



## The Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts (CFCC)

University of Baltimore School of Law

**CFCC WORKS TO ENSURE THAT THE PRACTICE OF FAMILY LAW IN MARYLAND, THE NATION AND AROUND THE WORLD IMPROVES THE LIVES OF FAMILIES AND CHILDREN AND THE HEALTH OF COMMUNITIES.**

"Since the outbreak of COVID-19, all types of violence against women and girls, particularly domestic abuse, has intensified."

Created by Neha Khan, Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts Student Fellow (Spring 2021)  
University of Baltimore School of Law

## THE PANDEMIC'S TECHNOLOGICAL IMPACTS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Every time there is a national crisis, like a natural disaster or even a recession, victims of domestic violence report that the abuse in their homes increases not only in frequency but also in severity. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, all types of violence against women and girls, particularly domestic abuse, have intensified.

- The pandemic has led to a financial crisis referred to as "she-cession," as women have lost more than five million jobs in 2020. Women are now facing circumstances of financial insecurity, making them more vulnerable to domestic abuse.
- Google searches for the "national domestic abuse hotline" increased by 250 percent from March to April 2020 in the U.S.
- The National Domestic Violence Hotline received more than 2,000 calls from March to April 2020, where the person calling specifically mentioned that the pandemic contributed to their abuse.
- Police departments in larger cities reported increases in domestic abuse calls and arrests of 10% to 22% from March to May 2020, according to the National Institutes of Health.

### STORIES THAT PROVE WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

👁️ Suzie Rodriguez, *YMCA Remains Lifesaver for Women, Kids Facing Domestic Violence Abuse*, THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, <https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/specialsections/ywca-remains-lifesaver-for-women-kids-facing-domestic-abuse/> (January 29, 2021).

👁️ Artemis Moshtaghian and Hollie Silverman, *A Disney World Ticket Booker Alerted Police to a Domestic Violence Victim After Taking Their Call*, CNN, <https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/26/us/disney-world-booker-domestic-violence/index.html> (January 26, 2021).

👁️ Mary Grace Eppes, *Claiborne Co. Man Charged in Alleged Facebook Live Shooting, Officials Say*, WAPT, <https://www.wapt.com/article/claiborne-co-man-charged-in-alleged-facebook-live-shooting-officials-say/35246473#> (January 18, 2021).

👁️ Dan Cherry, *Michigan Zoom Hearing Adjourned When Attorney Spots Alleged Assaulter, Victim in Same House*, USA TODAY, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/03/10/michigan-zoom-court-hearing-adjourned-defendant-victim-same-home/6936887002/> (March 10, 2021).

## HOW TO SUPPORT CLIENTS

### Stay Vigilant

- Look for signs of domestic violence in all forms of communication, including social media.
- Ask potential victims about “red flags” you see in a manner that will keep them engaged.

### Communicate

- Stay in contact with someone you suspect may be a victim of domestic violence.
- Try to meet in public places and communicate in ways that limit possible interference with the phone connection.

### Plan

- Help people involved in domestic violence situations create and practice a safety plan.
- Encourage them to pack a bag and keep it where it can be accessed in an emergency.
- Be sure to review the safety plan with other people involved, such as the children.

### Educate

- Research local organizations and become educated about available resources for domestic violence victims.

The University of Baltimore School of Law Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts (CFCC) is a national leader in the movement to reform the family justice system. CFCC is dedicated to resolving family problems in a therapeutic, ecological, and service-based manner.



## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

### ONLINE RESOURCES

**Clinic to End Tech Abuse (CETA)** (<https://www.ceta.tech.cornell.edu>)

- Cornell University’s remote platform to help survivors of intimate partner violence use their devices without fear of monitoring or stalking

**The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)** (<https://nnedv.org>)

- Tech safety blog that provides resources to survivors of abuse perpetrated through technology
- App safety center that identifies smartphone apps for survivors to use

### APPS

**SoSecure** (Available on Google Play and iPhone)

- A mobile safety app that provides a lifeline for victims
- Provides the ability to silently SMS chat with ADT’s 24/7 professional monitors
- Provides the ability to discretely trigger an emergency alarm, which allows ADT to pinpoint the user’s GPS
- Provides the ability to designate friends or family to receive alerts when the emergency alarm is triggered

**TECH SAFETY** (Available on Google Play and iPhone)

- An educational app that provides resources to victims
- Provides information and tips on how to identify and prevent abuse
- Connects victims with advocates
- Provides an updated list of organizations and numbers that victims can use for help

**UBER** (Available on Google Play and iPhone)

- Partnering with organizations that support sexual, domestic, and gender-based violence to provide free rides and additional support to shelters and safe spaces in more than 35 cities across 17 countries

### HOTLINE

**The National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVH)**

- Trained counselors available 24 hours a day at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) and by chat at <https://www.thehotline.org>
- “Staying Safe During Covid-19” resource for survivors and their families can be found at <https://www.thehotline.org/resources/staying-safe-during-covid-19>
- In partnership with The NO MORE Foundation, expanded their campaign #ListeningFromHome to heighten people’s awareness of domestic violence and to encourage them to safely get help if they experience, hear, or observe incidents of domestic abuse

