

# WHAT IS FAMILY VIOLENCE?

**Family Violence** is considered to be any form of abuse, mistreatment or neglect that a child or adult experiences from a family member, or from someone with whom they have an intimate relationship.

It includes any physical, sexual, psychological, or emotional abuse. Family Violence may include a single act of violence, but is often a number of acts that form a pattern of abuse - also known as Coercive Control.

## Family Violence includes:

- Intimate Partner Violence/Domestic Violence
- Child Abuse
- Elder Abuse

Family Violence can have serious-and sometimes fatal consequences for victims and for those who see or hear the violence.

**In Canada, the majority of police-reported family violence victims are female.**

Child Abuse is a form of Family Violence that includes physical, sexual, psychological and emotional abuse and neglect where the parent and/or guardian responsible for taking care of the child fails to do so.

Grassroots organizations in the women's sector have highlighted the fact that children are often used to control women in situations of Domestic Violence and Intimate Partner Violence, as depicted in the frontline account below. Emerging research has only begun to explore the risk of murder children face in this context.

## GRASSROOTS ACCOUNTS FROM THE FRONTLINE

They discuss a woman currently staying at the shelter whose child does not want to visit their father because he is violent. But if she doesn't send him, she'll be held in contempt of court.

**Who is protecting this mother & child?  
Because the system sure as hell isn't.  
Then, we see the Amber Alerts.**

*An excerpt from **RELENTLESS RESILIENCE** -  
Author Marissa Kokkoros interviews women's shelter  
staff from Women's Habitat*



Although the Canadian Criminal Code does not refer to specific "family violence offences", many Criminal Code offences can be used to charge someone with acts of Family Violence.

For more info and resources on GBV, including survivor support available in Canada, visit the **Relentless Resilience Hub to End Gender-Based Violence** at; [aurafreedom.org/RelentlessResilience](https://aurafreedom.org/RelentlessResilience)



WE'RE NOT WAITING ANYMORE.

Sources: Canadian Department of Justice - Family Violence <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cj-jp/fv-vf/index.html>  
Canadian Department of Justice - About Family Violence <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cj-jp/fv-vf/about-apropos.html>  
Aura Freedom International - Relentless Resilience: [https://aurafreedom.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/AF\\_RelentlessResilience\\_Beijing25\\_Cdn\\_ParallelRpt\\_Feb2020.pdf](https://aurafreedom.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/AF_RelentlessResilience_Beijing25_Cdn_ParallelRpt_Feb2020.pdf)