



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM

Boston Medical Center  
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<http://internal.bmc.org/domesticviolence>

Boston Medical Center (BMC)'s mission is to provide consistently excellent and accessible health services to all in need of care, regardless of status or ability to pay. BMC is New England's largest safety net hospital and busiest 24-hour Level 1 Trauma Center. BMC also serves as the primary teaching hospital for Boston University School of Medicine and is a founding member of Boston HealthNet, a network affiliation of the medical center, the School of Medicine, and 15 community health centers throughout Boston. BMC provides a full spectrum of adult, adolescent, and pediatric medical services, from primary care to family medicine to advanced specialty care, and our faculty, researchers and practitioners have been among those advancing best practices regarding the health care response to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence for decades.



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BMC's DV Program was created in 2007 to improve the hospital's overall response to domestic violence.

The Program strives to do this on a number of fronts:

- training
- education/awareness initiatives
- policy and protocol development
- consultation and technical assistance
- direct advocacy/support for survivors
- connection to community resources.

Direct services provided by the Program's *Safety and Support Advocates* include crisis intervention and supportive counseling; risk assessment and safety planning; assistance with obtaining restraining orders as well as a wide range of additional resources and benefits; accompaniment to court and other appointments; advocacy with a wide range of legal, medical, housing, and other systems as needed as well as identification of additional advocacy needs and resources. Services are free, voluntary, and confidential. We serve anyone who is a member of the BMC/BU Medical community, including patients, employees, faculty and students. When we are unable to respond to a direct request, we will do our best to connect callers with alternate resources in the community or in another setting.