

## VIP Services:

24-Hour Hotline

Rape Crisis Services

Counseling

Legal Advocacy & Accompaniment

Medical Advocacy & Accompaniment

Domestic Violence Shelter

Crime Victims Compensation Assistance

Support Groups

Prevention Education

Information and Referrals

Community Outreach

Volunteer Opportunities

Services are available to any victim of crime. All services are free and confidential regardless of age, sex, creed, race, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability.

[www.ofoinc.org](http://www.ofoinc.org)



The leader in developing innovative solutions that promote healthy lives, thriving families, and caring communities



Opportunities  
FOR OTSEGO

## VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Opportunities For Otsego  
3 West Broadway  
Oneonta, NY 13820

[www.ofoinc.org](http://www.ofoinc.org)

This program is funded in part by:



as well as the following:

New York State Office of Children and Family Services

New York State Department of Health

Otsego County Department of Social Services

New York State Division of Youth

New York State Crime Victims Board

New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services

The United Way of Delaware and Otsego Counties

Violence Intervention Program  
24-Hour Hotline (voice/TTY)  
607.432.4855

All services are free and confidential regardless of age, sex, creed, race, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability.

For more information contact OFO at:

607.433.8038 or  
800.986.5463

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

# Violence Intervention Program



**24-Hour Hotline | 607.432.4855**

Domestic Violence Services, Rape Crisis Services,  
& Crime Victims Assistance



Opportunities  
FOR OTSEGO

## What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. Abuse is physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that frighten, intimidate, terrorize, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure, or wound someone.

Domestic violence can happen to anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender. It can happen to couples who are married, living together, or dating. Domestic violence affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels.

If you need to leave an abusive relationship, the Violence Intervention Program can help. Call the Domestic Violence 24-Hour Hotline:

**607.432.4855**

## Your Safety is First Priority

If you have time to plan, consider taking:

- Identification
- Insurance Papers
- Birth Certificates
- Picture of Abuser
- Passports, Green Cards
- Driver's License and Registration
- Social Security Cards
- Address Book
- Divorce Papers
- Medications
- School and Medical Papers
- Your Child's Favorite Toy or Blanket

The Violence Intervention Program promotes safe environments, hope for the future, self-determination, and self-worth. We envision a future where people are free from abuse and oppression.

## What is Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault is a sexual act committed without consent. Sexual assault is a general term which encompasses many different crimes, including rape, incest, child molestation, sexual harassment, and

indecent exposure. Sexual assault is a crime of violence where sex is used as a weapon to frighten, intimidate, or control the victim. Sexual assault can happen to anyone, regardless of age, gender, or other characteristics.

In most sexual assault cases, the victim can identify the attacker. Victims are never responsible for their sexual assault; the responsibility for the assault rests on the perpetrator. Recovering from sexual assault can be a long process for the survivor, as well as friends and family members.

Sexual assault is a crime. You may call the police to report it. If you do not choose to contact the police, you can still seek support by calling our 24-Hour Hotline at **607.432.4855**.

If you are sexually assaulted DO seek medical attention as soon as possible. DON'T shower, bathe, change clothes, or brush your teeth before going to the hospital.

## What is Child Sexual Abuse?

Child sexual abuse is any sexual contact between a child and an adult or older child (at least 4 years age difference). Sexual abuse happens to both boys and girls. Sexual abuse is never the child's fault. Physical force is rarely used (techniques most commonly used are: bribery, threats, abusing a position of authority, taking advantage of the child's sense of trust or lack of knowledge, and exploiting a child's desire for acceptance and affection).

Most often the abuser is not a stranger, but someone the child knows. Incidents of sexual abuse are usually not single occurrences, but part of an ongoing pattern of abuse.

DO seek medical attention for your child as soon as possible. DON'T question the child extensively. DON'T blame the child.

If you suspect your child has been sexually abused, contact the police and call the Child Abuse Hotline:

**800.342.3720**

## Are You a Victim of a Violent Crime?

You may qualify for compensation if you have suffered a death, lost earnings, medical expenses, or loss or damage to personal property due to the crime. Please call, we can help.

## Advocacy

If you have been the victim of a crime, an advocate can help you understand what your options are and help you get the services you need. An advocate can assist you in negotiating the criminal justice and family court systems and the Department of Social Services (DSS) system in Otsego County. An advocate can also accompany you to court, the police station, and/or DSS to guide you through the process and to offer practical and emotional support.

## School and Community Education

Educational programs on domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and child abuse are available to community groups, businesses, churches, and colleges.

School programming is available for all grades and covers healthy and unhealthy relationships, domestic and dating violence, sexual abuse, rape, date rape drugs, communication skills, internet safety, and bullying. Programs can be modified to suit the needs of the students.

To schedule an educational program, call the Education Coordinator at:

**607.433.8038**

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