Domestic violence is not a private family matter. It’s against the law. If you are a victim, YOU ARE NOT ALONE – but if we don’t know about it, we can’t help you.

What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence is any assault, battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment or criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death perpetrated by one intimate partner against another.

You may be in an abusive relationship if your partner:

- prevents you from seeing friends or family.
- threatens to hurt or kill you, your children, your family, friends or pets.
- yells at you, reprimands you or demeans you.
- inflicts physical injury on you in any way.
- prevents you from getting or keeping a job.
- keeps you from leaving or entering the house.
- does not allow you to know about family finances.
Waiting for the abusive or violent behavior to change could cost a life. Let us help protect you and your children.

If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence:

- Dial 9-1-1 to get immediate assistance from law enforcement.
- Call BSO’s Victim Services Unit at 954.321.4122 for crisis counseling and to learn about available resources.
- Call Women in Distress at 954.761.1133 (available 24 hours) for emergency shelter and resources, counseling or ongoing needs. You may also visit www.womenindistress.org for more information.
- Call the Abuse Hotline at 1.800.96.ABUSE to report abuse against children or elderly.

For more information about domestic violence prevention, call

BSO Victim Services 954.321.4122
Women in Distress 954.761.1133