

# Violence in the home varies for people

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GREETINGS to all out there, and congratulations to all whaling captains, crews, and families, for much joy has been brought to the people of the North Slope with the catching of whales.

This month, our AWIC newsletter centers on services available primarily within the North Slope Borough. These services may be available for all people, yet AWIC would particularly like to point them out to women (and their children), who may find themselves in an abusive home situation, or for women who may become victims of sexual assault.

First of all, I would just like to point out a few things. There are four types of Domestic Violence (abuse in the home): physical abuse, psychological abuse, sexual assault, and/or destruction of property/pets. In our last newsletter, we discussed these four areas.

Both men and women may find themselves in abusive home relationships, yet when a woman is beaten usually greater physical injury results from the beating, than if a husband were beaten. Yes, some men may be on the receiving end in an abusive relationship, however, the number of women who are in abusive relationships is much greater.

For all his good intentions, the abusive man will not stop committing acts of violence against 'his' wife until he recognizes that beating another person is not right, and he then takes steps in learning to control his anger.

The Laws of the State of Alaska recognize that it is not any man's right to be violent towards another person, including any members of a family unit: wife, brother, sister, child, parent, partner. When will abusive family members/partners come to recognize this???

Children. Children have the right to grow up in a safe home environment. Yet, in an abusive home children will always be victims, even if the abuse is not directed toward them. Children who grow up in abusive homes may likely grow up into abusive adults, or marry into a violent relationship. And the cycle of domestic violence continues . . . generation to generation.

Along with domestic violence, sexual assault and child sexual abuse occur in great numbers in this state. Again, it is a basic right for women, men, and children to grow up and live in a fear-free environment, and yet this right is taken away from many and at an alarming rate.

On the North Slope, between 1981 and 1982, (during a period of a year and a half), there were 35 reported rapes against women. Twenty-nine of these were 'founded.' This

means that a rape did occur. (In the other six there was not enough evidence). The number of 29 actual rapes does not include any rapes that went unreported.

And what about children? Nationally, statistics indicate that one out of every four girls and one out of every eight to ten boys will be sexually assaulted before they reach the age of eighteen; and the numbers may be higher.

As many as eighty-five percent of those children who are sexually assaulted in some way before the age of eighteen will be assaulted by someone they know.

If you are an adult victim of sexual assault, there are some choices you will have to make. One of them is the decision whether or not to report the sexual assault to Public Safety.

It is a long process to get through the courts, but if the laws are carried out correctly and your assailant is sent to jail, there may be some justice after all. By reporting, you may also help other women. A rapist who rapes once may likely rape again.

Even if you decide not to report a rape, you still should seek medical attention to make sure that you are not seriously injured.

Whichever you decide — to report or not to report — then that is the right decision for you.

## SERVICES:

Not all services that are available on the North Slope will be mentioned at this time. Rather, a few that may be of special interest to victims of domestic violence or sexual assault, and their families, will be listed. A brief explanation will follow the service.

Arctic Women-in-Crisis is available to assist you with any of these agencies. The number for AWIC is 852-4357, and if you are in a village you may call the shelter collect.

Alaska Legal Services: This agency assists people with civil cases, such as adoption, help with community problems, divorce, domestic violence petitions.

There are three attorneys in Barrow and villages may have paralegals who can assist you in legal matters or answer your

questions. From villages, you may call collect. The phone number is: 852-2311.

Alaska Social Services: This state agency is located in the Griest Family Services Center next to the hospital in Barrow.

Social Services may be able to assist you or your family in such as Child and Adult Protection Services, counseling for families, foster care/adoptions.

Community Health Aides: Each village has one or more Community Health Aide. If you have been abused or raped, you may seek assistance and treatment from your village health aide.

Some Community Health Aides may even be able to assist you in seeking other available services.

## COUNSELING:

If you have been through a sexual assault, or you are in an abusive relationship, or if you are trying to make it on your own, you may want to seek the assistance of a counselor. This counselor may be someone from Arctic Women-in-Crisis, the Community Mental Health Center, PHS Hospital's Social Worker, or Alaska Social Services.

Or, you might decide to seek out a counselor from one of the religious centers in Barrow or in your village, or go to a village Elder.

If you are looking for a job to support yourself and your children, you may find one through the Manpower Center. Call 852-4500, for information and location.

If you need assistance in providing such things as food, clothing, or fuel, you may find assistance from one of the following: Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope — Social Services Division; Public Assistance; Women-Infant-Children Program.

ICAS is located in Browerville, while the Public Assistance and Women-Infant-Children programs are located at Griest. There are Women-In-

fant-Children programs in Wainwright and Nulqsut, and Public Assistance also is available in villages.

Public Health Service Hospital, like Arctic Women-in-Crisis, is open on a 24-hour-a-day basis. If you have been sexually assaulted, you should seek out medical attention. You may call the hospital, or Women-in-Crisis, or Public Safety for assistance.

If you have been injured in a domestic violence situation, you may want to go to hospital. Again, you may call one of the above agencies for assistance, or go to hospital with a friend or relative.

Public Safety: This is an agency that was established to provide safety and protection to the community. You are a part of that community, whether you are in a village or in Barrow.

If you are in a domestic violence situation or if someone has sexually assaulted you or attempted to sexually assault you, you may call Public Safety for assistance directly, or you may call Arctic Women-in-Crisis and we will call Public Safety for you.

If you are off the Slope, and you find yourself in a domestic violence or sexual assault situation, you may find assistance from other shelters across the state.

Since many people travel from the Slope to Fairbanks or Anchorage, this newsletter will list three agencies you may seek help from:

In Fairbanks, for both domestic violence or sexual assault situations, you may contact: WIC-CA (Women-in-Crisis — Counseling and Assistance). Their crisis phone number is: 452-RAPE.

In Anchorage: A.W.A.I.C. (Abused Women's Aid in Crisis). Their emergency phone number is: 272-0100.

In Anchorage: S.T.A.R. (Standing Together Against Rape). STAR's crisis phone line number is: 276-RAPE.

If you live in Point Hope, you may come into Barrow to the AWIC Shelter, or you may decide to fly into Kotzebue. The shelter there is called Kotzebue Women's Crisis Project, and their number is: 442-3969.

Have a good summer! A safe summer!



## Tundra Delights



Arctic-Women-In-Crisis  
Volunteer Advocates

