 5. Safety:

When responding to calls for domestic violence, officers should take whatever steps are necessary to ensure the safety of all present, including themselves. While officers must be concerned with the needs of the victim, they must anticipate the unexpected, and never lose sight of the abuser. Domestic violence incidents are often characterized by anger, frustration, and intense emotions. These feelings can easily be directed against the responding officers, causing serious injury or death. For this reason, at least two officers shall be dispatched to domestic violence calls, and officers should not hesitate to call for a back-up unit, if they deem it necessary.

Section 6. Definitions:

The definitions in Rule 327 Protection of Abused Persons Section 6 apply to Rule 327A Domestic Violence Situations Involving Department Employees.

Section 7. Responsibilities of Operations Personnel:

A. If, upon receiving a call for assistance for DVIP, NIDV, or VIORDR, the E911 call taker determines that one of the parties is a Department employee, or a sworn officer of another police department, a Patrol Supervisor shall automatically be dispatched to the scene, along with the officers dispatched to the call.
B. If it is determined that the incident involves a Department employee, whether victim or offender, Operations personnel shall notify a DVU supervisor to respond to the scene of the incident. If it is determined that the incident involves a department employee as the offender, Operations personnel shall also notify IAD.

C. Operations personnel shall not accept miscels for employee-related domestic violence calls.

Section 8. Responsibilities of the Responding Officers:

The provisions of MGL c. 209A and this Rule are to be complied with in all incidents of Domestic Violence. Officers responding to an incident where a Department employee is involved in domestic violence as either a suspect or a victim, or an incident involving a sworn member of another jurisdiction’s police department, shall adhere to the following procedures:

A. Take immediate action to ensure the safety of the victim.

B. Request that a Patrol Supervisor respond to the scene.

C. Comply with the requirements of MGL c. 209A.

D. Enforce the provisions of any court order that is in effect.

E. Complete a Boston Police Incident Report and fill in the occupation box with “department employee” or “City of Boston” or outside agency for an officer from another jurisdiction.

F. Remain on scene until relieved by a Superior Officer.

G. Not miscel the call under any circumstances.

Section 9. Responsibilities of the Patrol Supervisor:

Upon being notified of a domestic violence incident involving a department employee, or sworn member of another police department, the Patrol Supervisor shall immediately respond to the scene of the incident and take control of the investigation of the incident. Specifically, the Patrol Supervisor shall:

A. Assess the actual and potential harm to the victim.

B. Confirm with Operations that the incident involves a department employee or sworn member of another department, whether victim or offender, to ensure proper notification of DVU. If the domestic violence incident involves a department employee as the offender, confirm with Operations to ensure additional notification of IAD.
C. Upon investigation, if the Patrol Supervisor has a reasonable belief that there is evidence of physical abuse or that the threat of physical abuse exists, and that the accused is a sworn member or employee of the Department or any other police department, the Patrol Supervisor shall seize and take into custody all department-issued firearms in the possession of the employee and ensure that the firearm(s) are secured at the district gun locker. The District Commander shall ensure that the firearm(s) are transferred to the Range Master at Moon Island for safekeeping.

D. Take appropriate action, where necessary, to seize firearms considered as evidence, and firearms illegally possessed, and document such seizures on a Chain of Custody Evidence Form and ensure that the firearm(s) are secured at the district gun locker. The District Commander shall ensure that the firearm(s) are transferred to the Firearms Analysis Unit.

E. If the offender is a member of another jurisdiction’s police department, notify the Duty Supervisor that the offender is a sworn member of another jurisdiction.

F. Request that the accused employee, whether sworn or civilian, surrender all personally owned firearms, his/her License to Carry Firearms and/or his/her Firearms Identification Card. The Patrol Supervisor shall attempt to obtain consent from the parties involved to search the incident scene for the purpose of seizing and taking into temporary custody all privately owned firearms present and ensure that the firearm(s) are secured at the district gun locker.

