

A Benefit For You

BEST CARE EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



EAP SUPERVISORY NOTES

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Domestic violence affects up to 50 percent of American women, according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence and a study published in the American Journal of Health, 2000. Domestic violence results in death, serious injury, isolation, emotional damage, chronic medical issues, and poverty for victims. It is the leading cause of injury to women, and the leading cause of women's visits to hospital emergency rooms. Domestic abuse takes a toll on our families, our society, our workplace and our future.

“Domestic violence knows no boundaries and can happen to anyone, regardless of race, religious beliefs, income level, sexual preference, marital status or age.”
- ***Terry Coleman, Best Care EAP, Clinical Supervisor***

Following is a list of suggestions for employers to highlight *Domestic Violence Awareness month*:

- ❖ **Display information** on sources of help for those experiencing domestic violence. Posters, brochures or stickers can be displayed on bulletin boards as well as in bathrooms, where victims can jot down phone numbers with complete confidentiality.
- ❖ **Include an article** about domestic violence in your company newsletter or bulletin.
- ❖ **Host a presentation** or a brown-bag lunch discussion on domestic violence-related issues. Make these accessible to all employees.
- ❖ **Show a video** about domestic violence, or allow employees to watch it individually.

Supervisors can also be of assistance by watching for the following warning signs of abuse among their employees:

- ❖ Physical indicators such as bruises, which the employee may try to hide.
- ❖ Frequent absences from work.
- ❖ Frequent doctor's appointments.
- ❖ Employees who mention having stress at home.
- ❖ Harassing telephone calls at work.
- ❖ Decreased productivity.
- ❖ Crying at work.
- ❖ Employees who have little or no access to such resources as money or a car.

If you suspect the abuse of an employee, first review and follow current organizational policies, programs and procedures for dealing with the situation. In the event the employee discloses an abuse situation to you, reminding and recommending Best Care EAP is a valid option.

For additional assistance or information on Domestic Violence issues, contact your Best Care EAP. A professional counselor is available to help. For a confidential appointment, please call (402) 354-8000 or (800) 666-8606.

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