



TRI-COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER OF NORTHEAST NEW MEXICO

"SERVING FAMILIES ACROSS RURAL COMMUNITIES"

October News Letter

Hello:

Welcome to Tri-County Family Justice Center, and thank you for visiting our web page. Through this site you will be able to locate resources, learn of upcoming events, learn about Family Justice Centers throughout the Nation, and educate yourself on Domestic Violence. We are a co-location of a multi-disciplinary professional agencies and team members who work together, under one roof, to provide coordinated services to victims and children of family violence. Our Family Justice Center consists of in-house partners such as, State and City police officers, District Attorney- DV prosecutor, Legal Aid services, Chaplaincy programs, New Mexico Highlands University Psychology Department, Service providers and Advocates. The main function of our agency is to provide a "one stop" facility where victims of Domestic Violence can go to receive needed confidential services. Our Center can provide many services that will benefit victims and their families through support, and accessibility of resources.

Domestic Violence is an epidemic not only in the area we serve, but in the Nation. The importance of sustaining Tri-County Family Justice Center is of great importance and is done through government support, fundraising, businesses, and community/individual donations. If you would like to contribute monetarily, or volunteer your time please call 505-718-7300, or write Box 868 Grand, Las Vegas NM 87701.

If you are experiencing Domestic Violence in your life there are places to go for help. Tri-County Family Justice Center is here to help and support victims through our programs and services. Let us work together and make our communities safe from violence.

Sincerely

Terri Pearce LMSW

Executive Director

The Purple Ribbon

Over the years, a number of sources have been credited with originating the use of purple ribbon as a unifying symbol of courage, survival, honor and dedication to ending domestic violence.

Although the exact history of the purple ribbon is difficult to pinpoint, across the country, families and friends of victims have adopted the purple ribbon to remember and honor their loved ones who have lost their lives at the hands of a person they once loved and trusted. Shelters and local battered women's programs use the purple ribbon to raise awareness about the crime of domestic violence in their communities.

In addition to the demonstration of support for victims and advocates, the display of purple ribbons throughout a community conveys a powerful message that there's no place for domestic violence in the homes, neighborhoods, workplaces or schools of its citizens.



 [Download Flyer](#) (PDF)

Safety Planning

Whether or not you feel able to leave an abuser, there are things you can do to make yourself and your family safer.

If you are at home & you are being threatened or attacked:

- **Stay away from the kitchen** (the abuser can find weapons, such as knives, there)
- **Stay away from bathrooms**, closets or small spaces where the abuser can trap you
- **Get to a room with a door** or window to escape
- **Get to a room with a phone** to call for help; lock the abuser outside if you can
- **Call 911** (or your local emergency number) **right away for help**; get the dispatcher's name
- Think about a neighbor or friend you can run to for help
- If a police officer comes, tell him/her what happened; **get his/her name & badge number**
- **Keep a phone** in a room you can lock from the inside; if you can, get a cellular phone that you keep with you at all times
- If the abuser has moved out, **change the locks on your door**; get locks on the windows
- **Plan an escape route** out of your home; teach it to your children

- Think about where you would go if you need to escape
- **Ask your neighbors** to call the police if they see the abuser at your house; make a signal for them to call the police, for example, if the phone rings twice, a shade is pulled down or a light is on
- **Pack a bag** with important things you'd need if you had to leave quickly; put it in a safe place, or give it to a friend or relative you trust
- Include **cash, car keys & important information** such as: court papers, passport or birth certificates, medical records & medicines, immigration papers
- **Get an unlisted phone number**
- **Block caller ID**
- **Use an answering machine**; screen the calls
- **Give the principal at school or the daycare center a copy of your court order**; tell them not to release your children to anyone without talking to you first; use a password so they can be sure it is you on the phone; give them a photo of the abuser
- **Make sure the children know who to tell at school if they see the abuser**
- **Make sure that the school knows not to give your address** or phone number to ANYONE
- **Change your regular travel habits**
- Try to **get rides with different people**
- **Shop and bank in a different place**
- **Cancel any bank accounts** or credit cards you shared; open new accounts at a different bank
- **Keep your court order and emergency numbers with you at all times**
- **Keep a cell phone** & program it to 911 (or other emergency number)
- Keep a copy of your court order at work
- Give a **picture of the abuser to security** and friends at work
- **Tell your supervisors** - see if they can make it harder for the abuser to find you
- Don't go to lunch alone
- If the abuser calls you at work, **save voice mail** and save e-mail

Events

On October 27th the Tri-County Family Justice Center in conjunction with the 4th Judicial District Attorney's office will be sponsoring a Candle Light Vigil at 5:30 at the Ilfeld Auditorium. The purpose of the Vigil is to honor those victims who have lost their lives in domestic violence incidents and to honor the survivors. During this month of domestic violence awareness we have also been targeting the sixth grade classes in the tri-county area to teach them about Teen Dating Violence and Interpersonal Violence. The Schools that the presentations will be held at are; West Las Vegas Middle School, East Las Vegas Middle School, Mora Middle School, Valley Middle School, Wagon Mound Middle School, Santa Rosa Middle School and Vaughn Middle School.

A fundraising event has been scheduled for October 22. This event will be a basket ball game between the New Mexico State Police and the Las Vegas Police Department. The game starts at 6:30pm and should be very exciting. The cost is a dollar per person. Hot Dogs and sodas will be available for free.