G. If privately owned firearms, a License to Carry and/or Firearms Identification Card cannot be seized at the time of the incident, request that any application for a Temporary Restraining Order or Emergency Restraining Order contain a provision for the surrender of all firearms, Licenses to Carry, and/or Firearms Identification Cards.

H. If necessary, notify Operations to have the CRSU notified to respond to the scene for photographs and crime scene processing.

I. Submit a copy of the Incident Report, BPD Form 1.1, to the Licensing Authority of appropriate jurisdiction responsible for the issuance of the alleged abuser’s License to Carry and/or Firearms Identification Card.

J. Have Operations perform a Board of Probation check on all parties to determine if any outstanding restraining orders are in effect.

K. Ensure that the provisions of M.G.L. 209A and this rule are complied with; that the responding officers have completed an Incident Report, BPD Form 1.1, and submitted a special administrative report to their Commanding Officer detailing the facts of the incident, their assessment of the real and/or perceived threat to the victim and subsequent actions taken at the scene to ensure the safety of the victim and other family members (i.e., evidence gathered, weapons seized, statements made by persons present). All reports shall be submitted before the end of their tour of duty.
L. When the suspect in an employee related domestic violence incident is present at the scene or is located elsewhere and is not arrested, the Patrol Supervisor shall submit a written administrative report explaining any and all reasons why an arrest was not made.

M. Ensure that a thorough preliminary investigation is conducted and an arrest of the dominant aggressor is made when probable cause is present and arrest is feasible.

N. In the event that the reported incident involves the chief executive of a law enforcement agency, the appropriate county prosecutor’s office and the executive with direct oversight of the accused individual shall be notified.

Section 10. Responsibilities of the Domestic Violence Unit Supervisor:

The Domestic Violence Unit will ensure the availability of a supervisor 24 hours a day/7 days a week. Upon notification from Operations of a confirmed incident of domestic violence involving a department employee, the DVU supervisor shall respond to the scene. In accordance with M.G.L. c. 209A, when a crime involving abuse is committed by a department employee, the DVU supervisor will take the appropriate action including aiding the victim and identifying and arresting the offender.

A. If a prevention order is issued or a police officer is arrested, the DVU supervisor shall order the officer to immediately surrender his/her Department issued weapon and ammunition. The Police Commissioner shall determine if an officer’s authorization to carry a department issued firearm under M.G.L. c 41 s. 98 shall be suspended while a protective order is in effect.

B. The DVU supervisor shall ensure that owned or controlled personal firearm(s) are seized and secured at the district gun locker. The DVU supervisor shall also ensure that Department issued weapons seized as evidence are secured at the district gun locker.

Section 11. Responsibilities of the Duty Supervisor:

The Duty Supervisor, upon being notified of a domestic violence incident involving a department employee or police officer from another jurisdiction, shall:

A. Ensure that the Patrol Supervisor has responded to the scene and commenced a preliminary investigation.

B. Upon confirmation of the incident, request Operations to notify the Commanding Officer of the District or Unit of the involved employee; notify the Commanding Officer of the District where the incident occurred; and if the incident is reported during a night shift or during a weekend, notify the on-duty city-wide Commander.

C. If the accused officer is a member of another jurisdiction’s police department, notify the DVU, contact the Duty Supervisor of that officer’s jurisdiction, and refer the outside department to the DVU for follow-up and reports.
D. If the involved officer/employee of the domestic violence incident is the victim, standard domestic violence response and investigation procedures should be followed, and ensure that the Domestic Violence Unit and the advocate assigned to the district are forwarded copies of all reports. If the victim/employee is injured, the Duty Supervisor shall notify their District/Unit Commander immediately.

E. Ensure proper documentation of the incident as required by Rule 327 and M.G.L. c. 209A.

F. Ensure the above provisions relative to firearms have been complied with.

Section 12. Responsibilities of the Involved Employee:

A. A department employee who has been served with a Restraining Order, Temporary Restraining Order and/or Extension of a Restraining Order under MGL c. 208, 209, or 209A; or learns they are a defendant named in any such Order, or has a criminal complaint issued for any violation of MGL c. 209A, shall immediately notify his/her Commanding Officer in writing, who shall then forward a copy to the DVU. For employees residing inside the city, the Commanding Officer shall notify the District Commander in charge of the District where the employee resides of the order.

