

Make It Your Business
family violence prevention

[This video is narrated by the NARRATOR, violence prevention advocate Erin Casey, in an office environment.]

NARRATOR: In your workplace, in public, or anywhere people interact—you may see signs of family violence. *Make it your business* to notice the signs, and *you* can help prevent family violence in your community.

Family violence affects *us ALL*—whether you experience it yourself or it's a family member, friend, neighbour, co-worker, or client.

Family violence can happen between any two people in any kind of family—or family-type—relationship. This includes dating partners and exes. Family violence can happen in mixed-gender or same-gender relationships. Family violence is rooted in the *abuse of power* and *control*. The abuse may be physical, emotional, psychological, or sexual.

Each video in this series shows a scene of family violence happening in a familiar, public setting. Ordinary people, just like you, witness signs of violence and have to figure out how to respond. The situations we're going to show you are all drawn from real life.

When you witness family violence, there is almost *always* something you can do to help. Helping rarely looks like a big, heroic act. Small actions can make a *big* difference.

People who are targets of family violence are in danger of harm. Taking action could stop that harm—and *could* even save a life.

When you witness signs of family violence, the first thing to consider is *safety—for yourself and for others*. Family violence is dangerous for victims—and bystanders.

Think of *safety first*. It is safest to help when you can do something *farther away* from the incident—or *involve other people* as helpers—or both. The *closer you are* to the incident and *the more alone you are*, the greater the risk.

When you witness signs of family violence, you have choices about what to do—and who to involve. Trust your instincts. But the point is always to *do something safe and effective*.

Sometimes, you'll need help. Some situations *require* you to call child protection or adult protection or a peace officer.

And if you think someone is in danger, or if *you* are in danger, *always* call 911.

In each video in this series, you'll see a scene of abuse or violence. I'll walk you through some of the signs of family violence. Then I'll show you three options for safe interventions: *two* options you could take if you are witnessing the scene at work—and *one* more option you could take as a member of the general public, passing by.

These aren't the only possible actions! If none of the examples is the right action for you, consider what you *could* do.

There are many resources in the community to help. Prince Edward Island Family Violence Prevention Services helps people across PEI with advice and support.

Make it your business to prevent family violence.