

## Survivor Survey Questions

**Purpose:** Fairfax County's Council to End Domestic Violence has created an Accountability Workgroup to explore ways the community can promote change and responsibility in those who cause harm through domestic violence. One of the goals of this workgroup is to learn from survivors' experience what ways of doing this are best for survivors. During this discussion, we will use the words "survivors", "victims", and "thrivers" interchangeably at times. Survivors are the most valuable source of information on what they need from their community. This survey was created to gather input from survivors.

**Commitment:** Your time is valuable. The Accountability work group expects that completing this survey will take an average of 20 minutes, depending on the number of questions that apply to you or that you choose to answer. We truly appreciate your time and your honest feedback about systems surrounding domestic violence.

**Considerations:** This survey will ask a variety of questions and cover several topics. Not all topics will apply to you. We encourage you to answer as many questions as apply to you, and that you feel comfortable answering. You may leave questions blank if you choose, and this will not impact the validity of your other answers. You may mark "N/A" on questions that do not apply to your situation or which you do not want to answer at this time. If there are additional questions that you think should have been asked, there will be a space for that detail.

**Accountability Definition:** For the purpose of this survey accountability refers to the following key principles of individual accountability: 1. Acknowledging responsibility for one's actions; 2. Acknowledging the impact of one's actions on self and others; 3. Expressing remorse; 4. Taking actions to repair harm; 5. No longer committing similar harm to self or others. The survivor has no obligation in this process.

### Demographic Questions:

**Subgroup determines** (age ranges, ethnicity, gender, income ranges?)

### Victim Services Questions:

These questions are designed to gather information about your interaction with victim services. This will include victim services offered through the court system or any community organization. Questions are directed toward survivors who have interacted with victim services in the past, but we would also like the opinions of survivors who did not receive these services

1) How well did the options provided to you fit with what you wanted?

Answer:

- Very Well

- Well
  - Neutral
  - Not well
  - Very poorly
  - Comments:
- 2) How satisfied were you and your family with the outcome?

Answer:

- Very Satisfied
  - Satisfied
  - Neutral
  - Dissatisfied
  - Very Dissatisfied
  - Comments:
- 3) How can victim services better represent what survivors want related to accountability for people who cause harm?

### **Partner Services Questions:**

These questions are designed to gather information about your interaction with services or programs offered to your partner/ex-partner, if applicable. These services might have included a Partner Abuse Intervention Program (also called a Batterer Intervention Program). These services may have been court-ordered or received directly from the community. Again, questions are directed toward survivors who have interacted with such a program, but we invite the opinions of all survivors, whether or not your partner participated in such a program.

- 1) How confident are you that a Domestic Violence Intervention Program could promote accountability in your partner/ex-partner?

Answer:

- Very confident
  - Confident
  - Neutral
  - Not confident
  - Certain that it won't promote accountability
- 2) What are the changes that you notice in your partner/ ex-partner that shows they are taking accountability for the harm caused to you and your family?

Answer: Mark all that apply:

- They have acknowledged responsibility for their actions.
- They have acknowledged the impact of their actions on self and others.
- They have expressed remorse.
- They have taking actions to repair the harm.

- They no longer commit similar harm to self or others.
- They have more empathy and compassion towards me and/or our children.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A, my partner/ex-partner did not attend a program.

3) Some people do not demonstrate accountability despite participating in a Domestic Violence Intervention Program. If your partner/ex-partner attended a program, how many of the following apply:

Answer:

- They become more hostile around the time when they attend their sessions.
- They blame you for the violence.
- They justify the violence.
- They blame you and complain about being in a Domestic Violence Intervention Program.
- They continue to use coercion/threats.
- They continue to use physical violence.
- They use children as a means to control.
- They violate protective orders.
- They pressure you to drop a protective order.
- They pressure you to resume a relationship that you do not wish to resume.
- They try to get you to apply the principles that they are learning.
- They call or threaten to call the police to report you.
- They say that you need to be in a Domestic Violence Intervention Program.
- They threaten to report you or your family to Immigration Enforcement.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

4) What interaction would you want to have with your partner's/ex-partner's Domestic Violence Intervention Program?

Answer:

- Any interaction would be unwelcomed
- Notice about enrollment or dropout
- Information about the program and what to expect
- Information about resources and services for you
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Legal System Questions:** These questions are designed to gather information about survivor interaction with the police/court/magistrate systems. Some questions are directed at survivors who have interacted with the legal system regarding their abuse, and some are directed at what systems could/should look like, regardless of prior interaction.

1) To what extent did the police or court promote accountability in your partner/ex-partner?

Answer:

- Significantly
- Somewhat
- Little
- None
- Made it worse

-Please explain:

2) How well did the police, prosecutors, magistrates support your wishes?

Answer:

- Very Well
- Well
- Neutral
- Not well
- Very poorly
- Comments:

3) Do you feel that your choice to stay with your partner, or leave your partner, impacted the support you received from the legal system?

Answer:

- Yes
- No

**Community Accountability Questions:** These questions are designed to gather information about how survivors view community accountability. For the purpose of this survey, “community accountability” refers to the way that the entire community (not just social services, law enforcement, and the legal system) is responsible for taking an active role in ending domestic violence.

1) What role do you want the community (including family members, friends, churches, neighbors, or other community members) to play in preventing domestic violence and supporting accountability in persons who cause harm?

2) If you called the police regarding your abuse, would a community response option have been preferable?

Answer:

- Yes
- No
- Uncertain
- I never call the police

3) If not the police, to whom would you be likely to turn for help to keep you safe and support accountability for your partner/ex-partner?

Answer: Please check all that apply:

- Family
- Friends

- Faith Community
- School
- Mental Health Professional
- Domestic Violence Professional
- Immigration Case Manager/Attorney
- Family Law Attorney
- Social/Recreational Group
- Neighbor
- Culturally Specific Community Leader
- Civic/Activist Group
- A person of influence in your community
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

4) What intervention do you think that would be helpful in supporting your partner/ex-partner demonstrating accountability?

Answer: Mark all that apply:

- Family support
- Friends support
- Community of faith support
- Being arrested
- Participating in probation supervision
- Participating in a Domestic Violence Intervention Program
- Serving time in jail
- Individual Therapy
- Couples Therapy
- Court directed repair and restoration
- Substance use treatment
- Treatment for severe mental illness
- Child Protective Services involvement
- Mediation
- Divorce/Separation
- Another community member or organization
- Other Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

5) What are other opinions would you like to share?