B. Employees shall also immediately notify their Commanding Officer if there is a change in status of any existing restraining order, including, but not limited to, the modification or addition of restrictions or an extension of the expiration date. Notification to an employee’s Commanding Officer shall be made in writing no later than the beginning of the employee’s next tour of duty or within 24 hours, whichever comes first. The employee’s Commanding Officer shall forward a copy of the written notification to the DVU, and send a copy of said change to the DVU.

C. An employee served with a Restraining Order shall attach a copy of the Restraining Order to their report along with all receipts for any surrendered firearms if so ordered by the Court, if voluntarily surrendered, or if their License to Carry or Firearms Identification Card has been suspended or revoked by the licensing authority.

D. A Department employee who is arrested outside the City of Boston for a violation of a Restraining Order and/or a violation of M.G.L. c. 209A, including the issuance of a criminal complaint, shall immediately notify the Duty Supervisor, Operations Division (617-343-4680). The Duty Supervisor, Operations Division, shall notify the Commanding Officer of the employee’s respective District or Unit and the Bureau of Professional Standards of the arrest.

E. A Department employee who is served with a Restraining Order ordering the employee to surrender all firearms in their custody shall immediately turn their Department issued firearm, if any, over to the custody of a Superior Officer. Privately owned firearms shall be surrendered, at the first opportunity, to the employee’s Commanding Officer, for an employee residing in the City of Boston, or to the police department in the city or town in which the employee resides, unless ordered otherwise by the court. The involved employee must submit receipts to their Commanding Officer verifying compliance with any order to surrender firearms, License to Carry and/or Firearms Identification Card.
F. When an outside law enforcement agency serves an abuse prevention order on a BPD officer outside the City of Boston, the officer shall comply with any request to surrender all firearms, including a department issued firearm, and notify his/her District/Unit Commander.

**Section 13. Responsibilities of an Employee’s Commanding Officer:**

A District or Unit Commander, upon being notified that an employee under their command has been served a Restraining Order and/or has been involved in a Domestic Violence incident, shall take the following actions:

A. Ensure the safety of the victim. If the victim lives outside the City of Boston, contact the officer in charge of the local police department where the victim resides.

B. If the domestic violence incident occurred in the City of Boston, recommend to the victim the services of the district domestic violence advocate and the domestic violence unit detective assigned to the district where the incident occurred, and ensure that they devise a safety plan with the victim.

C. Order that all appropriate notifications be made, and that the required documents be completed, and review all reports and documents for accuracy and completeness.

D. If a sworn Department member is the alleged abuser, ensure his/her Department issued firearm is seized for safekeeping and that privately owned firearms, a License to Carry and/or a Firearms Identification Card are also surrendered, if so ordered by the Court, or if the licensing authority has suspended or revoked his/her License to Carry or Firearms Identification Card.

E. If the department employee is the offender in a domestic violence situation, consult with the Commanding Officer of the Internal Affairs Division to determine which IAD Superior Officer shall initiate the IAD investigation of Department Rules violations.

F. Consult with the Commanding Officer of the Domestic Violence Unit to determine which DVU Supervisor shall initiate the follow-up DVU criminal investigation.

G. Immediately notify the Internal Affairs Division and the Domestic Violence Unit if there is any change in status of an employee under a restraining order (i.e., restrictions modified or added, expiration date extended, etc.).

**Section 14. Responsibilities of the Licensing Unit Commander:**

The Commander of the Licensing Unit, upon the receipt of a License to Carry or Firearms Identification Card from the Commanding Officer of a police officer who has an abuse prevention order issued against said officer, shall initiate administrative action in accordance with M.G.L. c. 140 s.131. The Commander of the Licensing Unit shall ensure that there are no statutory disqualifications before returning any firearms licenses upon the protective order being vacated.
Section 15. Post-incident Administrative Decisions:

The Department shall conduct separate parallel administrative and criminal investigations of alleged incidents of employee domestic violence. If the facts of the case indicate that domestic violence has occurred or any departmental policies have been violated, administrative action shall be taken, separate and distinct, from any criminal proceedings as soon as practicable. Independent of the outcome of the criminal case, the department shall adhere to all positions and policies relating to the incident.

