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Domestic Violence Awareness Month



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The Monthly Brief

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DV AWARENESS MONTH

Don't stay silent. It's time to speak up all month long.

Domestic violence is a pattern of behaviors used by one partner to maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship.



Domestic violence does not discriminate. Anyone of any race, age, sex, religion or gender can be a victim – or perpetrator – of domestic violence. It can happen to people who are married, living together or who are dating. It affects people of all backgrounds and education levels.

Domestic violence includes behaviors that physically harm, arouse fear, prevent a partner from doing what they wish or force them to behave in ways they do not want. It includes the use of physical and sexual violence, threats, intimidation, emotional abuse and economic deprivation. Many of these different forms of domestic violence/abuse can be occurring at any one time within the same intimate relationship.

Every October, we rededicate ourselves to breaking the cycle. Here are just a few ways to [learn more about DV](#) or get help:

In Seminole: [Safe House of Seminole](#)

In Brevard: [Serene Harbor](#) (321) 726-8282

Nationally: [The Hotline](#) (800) 799-7233

SAO Advocates: Seminole (407) 665-6116

Brevard: (321) 617-7510 x52775

*TheHotline.org

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Credit Card Fake Security Call

Check out this scenario: You receive a call from your credit card company - let's say it's VISA, for this exercise. "VISA Security Department" is showing up on your [caller ID display](#), so you pick up. The caller says "This is Jamie from the VISA Fraud Protection Department. Sorry to bother you, we've identified suspicious activity on your Visa card and believe it may be fraudulent. Did you purchase gas for \$87 in Burbank, California?" You didn't and quickly say no. "We thought so. Did you lose your card?" she asks. You didn't and confirm you have it. Jamie asks "We need to confirm your identity. Can you answer a couple of security questions before we proceed?" It all sounds exactly like you've heard before. Next Jamie asks to confirm your card number and three digit security code on the back. You read them to her and she says "That's correct, your money will be refunded in five business days."

Unfortunately it's a scam and not only won't you get a refund, they're already making charges on your account. Scammers get names, addresses, numbers from social media, data breaches, or subscribers lists sold to third parties. All they need is the credit card number and security code on the back. This scam has also been reported as a robocall asking you to press a number to speak with a security agent.

Avoid this scam by hanging up and [calling your lender](#) using the number on the card itself. [Learn more about credit card scams](#) and share this info with your family and friends.

*Forbes, Scam-Detector, Bis Insider

MORE PUPPY SCAMS!



Puppy scammers post fake litters online or pretend to be someone they're not (usually an existing breeder) to take advantage of puppy shoppers. Too often victims will find the perfect puppy, send the 'breeder' money, but never receive a puppy or any communication in return. Not only is this a nationwide problem,

but recently the [Flagler County Sheriff](#) and Flagler Beach PD said that a total of 30 cases were reported collectively since 2020. [Watch the WESH 2 News Report](#)

Typically these crooks will operate on Craigslist and social media platforms, posting stock photos of puppies like the one above. Sometimes a quick image search on Google or [TinEye](#) will reveal the deception. But there are other red flags to look for.

No phone calls: The seller communicates by email, avoiding the phone. This is typically to hide their real location. A reputable breeder will always communicate with you via phone or video chat (if not in person) before selling you a puppy. **Copycat**

Descriptions: In addition to photos, ad text will often be copied across multiple websites. Google the text looking for other matches. **Untraditional payment requests:** Beware if the seller asks for wiring of money or payment by gift cards. Avoid payment apps, as credit cards and PayPal offer greater fraud protection and a chance to recover your money. Finally and most important **The price is too good to be true.**

To learn more about puppy scams and find out how to identify legitimate breeders, visit the [American Kennel Club](#) online, or call them at 919-233-9767. *Source AKC, WESH, FCSO