

It is the policy of the **Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office** to stress enforcement of criminal laws related to domestic violence, the protection of the victim, and the availability of civil remedies and community resources. This includes the arrest of domestic violence offenders and those who violate protective orders if there is probable cause to believe an offense has occurred.

Domestic Violence is abuse committed against an adult or minor who is a spouse, former spouse, cohabitant, former cohabitant, or a person with whom the suspect has had a child or is having or has had a dating or engagement relationship.

Abuse means intentionally or recklessly causing or attempting to cause bodily injury, or placing another person in reasonable apprehension of imminent serious bodily injury.

Cohabitant means two unrelated adult persons living together for a substantial period of time, resulting in some permanence of relationship. Factors that may determine whether persons are cohabiting include, but are not limited to:

- Sexual relations between the parties while sharing the same living quarters
- Sharing of income or expenses
- Joint use or ownership of property
- Whether the parties hold themselves out as husband and wife
- The continuity of the relationship
- The length of the relationship

If you are the victim of domestic violence – call 911.

Non-Emergency Resources:

Women's Crisis Support - Defensa de Mujeres
1537 Pacific Avenue, Suite 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 425-4030
(831) 685-3737
<http://www.wcs-ddm.org>

Women's Crisis Support - Defensa de Mujeres
233 East Lake Avenue
Watsonville, CA 95076
(831) 722-4532
(831) 685-3737
<http://www.wcs-ddm.org/>

Walnut Avenue Women's Center
303 Walnut Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 426-3062
(866) 269-2559
<http://www.wawc.org>

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) evolved from the "Day of Unity" in October 1981 conceived by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The intent was to connect advocates across the nation who were working to end violence against women and their children. The Day of Unity soon became an entire week devoted to a range of activities conducted at the local, state, and national levels.

In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed. That same year marks the initiation of the first national domestic violence toll-free hotline. In 1989 the U.S. Congress passed Public Law 101-112 designating October of that year as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Such legislation has passed every year since with NCADV providing key leadership in this effort. Each year, the Day of Unity is celebrated the first Monday of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Adapted from the 1996 Domestic Violence Awareness Month Resource Manual of the National Coalition Against