BPD personnel alleged to have been involved as a suspect in incidents of domestic violence that constitute a criminal violation of M.G.L. 209A shall be placed on administrative leave immediately while the investigation(s) are underway. The case will be reviewed weekly by the Bureau of Professional Standards to determine recommendations regarding potential change in status. The Bureau of Professional Standards will prioritize investigation of domestic violence incidents.

Where sufficient evidence exists and the facts of the case indicate that domestic violence has occurred or any departmental policies have been violated, the Department shall take immediate administrative action to intervene, which can include removal of badge, removal of weapon, reassignment, administrative duty, continued administrative leave with or without pay, suspension or termination.

If it is determined that sufficient evidence does not exist or the facts of the case indicate that domestic violence has not occurred, and departmental policies have not been violated, the Department shall assign the employee to appropriate duty status and document the findings of the investigation per Rule 109 Discipline Section 52.

All BPD employees are subject to the City of Boston’s Zero Tolerance for Violence Policy, updated January 1, 2015; located on the City of Boston’s Human Resources Department webpage on boston.gov.

Section 16. Criminal Investigations and Decisions:

A Superior Officer of the Domestic Violence Unit will assume responsibility for completing the criminal investigation of all incidents of employee related domestic violence. The designated investigating Superior Officer shall be of a rank higher than the accused officer.

A. The DVU Superior Officer shall conduct the criminal investigation as he/she would any other criminal violation of 209A.

   • Photographs: If allowed by the victim, photographs of external injuries should be taken at 24, 48 and 72 hours in the event injuries become more visible and pronounced.

B. Even though an initial report may already exist concerning a police officer, if the victim reports any subsequent or additional criminal activity, each incident shall be documented separately, assigned a case number, and investigated thoroughly.
C. The Department shall completely investigate the charges and where warranted, seek prosecution, even if the victim recants the charges or fails to participate in the prosecution.

Section 17. Protecting Victim’s Rights and Providing Services and Supports:

All Department personnel shall keep all information concerning victims confidential, including their whereabouts, safety plan, and any communications or impounded addresses.

Domestic Violence Unit Superior Detectives shall provide victims information on:

A. The rights of a crime victim and the criminal justice process.

B. How to contact police if harassed or intimidated by the suspect(s).

C. The requirement of all agencies to obtain written permission from the victim prior to releasing information.

D. What information is part of a public record and what will be held confidential.

E. The possibility of media coverage and what information the media has access to regarding domestic violence crimes.

F. The possibility of availability of compensation for victims of crime, including medical and counseling expenses.

G. Services and supports available through the Dee Kennedy Family Justice Center service providers. See Attachment #1.

H. If applicable, BPD Special Order 15-020 Domestic Violence Leave Policy (for City of Boston Employees)

Civilian Domestic Violence Advocates assigned to the Domestic Violence Unit provide victims assistance with:

   A. Crisis intervention
   B. Comprehensive safety planning
   C. Referral to services such as shelter and counseling

The YouthConnect licensed clinical social worker assigned to the Domestic Violence Unit provides services and supports to young people (and their families) referred to them by DVU detectives, including:

   A. Violence prevention
   B. Intervention
   C. Advocacy
D. Mental health services

Section 18. Surrendering Department Issued Firearms Pursuant to Abuse Prevention Orders Issued Against an Officer:

A. In accordance with M.G.L. c. 209A, s. 3B and/or s. 3C, when an Abuse Prevention Order is or has been issued against a Boston Police Department Officer, it shall be the Department’s policy that the officer shall be required to surrender his/her Department issued weapon and ammunition immediately to his/her Commanding Officer or to a Superior Officer so designated by his/her Commanding Officer. Additionally, the Police Commissioner shall determine if an officer’s authorization to carry a department issued firearm under M.G.L. c. 41, s. 98 is suspended while a protective order is in effect against the officer.

