

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

LEGAL INFORMATION



Violence is never acceptable nor justifiable nor tolerable

The many faces of domestic violence

Domestic violence occurs when you are:

- Insulted or humiliated
- Threatened with death
- Hit
- Harassed
- Blamed constantly and or made to feel guilty
- Forced to have sexual relations
- Denied financial autonomy
- Or you feel your every move and gesture is being controlled

Sexual Assault

A sexual assault is an act which is sexual in nature, with or without physical contact, committed by an individual towards another without the latter's consent or, in certain cases, particularly where children are concerned, through emotional manipulation or blackmail. Sexual assault is an act in which a person subjects another to his or her own desires through the abuse of power, use of force or constraint, or implicit or explicit threat. Sexual assault is an attack on an individual's fundamental rights, such as physical and psychological integrity and personal safety (Government of Quebec, 2001). It is a criminal act which is punishable by law regardless of the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim.



What is domestic violence? : Domestic violence is defined by physical, psychological and verbal violence, to sexual assault and control over personal finances. There are numerous forms of aggression which are not always noticeable.

The law: There is no infraction labelled "domestic violence", in the Criminal Code. However, all acts that can be linked to this violence can be found there. In effect, if it is a question of physical violence, the aggressor can be accused of assault. If it is sexual violence, the infraction of sexual assault can be applied and the harassment or threats can also be invoked. In brief, there is an infraction linked specifically to each act of domestic violence.



Did you consent?

Consent is to agree to do or allow something; to give permission for something to happen or be done. It must be done voluntarily. Consent is invalidated if it is given in a state of fear, by force, under the influence of a person in a position of authority, and/or under the influence of drugs or alcohol, thus incapable of consenting.

WHERE TO GET HELP

SOS violence conjugale – 1-800-363-9010: The phone line is open 24/7. SOS violence conjugale helps people find emergency shelter. Its mission is to contribute to the security of women who are victims of domestic violence and to the reduction of domestic violence and its consequences by offering services to victims, to the population at large and to all those affected by domestic violence.

Centre d'aide aux victimes d'actes criminels (CAVAC) - 1 866-532-2822: CAVAC offers counselling, accompaniment, legal services and information.

Women aware – 514-489-1110: Support groups, drop-in services, telephone helpline and court accompaniment for victims of violence.

Consequences of violence:

Physical and sexual: psychosomatic symptoms such as headaches, insomnia, injuries or even death, etc.

Psychological : Isolation, lack of self-confidence, loneliness, anxiety, fear, sadness, mental health problems such as depression, suicidal thoughts, addiction, emotional trauma, etc.

Children who witness violence: Regardless of age, witnessing violence can have a direct impact on a child's psychological development. The consequences include living in fear, anxiety, learning difficulties, behaviour problems, headaches and stomach aches, etc. (There's no excuse for abuse – Community Action on Violence Against Women – YWCA Canada – 1993).

LEGAL INFORMATION CLINIC

Monday – Friday

9 am to 5 pm

Tel.: 514 866-9941. #293

1355, RENÉ-LÉVESQUEBLVD WEST
MONTRÉAL (QC) H3G 1T3

⬇️ Lucien-L'Allier or Guy-Concordia

infojuridique@ydesfemmesmtl.org
www.ydesfemmesmtl.org



Centraide
of Greater Montreal

Ressources : 911 | <http://violenceconjugale.gouv.qc.ca/>

References : 1 www.cnt.gouv.qc.ca | 2 www.educaloi.qc.ca | 3 <http://www.agressionssexuelles.gouv.qc.ca/fr/ressources-aide> |

4 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGoWLS4-KU>

Texts from Géraldine Côté-Hébert, Morgane Laoun, and approved by Me Ewa Gêrus & Me Dinah Oliel