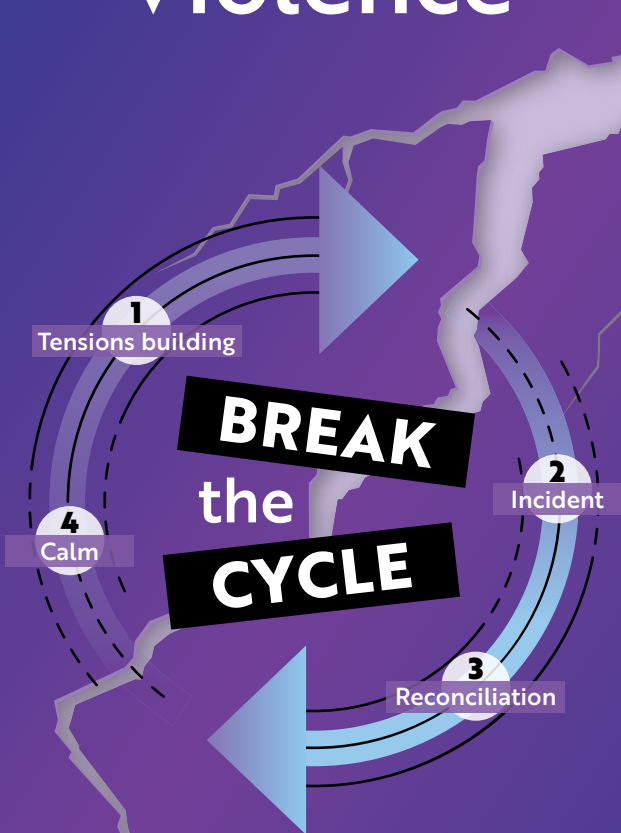


Intimate Partner Violence



**WATERLOO REGIONAL
POLICE**



What is

Intimate Partner Violence?

Intimate partner violence means using physical or sexual force, actual or threatened, in an intimate relationship, including emotional abuse, psychological abuse or harassing behaviour. Anyone can be a victim of intimate partner violence.

These crimes often happen in an environment where there are assaultive or controlling behaviour patterns. This violence may include physical assault, emotional abuse, psychological abuse, sexual abuse, or threats to harm children, other family members, pets, and property. Abusers use violence to intimidate, humiliate, frighten, or make victims feel powerless.

It may include a single act of abuse or several actions that may appear minor or trivial when viewed in isolation but collectively form a pattern that amounts to abuse. Offences include, but are not limited to, homicide, strangulation assault, sexual assault, threatening death or bodily harm, forcible confinement, criminal harassment, stalking, abduction, breach of a court order and property-related offences.

An overview of the steps



1. The investigation

When you report, the Waterloo Regional Police will take several steps. First, a police officer will respond to investigate.

If the officer has reasonable grounds to believe an offence has been committed under the Criminal Code or other Act, they will lay charges. Otherwise, they will attempt to keep the peace and mediate the situation.

If the police lay charges, they will then arrest the subject. The police will let you know once they have arrested the subject and update you on the terms of their release.

Next, a detective from the Intimate Partner Violence Unit of the Waterloo Regional Police Service will contact you. The detective will take over the investigation, assist you throughout the process and help you with a detailed statement. Throughout the process, you will receive support and assistance from the police service and their partner organizations

2. Subject released from custody

The police will keep the subject in custody until a bail hearing or release them with conditions. A member of the Victim Services Unit or a police officer will inform you of these conditions. These conditions are in place until the subject attends trial or reaches a plea deal. You will be made aware if any conditions change.

3. Agency notifications

The police will notify Family and Children's Services of Waterloo Region if children under 16 were present during the incident or if either person involved has access to children under 16.

4. The trial

If the case proceeds to trial, victims will be required to attend court. A Crown attorney will present the case in court. You do not need a lawyer, and the trial does not cost you anything. You will likely be required to testify at trial. The Victim/Witness Assistance Program will be there to help. If children witnessed the incident, it might be necessary to have them testify in court. The Child Witness Centre will support and assist.

5. Options if charges are not laid

Peace bond - A court order that requires the subject to keep the peace, be of good behaviour and obey any other specific conditions.

Restraining order - A court order that requires the subject to stop annoying or harassing you or your children.

Private complaint - The victim of any crime can make a private complaint. You may go before a justice of the peace at the courthouse and request they lay a charge on your behalf.

Plan for your safety

Knowing ways to protect yourself is essential. If you would like assistance in developing a safety plan, contact the Waterloo Regional Police Victim Services Unit or Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region.

- If possible, leave the situation or call the police before the violence starts.
- Keep your cell phone nearby and charged.
- Pre-plan escape routes and exit strategies.
- Change your locks and access codes.
- Install home monitoring or alarm systems.
- Keep spare home and vehicle keys in a safe place.
- Keep important documents safe.
- Have others walk you to your car.
- Make your neighbours aware.
- Make your employer and coworkers aware.
- If you are in your car, consider driving directly to the police if you need to.
- On transit, sit close to the driver.
- Change social media passwords.
- Turn off location services on your devices.



**With your consent, partner organizations
will get involved to help you in the process.**

The Family Violence Project

"Walking through this together."

A collaborative group that specializes in assisting victims and families by providing multiple essential services, including counselling, education, support and collective wellness. The group and resources are all located in one building at the Carizon Centre at 400 Queen St. S., Kitchener.

519-743-6333

Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region

The Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region supports women and children experiencing intimate partner violence by providing shelter, counselling, safety planning, outreach services and more.

Kitchener: 519-742-5894

Cambridge: 519-653-2289

Victim/Witness Assistance Program

This program provides victims or witnesses with information about the criminal court process once charges are laid.

519-741-3351

The Child Witness Centre

The centre provides services to child witnesses, including information about how the court works, emotional support, pre-court preparation, advocacy, and referrals.

519-744-0904

The Sexual Assault Domestic Violence Treatment Centre

In collaboration with St. Mary's General Hospital and Cambridge Memorial Hospital, the centre is a collection of expert resources available for emergency and follow-up care. The dedicated team includes physicians, social workers and nurses who work together to help you receive the best care and support.

519-749-6994

If you are a victim of intimate partner violence, call us now.

Emergency

911

Non-emergency

519-570-9777

Women's Crisis Services of
Waterloo Region

Kitchener: **519-742-5894**

Cambridge: **519-653-2289**



Visit our website to
learn more about
intimate partner
violence, support
and assistance

options and important safety
planning information.

wrps.ca/IPV

Occurrence #

Investigator

Badge #

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