B. Officers who are licensed to carry a firearm pursuant to M.G.L. c. 140 s. 131 or a Firearms Identification Card pursuant to M.G.L. c. 140 s. 129B shall also surrender the license(s) to their Commanding Officer or his/her designee who shall forward them to the Commander of the Licensing Unit for administrative action as proscribed in section M.G.L. c. 140 s. 131 (d) (vi) and M.G.L. c. 140 s. 129B (1) (vii). Personal firearms surrendered to this Department shall be forwarded to the BPD Firearms Analysis Unit for safekeeping.

C. Department issued weapons surrendered pursuant to Section 5, Paragraph B of this rule shall be delivered to the Department Range Master at Moon Island for storage until such time as the Abuse Prevention Order is vacated.

D. Upon the protective order being vacated, the Commander of the Bureau of Professional Standards (BPS) shall authorize in writing the return of the officer’s duty weapon and any personal weapons surrendered to the Boston Police Department. The Commander of BPS shall forward this authorization to the Police Commissioner for final approval. Personal firearms surrendered to this Department by an officer shall not be subject to the requirements of Rule 311, Section 8 for their return.

E. The Commander of the Licensing Unit shall ensure there are no statutory disqualifications before returning any firearms licenses upon the protective order being vacated.

F. In situations where an outside law enforcement agency serves a protective order on a police officer from this Department at his or her residence outside the City of Boston, that officer shall comply with the request of surrender of firearms, including department issued firearms pursuant to the protective order issued against them. When such a situation occurs, the officer shall immediately notify the Operations Duty Supervisor who shall notify Internal Affairs Commander or the on call member of Internal Affairs. The designated member of Internal Affairs shall then contact the agency concerned and request the return of the department weapon and any other department property taken.
Section 19. Training

The Department is committed to ensuring that police personnel receive appropriate training regarding response to incidents of domestic violence involving department employees.

Section 20. Additional Considerations:

Federal law prohibits officers convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence assaults from carrying firearms. The department shall ensure compliance with Federal law (see 18 U.S.C.S922 (g) (9).

Upon notification by the Court, an officer’s supervising officer, or other credible source that a sworn BPD member has been charged with violating Massachusetts General Law c. 265, Section 13a-29 (as may be amended), the Bureau of Professional Standards shall send notification to the Massachusetts POST Commission and the City of Boston Office of Police Accountability and Transparency.

Gregory P. Long
Superintendent in Chief
RULE 327A: ATTACHMENT #1

DEE KENNEDY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

If you are in immediate danger, call 911
SafeLink - Statewide Domestic Violence 24/7 Hotline: 1-877-785-2020
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center 24/7 Hotline: 800-841-8371

DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION
The Dee Kennedy Family Justice Center of Boston (FJC) is a community of agencies providing direct services to individuals and families in the City of Boston (and beyond) who have been affected by and/or exposed to domestic violence, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, or human trafficking/commercial sexual exploitation. Collectively, FJC partners strive to collect, develop, and share knowledge about these types of violence and their impacts, support those affected, and prevent these harms.

SERVICES
FJC partners are here to serve all victims and survivors free of charge, with attention to accessibility and cultural responsiveness. FJC partners support victims/survivors in attaining their full health potential and wellness as experienced and honored through their many intersecting identities (race, sex/gender, sexuality, socio-economic status, ability status, immigration status, religion, etc.). Services are offered **free of charge** and with attention to accessibility and clients’ needs for safety, justice and healing. **Services include:**

Advocacy
Counseling/mentoring
Civil/legal services
Forensic medical services
Safety planning
Self-sufficiency programming
Connection to emergency shelter, substance abuse and mental health treatment
Employment support

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence**
617-338-2355 (24 hour hotline)
info@atask.org
Serving pan-Asian survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence in Greater Boston and Greater Lowell in 18 Asian languages and dialects.

