



# False Assumptions About Domestic Violence

Know  
Needs  
Options  
Warnings  
Learn  
Explore  
Danger  
Grieve  
Empower

## False Assumptions About Victims of DV

- They enjoy being abused.
- They could leave if they wanted to.
- They provoke the abuse by nagging.
- If they defended themselves, the violence would stop.
- If they leave or file for divorce, the abuse will stop.
- They are all minorities.
- They are all crazy.
- The police can protect them.
- Pregnant women are not battered.
- Once battered, they will seek other abusive relationships.

## False Assumptions About Batterers

- They are always provoked.
- They would stop abusing if they were financially secure.
- They are always drunk/on drugs when they batter.
- They will stop battering if they are arrested.
- Religious man/women do not batter.
- If they are violent in the home, they are violent to everyone.
- The violence will stop once they are married.

## Time to face the facts:

Batters have learned that violence is an appropriate way to deal with anger and an appropriate way to problem-solve

## Case Study:

**"It couldn't be that bad, if the couple stays together or the victims returns to the abusive partner. In short, you often hear, "Why does she stay with him?"**

Why doesn't the abused person act, report the abuse, leave the abusive situation? Fear, fear of the unknown, fear of retribution, all kinds of fear will immobilize an abused person.

Leaving is statistically the time of greatest danger. The threats abused persons have heard from abusers are enough to keep them uncertain. Will they be in worse danger? Will they be hurt again – or more. Will they lose their children? Will they be penniless, homeless, and dependent on the charity or good will of others?

## Solution:

Speak with a victim advocate or domestic violence hotline regarding your concerns. Advocates are trained to understand the needs of a victim dealing with domestic violence. Your advocate will be open to your thoughts, will help you brainstorm a plan that works for your life, and will assist you with becoming more aware about violence.

## Information Taken from:

Alternatives to Domestic Violence,  
800-339-SAFE  
(951) 683-0829

<http://alternativestodv.org>

## CASE STUDY:

<http://www.stoptheviolence.org/dv-common-myths>