ARIZONA COALITION
TO END SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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Domestic Violence and Financial Abuse

What is financial abuse?

Financial abuse is a tactic used to control a partner by preventing access to, use or maintenance of money or other financial resources. It is intended to limit survivors' economic independence and efforts at self-determination.

For many survivors, concerns over their ability to provide financially for themselves and their children are a significant reason for staying in or returning to anabusive relationship.

By the numbers

99% of domestic violence survivors experience financial abuse

nearly 8 in 10 Americans do not know financial abuse is a form of domestic violence

57% of cities cite domestic violence against women and children as a leading cause of homelessness

Some signs of financial abuse

- Denying access to money or credit cards or refusing to make payments
- Interfering with rent or mortgage payments
- Forbidding work outside the home or sabotaging employment opportunities
- Reporting "cheating" on public benefits to get the benefits cut

Personal and financial safety

Gather, copy and hide vital records and documents. These include bank statements, tax filings, birth or marriage certificates, social security cards, driver's license, medical records, immigration paperwork, court forms, property or vehicle records, and more.

Begin saving money immediately. Save change from purchases or have raises/bonuses at work deposited directly into a private account (with a safe mailing address). Upon leaving the relationship, consider taking at least half of the money in joint accounts in order to meet the basics needs of you and your children.

Work with an advocate for additional support and guidance. To find a domestic violence program near you, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE or visit www.thehotline.org.

Sources: National Network to End Domestic Violence and The Allstate Foundation
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