

Member Organizations

The Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services
Ansonia, CT

The Center for Family Justice
Bridgeport, CT

Women's Center
Danbury, CT

Domestic Violence Program United Services
Dayville, CT

The Network
Enfield, CT

Domestic Abuse Services Greenwich YWCA
Greenwich, CT

Interval House
Hartford, CT

Chrysalis Domestic Violence Services
Meriden, CT

New Horizons
Middletown, CT

Prudence Crandall Center
New Britain, CT

The Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services
New Haven, CT

Safe Futures
New London, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center
Norwalk, CT

Women's Support Services
Sharon, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center
Stamford, CT

Susan B. Anthony Project
Torrington, CT

Safe Haven
Waterbury, CT

Domestic Violence Program United Services
Willimantic, CT

During these uncertain times it is more important than ever that health professionals connect with patients and clients to offer helpful resources to cope with the increased stress and isolation brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. With so many people confined to their homes, we are urging health professionals to educate all patients and clients about the resources available victims and survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) in CT through Safe Connect.

Abusive partners may withhold necessary items, or share misinformation about the pandemic as a method of control, withhold medical resources or transportation, and further isolate victims from their friends and family. Isolation is one of the strongest tactics an abuser can use, so increased understanding of the resources available and ways to connect with a certified advocate is more important than ever before.

With a large number of health professionals shifting to telemedicine CCADV created a short script to be utilized during each virtual appointment. The script outlines why IPV is a serious concern right now, offers information on the statewide resources available, and encourages each patient/client to share this resource with anyone that might benefit from it. The script doesn't ask any specific questions, it's simply a way to educate every patient or client, every time.

Sample Telemedicine Script:

With increased isolation and stress due to the COVID-19 pandemic...

- We have started talking about intimate partner violence with all of our patients because it can have such a serious impact on your health.
- We want to let you know that CT has a 24/7 IPV hotline, called Safe Connect.
- Safe Connect Advocates understand complicated relationships and all services are free, safe, confidential and voluntary. Bilingual services are available.
- If you have anyone that might benefit from these resources please let them know that they can call or text 888.774.2900 or email and live chat at www.CTSafeConnect.org.

Helpful IPV Information for Health Professionals using Telemedicine:

1. Ask the patient if there is a time that would work best to call back to increase privacy.
2. Ask patients to take phone calls off speaker phone.
3. Patients do not have to say their name when they call, text, email or live chat with Safe Connect.
4. Disclosures are not the goal, but if they happen direct the patient to Safe Connect for safety planning.
5. IPV, in and of itself, is not a mandated reporting opportunity in the state of CT.
6. Health Professionals who need resources or have questions can also speak with a certified IPV advocate at www.CTSafeConnect.org or 888-774-2900.
7. Please contact Ashley Starr Frechette, Director of Health Professional Outreach, with any questions at astarrfrechette@ctcadv.org