



OCTOBER

COUNTY OF FRESNO

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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OCTOBER IS NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office is asking the residents of Fresno County to take a stand against Domestic Violence this October.

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which is a time to bring awareness to domestic violence issues and available resources for victims of that violence. Domestic Violence Awareness Month evolved from the "Day of Unity" held in October 1981 and conceived by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The "Day of Unity" soon evolved into a week, and in October of 1987 the first National Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed. In 1989, Congress passed Public Law 101-112, officially designating October of that year as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Similar legislation has been passed each year since.

Domestic violence impacts women, men, and children of every age, background, and belief. Nearly 1 in 4 women, and 1 in 7 men in the United States have suffered severe physical violence by an intimate partner. An average of 3 women die every day at the hands of a current or former intimate partner.

This year, **October 20th** is **PURPLE THURSDAY**. We invite you to wear **PURPLE** that day to help bring awareness to Domestic Violence.

If you or someone you know is being abused, please remember that help is available. If you need immediate assistance, call 911 or your local law enforcement agency.

Helplines for advice and support include:

Marjaree Mason Center	(559) 233-HELP (4357)
National D.V. Hotline	(800) 799-SAFE (7233)
National Dating Abuse Hotline	(800) 331-8474

The Media may email FCDAMedia@co.fresno.ca.us or contact Administrative Assistant Lorrie Mullins at (559) 600-4467 with questions.

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