FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION



FSA – Keeping You Safe

How To Identify and Report Possible Domestic Violence

October is domestic violence awareness month. During this time, we recognize those who have been victims of this crime and we look at how we can prevent these injustices in the future. If you believe someone you know is a potential victim of domestic violence, speak with the individual about your concerns and offer helpful resources. Local law enforcement is always a viable option and should be contacted as needed. For personal help, do not be afraid to reach out to friends or family members, and be sure to visit your local domestic violence resource center. The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence¹ provides a list of locations for the certified domestic violence centers in each county. These centers provide shelter, counseling, educational resources, safety planning, and many other valuable resources should they become neccesary.

We also encourage you to follow these tips and more from the Citrus County Sheriff's Office2:

- If you see something, say something.
- Don't hesitate to refer your neighbor, family member or a co-worker to a domestic violence organization for help.
- Organize a presentation by the (your local) Sheriff's Office on domestic violence at your workplace, church, or homeowner's meeting.
- Start a Neighborhood Crime Watch Program and make awareness about domestic violence a focus.
- Volunteer at a local domestic violence shelter or outreach program.
- Donate to a local domestic violence shelter.
- Live by example by creating a healthy, respectful and loving relationship and atmosphere for your spouse, children and pets.

¹ https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/domestic-violence/map.shtml

² https://www.sheriffcitrus.org/victim-advocacy-citrus-county.php

For more tips, please visit the Florida Sheriffs Association's Crime Prevention Tips: <u>flsheriffs.org/crime-prevention</u>