

About Us

The Calhoun County Inter-Agency Youth Violence Prevention Project (shortened to YVP) is a joint project spearheaded by S.A.F.E Place and Bronson Sexual Assault Services (SAS). We exist to provide evidence-based and multi-session prevention education to youth in Calhoun County around issues of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

In addition to prevention education, our Prevention Educators and Outreach Counselors present in local schools to connect students who have experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking to free services available at S.A.F.E Place and SAS.

Contact

S.A.F.E. Place
24 /7 Hotline: (269) 965-SAFE (7233)
P.O. Box 199
Battle Creek, MI 49016
safeplaceshelter.org

Sexual Assault Services
24/7 Hotline: (888) 383-2192
36 W. Manchester St
Battle Creek, MI 49037

Teen Dating Violence

Dating violence is the intentional use of destructive behaviors by one person to exert power and control over their dating partner. Abusive partners use many tactics to gain and maintain control over a partner, such as psychological or emotional abuse, as well as physical and sexual violence, stalking, and even cyber abuse. Physical violence does not have to occur for someone to be considered a victim of teen dating violence.

Sexual Assault

Sexual assault or abuse is any sexual activity that is obtained without consent, through force, threat of force or coercion. A child under the age of 16 can't legally give consent.

Tips for Talking to Teens

Explain your confidentiality: Be honest with teens what you can keep confidential and what you must report. It can be challenging to gain the trust of young people. If they have experienced sexual assault or dating violence, someone has already broken their trust. If you must report, be collaborative and approach it as a team. The number for Children's Protective Services is 855-444-3911.

Stay curious: Teenagers often feel like adults don't take them seriously. So, it is important to ask non-judgmental questions that demonstrate that you value what they say.

Validation: If a teen is going through a tough relationship or friendship, don't dismiss the situation. Try to avoid phrases like "It'll be better when you're older" or "This is just a phase" or anything of the like. It isn't a problem for the future, it is happening right now!

Empowerment and Collaboration: Focus on working together to find solutions, especially if they are disclosing abuse. Don't rush to fix everything on your own- ask them what they have tried already and what options they are interested in. Make sure the young people you interact with are agents of change for their own lives.

Online Resources

Ujima: <https://ujimacommunity.org/>
Love is Respect: <https://www.loveisrespect.org/>
One Love: <https://www.joinonelove.org/>



Supporting Youth After Violence

A guide for parents, guardians, and other trusted adults

**Calhoun County
Inter-Agency Youth
Violence Prevention Project**

We're here for you and your family.

S.A.F.E. Place

AGENCY OVERVIEW

S.A.F.E. Place is a domestic violence and sex trafficking agency in Battle Creek, MI. Our free and confidential services include a 24/7 crisis line, emergency shelter, adult and children counseling, legal advocacy, and survivor advocacy. All services are free of charge and interpreter services are available.

ACCESSING SERVICES

There are a few ways to access our services:

- Call our 24/7 crisis line
- Visit our website at safeplaceshelter.org
- Message us on Facebook

COUNSELING

S.A.F.E. Place offers free and confidential counseling to adults and youth that have experienced or witnessed domestic violence or sex trafficking. Our counselors work with individuals to schedule around each client's unique needs, including visiting schools during the day and scheduling after hours.



Frequently Asked Questions

Can I receive help taking legal action?

Neither S.A.F.E. Place nor Sexual Assault Services employs lawyers. However, both organizations have professionals that can help with PPO paperwork, court accompaniment, and make referrals to outside agencies.

How do I know which organization to contact?

We encourage you to talk with your child to learn more about their situation and what help they would like. If you or your child want help related to dating/domestic violence or sex trafficking, please call S.A.F.E. Place. If you or your child want help related to sexual abuse or assault, please call Bronson Sexual Assault Services. If you are unsure, advocates from either organization are available to help.

Are there other resources available in the community?

If our services do not match your needs, we would be happy to refer you agencies and organizations that can help.

Bronson Sexual Assault Services

AGENCY OVERVIEW

SAS provides comprehensive sexual assault services to survivors, their loved ones and the community. Services include a 24-hour crisis line, sexual assault medical forensic exams, advocacy, Children's Advocacy Center, and counseling. All services are free of charge and interpreter services are available.

ACCESSING SERVICES

For immediate assistance, please call our 24-hour crisis line at (888)383-2192. For non-emergencies, please call the office at (269)245-3925.

FORENSIC MEDICAL EXAMS

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) provide free and confidential medical care following a sexual assault that occurred within the previous 120 hours (5 days).

COUNSELING

Free and confidential counseling is available for sexual assault survivors and their loved ones age 5 years and up. Individual, family, and group counseling is provided at the SAS office and at schools or other community organizations as needed.