

## WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic violence is abuse by one person in a current or former intimate/family relationship in order to maintain power and control over another. The abuse can take many forms, including physical, sexual, verbal, social economic, emotional, psychological and environmental. Domestic violence is a learned behavior, which often repeats and escalates. The behavior is coercive and targeted to victims of all ages, races, ethnicities, cultures, sexual orientations, religions, economic and educational levels. Domestic violence creates an environment of fear and intimidation.

Anyone can be abused by their partner, however, domestic violence is most often targeted at women. Children are also severely impacted by domestic violence, by witnessing the abuse of their parent and/or being abused themselves..

Working Together To End  
Domestic Violence  
in Mason County

## Mason County Domestic Violence Victim Impact Panel



# Mason County Domestic Violence Impact Panel

Domestic violence victim impact panels provide a forum for victims of domestic violence to educate offenders and the community. Victims are given the opportunity to voice how the violence they have experienced has affected their lives, their families, their friends and neighbors.



*Confronting abusers is a key component of changing attitudes about domestic violence*

Victim impact panels were first initiated in 1982 by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). In light of the devastating consequences of drunk driving on its victims and on society, MADD felt it was critical to change the generally accepted attitudes about drunk driving. As a result of positive feedback from both victims and offenders who have participated in drunk driving panels, this strategy has been used with equal success with other crimes such as child abuse and domestic violence. Attendance by abusers at a panel is often court-ordered or a required part of their treatment. Panels are also used in training exercises and youth education programs.

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## GOALS

The goals of Mason County Domestic Violence Impact Panel are :

- To help offenders create empathy and accountability and to understand the impact of their behavior on victims and society.
- To create a safe forum for victims to express their personal experience and educate the community about the physical, emotional, spiritual and financial consequences of domestic violence.
- To create a partnership between service providers, justice professionals and the community to provide education and awareness about domestic violence.

The Impact Panel presentations are held on the fourth Thursday of each month from 6-8 p.m. at the Shelton Civic Center, which is located at 525 W. Cota St. in Shelton, WA.

The Mason County Domestic Violence Impact Panel is presented through a collaborative effort by S.T.O.P. (Social Treatment Opportunity Programs) and Turning Pointe Domestic Violence Services.

S.T.O.P. is a state certified domestic violence agency pursuant to WAC 388.60. They provide Perpetrator Treatment and Anger Management programs.  
360.426.5654

Turning Pointe Domestic Violence Services is a 501(c) 3 non profit agency providing safe and confidential services to domestic violence victims and their families.

360.426.1216

For further information about the Mason County Victims Impact Panel please call either S.T.O.P or Turning Pointe.