

I am an **ADULT**.

I can make my own
DECISIONS.

I have a right to
my **INDEPENDENCE**.

I **KNOW** what I need.

I am **BELIEVABLE**.

**Abuse does *not*
have to be a part
of my later life.**

West Virginia Licensed Domestic Violence Programs

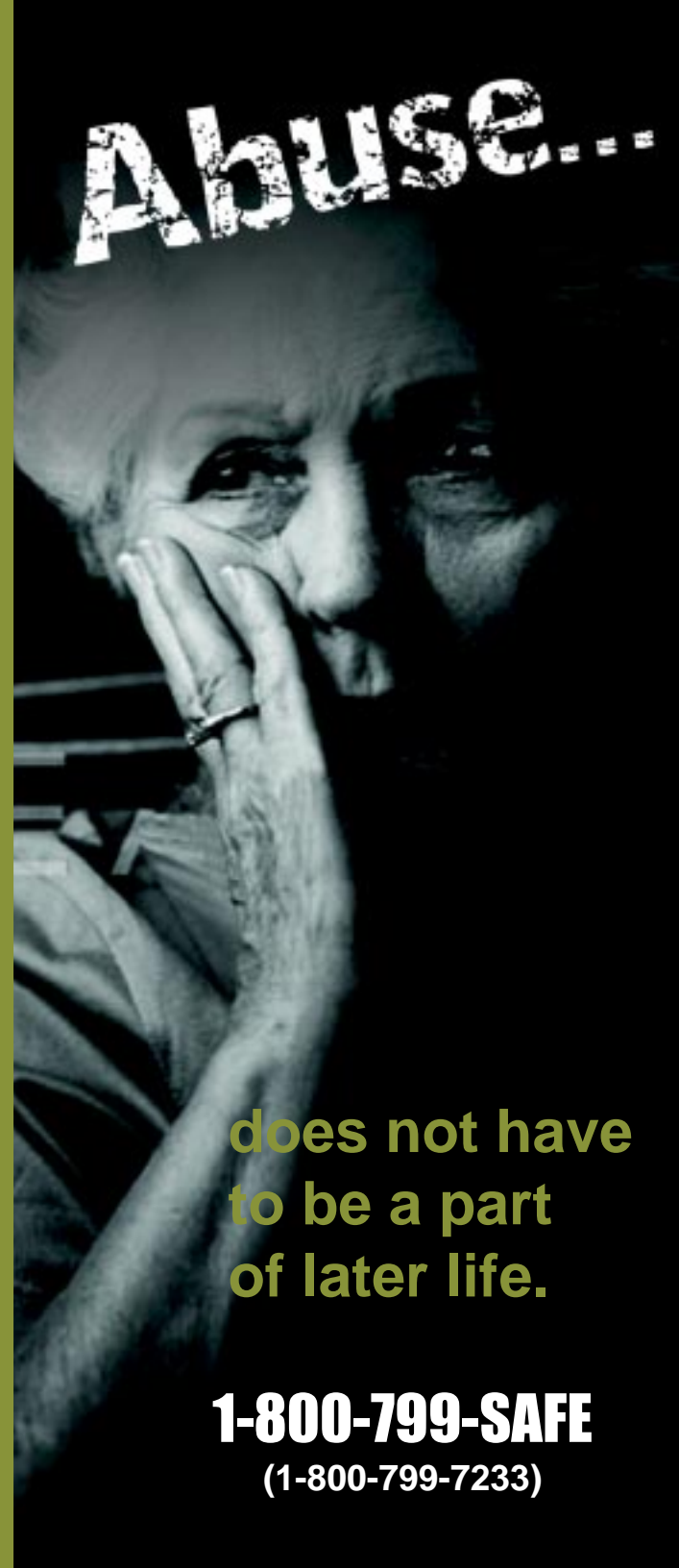
Beckley Area	304-255-2559	Voice/TTY
	1-888-825-7856	
Charleston Area	1-800-681-8663	Voice/TTY
Elkins Area	1-800-339-1185	Voice/TTY
Fairmont Area	304-367-1100	Voice
	304-367-1101	TTY only
Huntington Area	1-888-538-9838	Voice/TTY
Keyser Area	1-800-698-1240	Voice
	304-788-6556	TTY only
Lewisburg Area	304-645-6334	Voice/TTY
	1-866-645-6334	
Martinsburg Area	304-263-8292	Voice/TTY

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-SAFE (Voice)
1-800 787-3224 (TTY)

Morgantown Area	304-292-5100	Voice/TTY
Parkersburg Area	1-800-794-2335	Voice/TTY
Welch Area	304-436-8117	Voice/TTY
	1-800-688-6157	
Weirton	304-797-1489	
Wheeling Area	1-800-698-1247	Voice/TTY
Williamson Area	304-235-6121	Voice/TTY
	1-800-478-2211	

Statewide Domestic Violence Prevention Office
West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence
304-965-3552 (Voice/TTY) • www.wvcadv.org

*Alternative formats (disk, audiotape, large print and Braille)
of this brochure are available through this office.*



**does not have
to be a part
of later life.**

1-800-799-SAFE
(1-800-799-7233)



Abuse...

**does not have to be
a part of later life.**

We are all raised with beliefs about what loving and caring for someone means. A relationship - with a spouse, child, sibling, friend, caregiver or significant other – is unhealthy and even dangerous when one person controls another and is doing any or all of the following:

- Putting you down, calling you names, insulting you or making fun of your abilities.
- Making fun of your values or spirituality or not letting you go to church or other spiritual events.
- Keeping you from your family or convincing them that you are to blame for family problems.
- Blaming age and accidents for injuries caused by hitting, pushing, shoving, kicking or other forms of physical abuse.
- Denying you access to money, or not letting you know how the family money is managed.
- Threatening to tell others that you are senile, crazy or “need to be put in a home.”
- Taking your social security check, retirement funds or other financial resources against your will, without your knowledge and/or by using threats and/or physical force.
- Slapping, pushing, choking, pulling your hair, holding you down, threatening you with weapons or using weapons to hurt you.
- Reminding you, through words or a look, that physical harm will come to you if you do not obey.

*Abuse does not have to be part of later life.
If any of these things are happening in
your relationship, it is not your fault.*

Tell someone you trust.

What can I do?

If someone is hurting you, it is not your fault and you are not alone. Talk about it with someone you trust – a good friend, a caring health care or social worker, a sensitive family member, or an understanding person from your faith community. Talk to someone who will:

- Listen to you.
- Believe you.
- Not blame you.
- Not discriminate against you.
- Keep what you tell them confidential.
- Allow you to make your own decisions.

Domestic violence advocates are often the best people to talk with in order to understand your rights. They are there to help you identify choices and to help you look at the risks and benefits of those choices. They will not pressure you to do something you're not ready or able to do. And they will keep what you tell them confidential. They are there to listen, inform and support you. Only you can decide what is best for you.



Contact information for domestic violence advocates in your area are listed on the back panel of this brochure.