



WOMEN IN DISTRESS™  
OF BROWARD COUNTY, INC.

ESTABLISHING S·A·F·E™  
STOP ABUSE FOR EVERYONE™

### **1. How can I report domestic violence?**

- Call 911 to report to the police.
- Call WID to ask for assistance or shelter at 954-761-1133.
- Call the Abuse Hotline at 1-800-96 ABUSE for reporting abuse to children or elderly.

### **2. What is the profile of a victim of domestic violence?**

There is no single profile. Victims come from all walks of life including all incomes, races, religions, and economic levels.

### **3. Why do women/men stay in abusive relationships?**

There are many reasons for a person to stay in an abusive relationship. Fear is the #1 reason. Many have no knowledge of available help, some fear losing their children, some fear being alone, some are without economic income and feel they have no skills to be employable, and some have very low self-esteem. If you know someone or think you know someone in this situation, please do not ask them why they stay. Instead, offer them our crisis line number and your emotional support.

### **4. What is the importance of a restraining order and how does that help?**

A restraining order is a legal document that records the history of abuse, harassment, etc. of what the victim is experiencing and enables the police to respond appropriately to different situations. It empowers victims and enables them to come forth for counseling and receive protection from law enforcement.

### **5. What does it cost to get a restraining order?**

Since October 2003 there is no cost.

### **6. How successful are the service programs?**

WID has an excellent reputation in the community with unqualified credits since 1979. Accreditation from the Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services (COA) was achieved in 2002.

**7. If child and elderly abuse are mandatory reportable offenses, why is spousal abuse not in the same category?**

The Florida Legislature does not mandate it as a mandatory reportable offense, as "spouses" are considered adult, self-action and choice capable.

**8. Why is battering considered a "learned behavior" instead of a sickness or mental disability?**

Battering refers to physical and emotional abuse, and there are many sick and mentally ill men who do not batter. Learned behavior is a common thread among most batterers.

**48. Is anger management an appropriate referral for batterers?**

Persons with anger management issues have difficulty controlling their anger in more general situations and can become violent with anyone. However, batterers are primarily abusive towards their spouse or children and function appropriately in other settings or with other social interactions.