**Supporting Domestic and Sexual Violence Survivors at Your Library**

**Learner Guide**

<https://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/supporting-domestic-and-sexual-violence-survivors.html>

Libraries are in a unique position to offer resources and referrals to those experiencing domestic and sexual violence and stalking. In this webinar, learn how to identify the signs of domestic/sexual violence and stalking, what/when/how to say something to a survivor, and how to provide resources to someone who does not disclose abuse.

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| **What are your personal and team goals for viewing this webinar?** |
| **Personal Goals** |  |
| **Team Goals** |  |
| **Recognizing signs of abuse**  |
| The webinar shares a number of possible signs of abuse that you might see or hear in your library. Consider/discuss five of the signs you and your colleagues have noticed, and how library staff can be more attentive in recognizing these signs. Remember to also consider the experiences of diverse populations that were shared in the presentation.1.2.3.4.5. |

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| **Unique information needs** |
| Understanding the unique information needs and information seeking behavior of survivors can help your library be more prepared to respond to these needs. Consider/discuss the stages identified and reflect on changes or improvements that could be made to library collections and services to be more attentive to these needs.Stage One: Initial consideration of a life changeStage Two: During shelter and/or criminal justice engagementStage Three: Post-shelter/Post-police planningStage Four: Legal concerns in making a life changeStage Five: Immigration-related information needsStage Six: Prior five stages overlapping |
| **On disclosure and mandatory reporting**  |
| At your library, you may suspect abuse or a reportable offense, or someone may disclose a situation to you. Many states require certain individuals to report incidents relating to suspected intimate partner violence, domestic violence, domestic abuse, child abuse, or elder abuse. Use the following websites to learn about your state’s laws. NOTE: They are not 100% accurate and you should consult your state's law, typically located on your local government’s website:* <https://mandatedreporter.com/child-abuse/>
* <https://mandatedreporter.com/domestic-violence/>
* <https://mandatedreporter.com/elder-abuse/>

Identify the laws specific to your state and consider the implications for your library. |
| **Environmental and cultural responses** |
| Possible library responses can be applied across your library’s environment and culture. Consider/discuss how you and your team can be more intentional in how you welcome and engage with survivors and how you can meet their information needs.Environmental* Approaching patrons in the stacks
* Displays
* Crisis Center Information

Cultural* Create safe space
* Collaborate with Crisis Center or other community partners
* Language use
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| **Prioritizing survivor needs** |
| Identify those needs below you would like to prioritize for your library to better support survivors:* More brochures/guides
* More online resources
* Meeting space for support groups
* Better staff training/train staff how to assist survivors
* More flyers with Crisis Center information
* Hosting support groups
* Contact list of sources that can help
* Materials for children who witness domestic violence
* Confidential consultations with a reference librarian
* “Lend an expert” night with a crisis counselor
* Connect community resources in one spot
* Greater visibility of physical materials
* Potential programming, e.g. self-defense class for teens
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| **Action Plan: (include next steps, when, who, etc.)** |
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