

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKSHOP

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN LESBIAN RELATIONSHIPS

Lea Johnson



HOW COMMON IS IT*?

ABOUT 17-45% OF LESBIANS REPORT HAVING BEEN THE VICTIM OF AT LEAST ONE ACT OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE PERPETRATED BY A LESBIAN PARTNER

Physical Violence

Pushing or shoving, driving recklessly to punish, and slapping, kicking, hitting, or biting

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse by a woman partner has been reported by up to 50% of lesbians

Psychological Abuse

Psychological abuse has been reported as occurring at least one time by 24% to 90% of lesbians

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATUTE

FLA. STAT. 741.28(2)

any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in **physical injury** or **death** of one *family or household member* by another *family or household member*

WHAT MAKES WLW DIFFERENT?

VIOLENCE IS OFTEN EMOTIONAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL.

Violence carried out based on gender
identity and sexual orientation

Manipulating Queer Community Ties

Following or Monitoring

Emotional Blackmail

The Threat of 'Outing'

Isolating Your Partner

Undermining Your Identity

Controlling Your Self Expression

Financial Abuse

BARRIERS TO REPORTING

Fear of Discrimination: Fear of mistreatment or being ignored by law enforcement due to homophobia.

Stereotypes: Stereotypes about women (e.g., that women are less violent) can prevent recognition of WLW DV.

Community Pressure: In small LGBTQ+ communities, victims may hesitate to report abuse to avoid ostracism or harming the community's image.

ALTERNATIVE LEGAL PROTECTIONS

Florida Stalking Statute
§ 784.048

Injunction for Protection
Against Stalking §
784.0485

Injunction for Protection
Against Repeated
Violence (Civil as well)
§ 784.046

Workplace Protections
for Victims of Violence
§ 741.313

Child Custody
Protections
§ 61.13

Injunction for Protection
Against Dating Violence
§ 784.046(2)(b)



QUEER COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Community Legal Services of Mid
Florida

<https://www.legalaccessforall.org/>
1-800-405-1417

The Florida Bar

Floridabar.org
1-800-342-8011

Statewide Domestic Violence
Legal Hotline

(800) 500-1119

The Trevor Project

[https://www.thetrevorproject.org/crisis-
services/](https://www.thetrevorproject.org/crisis-services/)

QUEER COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The Zebra Coalition

zebrayouth.org
407-228-1446

SunServe LGBTQ Services

sunserve.org
954.764.5150

The Pride Center at Equality Park

pridecenterflorida.org
(954) 463-9005

Florida Coalition Against
Domestic Violence (FCADV)

fcadv.org