

**24 hour Helpline**  
**724-775-0131**

Crisis counseling is available for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. All calls are confidential.

- Safety Planning
  - Information & Referrals
  - Exploring options, including shelter
- If you are not safe and need immediate help, **dial 911.**

**Shelter**

A temporary, safe haven for women and their children

- 24 hour Intake
- Case Management
- Counseling & Support Groups

**Community Education and Outreach**

Trainings and educational programs to students, community groups, and professionals.

**Counseling Services**

Services are available to women, men, teens, and children and include:

- Individual and Group Counseling
- Parenting Support & Family Events
- Workshops
- On-site crisis intervention at educational facilities

**Legal Advocacy**

Accompany victims through each stage of law enforcement and court proceedings. Providing crisis counseling, information and support.

- Accompaniment For Protection Orders

**Medical Advocacy**

24 hour On-site crisis intervention and counseling at medical facilities, police departments and schools.



**WOMEN'S  
CENTER  
OF  
BEAVER COUNTY**

**724-775-0131**

**Domestic Violence &  
Sexual Assault Services**

**P.O. Box 428  
Beaver PA, 15009  
Office 724-775-2032  
1-877-629-1841**



**[www.womenscenterbc.org](http://www.womenscenterbc.org)**



Is any behavior used to control another person through fear, humiliation, physical violence, sexual violence, and/or verbal and emotional abuse.

**NO MORE**

**TOGETHER WE CAN END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT**



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## Barriers to Seeking Services

### Intimate Partner

**Violence** occurs in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender relationships at approximately the same rate as in heterosexual relationships, but LGBTQ victims may face many barriers when in an abusive relationship including:

- Lack of support services for LGBTQ victims
- Fear of “betraying” the LGBTQ community
- Fear of being “outed”
- Outside perception that violence is mutual
- A greater sense of isolation
- Lack of legal recognition of relationship

## Types of Abuse

**Physical Abuse:** Hitting,

slapping, kicking, using weapons, throwing items, depriving partner of sleep

**Emotional Abuse:** Using verbal put-downs, insults, blaming the partner for the abuse, minimizing the abuse

**Sexual Abuse:** Forcing or coercing partner into sex acts, refusing to practice safer sex, seeking to control partner by withholding sex

**Intimidation and Treats:**

Making the partner afraid by using looks, actions or gestures, making treats, destroying property, harming pets

**Isolation:** Restricting freedom, controlling activities, limiting connection to LGBTQ community, using jealousy to justify actions

**HIV Related Abuse:** Threatening to reveal HIV status, withholding medication, using HIV to justify abuse

## Types of Abuse (continued)

**Homophobia, Biphobia and**

**Transphobia:** Using discrimination against LGBTQ people to convince partner not to seek help, questioning identity such as being a “real” lesbian, threatening to “out” partner, using offensive pronouns like “it” or ridiculing the body of a transgender partner, claiming that all same-sex relationships are violent

**Economic Abuse:** Preventing the partner from keeping a job, controlling finances

**Using Children:** Degrading parenting ability, threatening to take the children, adoptive parent using legal rights to take children from the non-adoptive parent

**Entitlement:** Treating partner as less of a person, using race, ethnicity, education, wealth, religion, physical ability or adoption rights to control partner