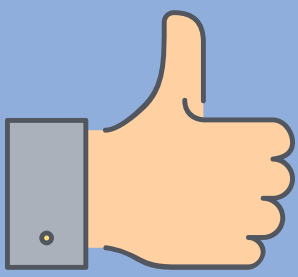


Media coverage of domestic violence

DOs & DON'Ts for reporters



KNOW THE FACTS

Anyone can experience domestic violence, and its effects often extend beyond physical injury.



COVER ALL PARTIES

Someone was harmed and someone caused harm. Clearly acknowledge the primary aggressor in the situation.



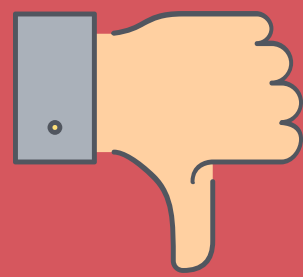
SEEK EXPERT COMMENT

Reports from law enforcement are one perspective. Local domestic violence advocates can provide additional context.



SHARE RESOURCES

Always include contact info for local crisis hotlines and shelters at the end of each story.



SENSATIONALIZE

Domestic violence can be extremely traumatic. Embellishing doesn't serve the facts or the public.



BLAME ANGER OR DRUGS

Abusers seek to maintain power and control over their victims. Drugs or poor anger management skills DO NOT excuse domestic violence.



MISLABEL

Calling it a "disturbance", "dispute", or "relationship problem" minimizes the danger and its effects on victims.



HARASS THE VICTIM'S FAMILY

Especially in homicides, give respect for the bereaved. If you must interview someone, ask for a willing family spokesperson.



Oregon Coalition
Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

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OCADSV is eager to work with journalists and local advocacy programs to improve news media coverage of domestic violence cases. Contact us with any questions or requests.

For sources and more information, visit ocadsv.org/dvmediacoverage.

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