

STATE OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES LANSING

ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Chelsea Wuth 517-241-2112 WuthC@michigan.gov

MDHHS highlights new hotline during October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month

LANSING, Mich. – As part of <u>Domestic Violence Awareness Month</u>, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is <u>highlighting Michigan's new</u>, <u>24/7 hotline</u> providing live, one-on-one crisis support for all victims, survivors, support people and professionals who serve them. The hotline number is available by calling 866-864-2338 or texting 877-861-0222.

"MDHHS is joining national efforts to educate communities about the lasting trauma domestic violence has on individuals and families," said Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS director. "It is incredibly important to provide support services for those experiencing abuse, and we encourage anyone in need to seek assistance."

The hotline is free and provides local support that is tailored to each unique situation through trained advocates.

Hotline services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year via phone, chat, text or TTY, for those who are deaf or hard of hearing:

o Call: 866-864-2338

Text: 877-861-0222 (standard text messaging rates apply)

o Chat: MCEDSV.org/chat

o **TTY**: 517-898-5533

Domestic violence is a pattern of behaviors used by one partner to maintain power and control in a relationship. Domestic violence doesn't discriminate and impacts all races, genders, education and economic statuses. Often, multiple forms of abuse are present. It is important to know behaviors to look for to seek support for self or others.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, Michigan's Domestic Violence Hotline is a free, confidential, and anonymous resource available 24/7/365. Call 866-864-2338, text 877-861-0222, or chat online by visiting this link.

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