**Casa Myrna**
1-877-785-2020 (24 hour hotline)
info@casamyrna.org
Casa Myrna is Boston's largest provider of shelter and supportive services to survivors of domestic violence, providing safety, resources, advocacy and information since 1977. Casa Myrna operates SafeLink, the statewide domestic violence hotline.

Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS)
Office: 617-864-7600
Email MAPS
MAPS caseworkers offer crisis intervention, safety planning, information, guided referrals, medical and legal advocacy, supportive listening and related services around domestic violence and sexual assault.

The Network/La Red
800-832-1901 (24 hour hotline)
info@tnlr.org
The Network/La Red is a survivor-led, social justice organization that works to end partner abuse in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, SM, polyamorous, and queer communities.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC)
800-841-8371 (24 hour hotline)
info@barcc.org
As the only comprehensive rape crisis center in the Greater Boston area, BARCC provides counseling, medical and legal advocacy, case management, and prevention education to the community.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE
Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County
Office: 617-779-2146
cac@state.ma.us
The Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County responds to concerns of child abuse and supports youth and their families through the comprehensive process of accessing safety and services.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING/COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

EVA Center
Office: 617-779-2133
info@evacenter.org
The EVA Center is a survivor-led organization that provides a wide range of continuous and comprehensive services for women exploited through prostitution and sex trafficking.

My Life My Choice
Office: 617-396-7807
mlmcinfo@jri.org
Led by survivors and grounded in the experiences of girls, boys, trans and non-binary youth who have survived sexual exploitation, My Life My Choice provides mentoring services to empower youth to defend themselves and demand a society that does not tolerate the buying and selling of children.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

**Dress for Success Boston**
Office: 617-779-2177
jrobinson@dfsBoston.org
Dress for Success helps women achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire and the development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

LEGAL SERVICES/LAW ENFORCEMENT

**Boston Police Department / Family Justice Group**
Police Detectives investigate reported crimes involving domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, and crimes against children. BPD's Civilian Advocates make referrals, explain police procedures, and provide safety planning, with or without a report to the police.

- **Crimes Against Children Unit (CACU):** CACU investigates reported incidents of physical and sexual abuse of children, as well as crimes involving child pornography and internet enticement of minors. CACU detectives can be reached at 617-343-6183.

- **Domestic Violence Unit (DVU):** DVU detectives investigate incidents of abuse among intimate partners or family members. Abuse can include physical violence, threats, stalking, intimidation, verbal abuse, and other behaviors used by one person to control another. DVU detectives work out of the FJC, and can be reached at 617-343-4350. In addition, civilian domestic violence advocates are assigned to several police stations in the City, and can assist victims of domestic violence with safety planning, crisis intervention, and referrals to a myriad of services, including legal assistance and housing relocation. To speak with an advocate, contact your local police station or call the DVU for more information about our advocates.

- **Human Trafficking Unit (HTU):** HTU detectives work with the MA State Police and FBI to investigate alleged crimes in which a person or group of persons uses force, fraud, or coercion to obtain or maintain a person in service, labor or commercial sexual exploitation. HTU detectives can be reached at 617-343-6533.

- **Sexual Assault Unit (SAU):** Detectives assigned to SAU investigate reported incidents of rape, attempted rape, or indecent assault. SAU works closely with another on-site partner at the FJC – the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center – to provide a victim-centered response to sexual-based violence. The Sexual Assault Unit can be reached at 617-343-4400.
**Suffolk County District Attorney's Office**  
Family Protection and Sexual Assault Bureau  
Office: 617-619-4000  

**Visit the Victim Witness Assistance Program**  
The Family Protection and Sexual Assault Bureau encompasses the Child Protection Team, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit, and the Human Trafficking Unit. Prosecutors, advocates, and investigators know it is often difficult for victims to report intimate partner violence or child abuse, and they are dedicated to making the process as safe and streamlined as possible. Victim Witness Advocates Can answer questions about the criminal justice process, restraining orders, victim rights information, safety planning and referrals to community resources.