

# When would an arrest be made?

For a domestic violence incident, if an NYPD police officer has *probable cause* to believe that a **crime has been committed**, the officer must attempt to **identify** and **arrest** the perpetrator. This happens when:

- A felony was committed;
- An Order of Protection was violated;
- A misdemeanor was committed (Unless the victim requests otherwise. However, an arrest may still be made regardless of this request); or,
- An offense was committed in the police officer's presence. (Unless the victim requests otherwise. However, an arrest may still be made regardless of this request)

When **two or more family members** accuse each other of committing a family offense misdemeanor, the police will attempt to identify and arrest the **primary physical aggressor**. This process includes evaluating different factors such as injuries sustained, threats made, character histories, and who was acting in self-defense.

***The NYPD responds to and assists with over 240,000 "911" calls of domestic violence annually.***

Every NYPD precinct and PSA has ***Domestic Violence Prevention Officers and Victim Advocates*** who are specially trained to help victims of domestic violence.

Don't wait.  
Seek help today.

Contact the *Domestic Violence Prevention Officers* or the *Victim Advocates* at your local precinct or PSA.

For emergencies, dial "911."

Visit [www.nyc.gov/nychope](http://www.nyc.gov/nychope)  
Call the 24-hour NYC Domestic Violence Hotline:  
1 (800) 621-HOPE (4673)  
TTY: 1 (866) 604-5350



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

***HOW THE POLICE CAN HELP***

Are you experiencing domestic violence?

Know the signs.  
Seek help today.

# Know the signs. Don't wait. Seek help.

Does your partner or family member:

- Criticize you as a spouse, partner, or parent?
- Humiliate or embarrass you?
- Become possessive or extremely jealous?
- Threaten to harm you or your children, pets, family members, or friends?
- Prevent you from visiting family and friends?
- Become suddenly irate?
- Destroy or throw your possessions?
- Deny you access to joint assets like bank accounts, credit cards, or vehicles?
- Control all finances and force you to account for what you spend?
- Use intimidation or manipulation to control you or your children?
- Prevent you from traveling when you wanted?
- Prevent you from finding employment, or pursuing education?
- Deny you access to food, beverages, sleep, medicine, or medical care?
- Hit, punch, slap, kick, shove, or bite you?
- Sexually assault you?

If **any** of these apply to you, **you may be a victim of domestic abuse.**

The police can help you:



Reach safety at a **shelter or safe home.**



Obtain an **Order of Protection**, a legal order for your abuser to cease harming or threatening you and/or your children.



Access **medical care, legal advice, social services assistance, emergency housing transfers, crisis intervention, and counseling support** for you and your children.



Develop a **safety plan.**



Send an officer to perform a **security survey** of your home.



Arrange to have your **locks changed for free.**

The NYPD helps  
thousands of victims of  
domestic violence in  
New York City every year.

## When Someone Calls the Police

If you or someone else contacts the police to report domestic violence, **we are required to investigate**, even if you did not request our presence. This means that we will:

1. **Interview you privately.** We will also interview others who may have witnessed what transpired.
2. **Prepare a report** of the incident, called a *Domestic Incident Report*. You may write and sign a statement about what happened, though **you are not required to do so.**
3. **Take photos** of any injuries sustained, damage caused to property, and threatening communications (e.g., text messages, social media posts, etc.) relating to the incident.
4. **Make an arrest**, when necessary (*see inside brochure*)
5. **Follow up** with you after a *Domestic Incident Report* has been filed.