

D.A. Sutter Recognizes October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month with Countywide Initiative

LEARN THE 8 BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE BEAUTY CARES EARLY 8 WARNING SIGNS

THESE FACTORS **INDICATE** AN UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIP AND COULD LEAD TO AN **UNSAFE SITUATION**. THESE RELATIONSHIPS ARE NOT LIMITED TO PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AND RARELY BEGIN WITH PHYSICAL **ABUSE**. DO YOU RECOGNIZE **3** OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING **BEHAVIORS** IN YOUR PARTNER? YOU MAY BE INVOLVED IN A POTENTIALLY **DANGEROUS** RELATIONSHIP. DON'T BE ASHAMED—**DON'T STAY SILENT**. TELL SOMEONE AND GET HELP!

1

INTENSITY

Excessive charm, **LYING** to cover up insecurity, needing to win over your friends and family immediately, **OVER THE TOP** gestures that seem too much too soon, **BOMBARDING** you with numerous texts and emails in a short time, behaving obsessively, insisting that you get serious **IMMEDIATELY**.

JEALOUSY

Responding **IRRATIONALLY** when you interact with other people, becoming **ANGRY** when you speak with the opposite sex, persistently **ACCUSING** you of flirting and/or cheating, resenting your time with friends and family or **DEMANDING** to know private details of your life.

2

3

CONTROL

TELLING you what to wear, how to fix your hair, when to speak or what to think, showing up **UNINVITED** at your home/school/job, **CHECKING** your cell phone, emails, facebook, going through your belongings, following you, sexually coercing you or making you **FEEL BAD** about yourself.

ISOLATION

INSISTING you only spend time with him or her, making you emotionally or psychologically **DEPENDENT**, preventing you from seeing your family or friends, or from going to school or work.

4

5

SABOTAGE

Making you **MISS** work, school, an interview, test or competition by starting a fight, having a **MELTDOWN** or getting sick, breaking up with you or **HIDING** your keys, wallet, text books or phone, **STEALING** your belongings.

CRITICISM

Calling you overweight, **UGLY**, **STUPID** or crazy, ridiculing your beliefs, ambitions or friends, telling you he or she is the only one who really cares about you, **BRAINWASHING** you to feel worthless.

6

7

BLAME

Making you feel **GUILTY** and responsible for his or her behavior, blaming the world or you for his or her **PROBLEMS**, emotional manipulation, saying "this is your **FAULT**."

ANGER

OVERREACTING to small problems, frequently losing control, violent **OUTBURSTS**, having severe mood swings, drinking or partying excessively when upset, making **THREATS**, picking **FIGHTS**, having a history of violent behavior and making you feel **AFRAID**.

8

If your partner either threatens or physically abuses you, which includes pushing or shoving, there is no justification for it. Tell your parents or an authority and

call the national domestic abuse hotline immediately
FOR HELP: 1-800-799-SAFE.

Throughout the month of October, the public is invited to drop off wireless phones and parts no longer in use to support survivors of domestic violence.

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Bristol County District Attorney Sam Sutter announced today that he is partnering with the 20 police departments across the county as well as Verizon Wireless' HopeLine Program, which collects unused wireless phones and parts to support survivors of domestic violence.

Throughout the month of October, the public is invited to drop off wireless phones and parts no longer in use to support survivors of domestic violence. Collection boxes will be located at the Bristol County District Attorney's Office in New Bedford and Fall River as well as at all police departments throughout the county.

Verizon became the first wireless carrier in the nation to collect and recycle no-longer-used cell phones. HopeLine® from Verizon puts the nation's most reliable network to work in the community by turning no-longer used cell phones into support for domestic violence victims and survivors. The program recycles used cell phones, batteries and accessories, and uses the funds generated to donate phones, airtime and funding to domestic violence agencies. Since 2001, HopeLine has collected more than 10.8 million phones, properly disposed of 2.4 million no-longer-used wireless phones, and donated 180,000 HopeLine phones with free airtime to domestic violence organizations nationwide.

"Donating a no-longer used cell phone to HopeLine is an easy and effective way to support domestic violence agencies throughout Massachusetts, and open the lines of communication for victims," said Michael Murphy, spokesperson for Verizon Wireless. "With support from our customers, we can give victims of domestic violence a lifeline to help in an

emergency, and help raise awareness about this important issue.”

Although this partnership highlights October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, these agencies work continuously throughout the year to mitigate domestic violence and educate and train those in the community.

The Bristol County District Attorney’s Office recently received grant funding to hire three additional victim witness advocates to assist victims of domestic violence. The Office has also partnered with local law enforcement and advocacy agencies to work together on domestic violence high risk teams identifying high risk offenders and working to hold these individuals accountable while keeping their victims safe. In March of this year, District Attorney Sutter kicked-off the White Ribbon campaign by partnering with Employers Against Domestic Violence and the Boston Celtics to educate men about this program that gives them a voice to speak out and pledge never to commit, condone or remain silent about domestic violence.

Drop off hours and locations:

During AHA! Night in Downtown New Bedford on October 9th:

Hallway of the Bristol Building, located between the Green Bean and Travessia Winery

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm, 740 Purchase Street, New Bedford, MA 02740

All month long during normal business hours at the following locations:

Bristol County District Attorney’s Office:

New Bedford office – 888 Purchase Street, New Bedford, MA 02740

Fall River office – 218 South Main Street, Fall River, MA 02721.

Any police station in any of the twenty cities and towns of

Bristol County:

Acushnet, Attleboro, Berkley, Dartmouth, Dighton, Easton, Fairhaven, Fall River, Freetown, Mansfield, New Bedford, North Attleborough, Norton, Raynham, Rehoboth, Seekonk, Somerset, Swansea, Taunton, Westport.
