

# FAMILY VIOLENCE RESOURCE HANDBOOK Fourth Edition - 2011

Published by the  
Billings Area Family Violence Task Force



[www.bafvtf.org](http://www.bafvtf.org)

**CAUTION: DO NOT LEAVE THIS BOOKLET WHERE YOUR ABUSER WILL FIND IT. YOUR ABUSER MAY USE IT TO STOP YOU FROM LEAVING.**

## **Table of Contents**

### **General Information**

	Page
Part 1 – Reference Material	i - ii
Part 2 - Resource Guide by Category	ii

Alphabetical List of Resources	iii – vii
About the Resource Handbook	viii
Billings Area Family Violence Task Force	ix
Dedication	x

## **Part 1 - Reference Material**

Introduction – A Place To Begin	1
Types of Family Violence or Abuse	2
Characteristics of Domestic Abusers	3
Domestic Abuse Law	4-5
Montana Legal Codes	
The Offense of Stalking	6
Strangulation	7
Domestic Abuse of Men	8
Family Violence and Crime Prevention	9
If You Are a Victim of Family Violence	10
How to Get an Order of Protection	11
What Happens After an Arrest	12
Victim/Witness Programs	13
Crime Victims Compensation Program	14-15
Guidelines if You Are Subpoenaed as a Witness	16
Trauma and Trauma Informed Care	17
Child Development and Responses to Trauma	18-19
Child Abuse	20-22
School Professionals Helping Families Address Mental Health Children of Incarcerated Parents	23-25

	Page
Children of Incarcerated Parents	26-27
Teens and Dating Violence	28-29
Elder Abuse and Persons with Development Disabilities	30
Suicide and Prevention	31-33
Military Families and Providing Services for Them	34-35
Family Homelessness	36-37
Choosing a Therapist	38-39

Finding a Divorce Attorney	39
Establishing Self-Sufficiency	40

**Part 2 - Resource Guide by Category**

Crisis Intervention Services – Crisis & Support Lines	43-45
Children and Family Resources	46-53
Corrections and Re-Entry Resources	53-54
Disability Services	54-56
Education Resources	56-57
Employment Resources	57-59
General/Miscellaneous Assistance Services	59-63
Homeless/Housing Resources	63-66
Medical/Dental Services	66-70
Mental Health Services	70-71
Senior/Elderly Services	72-73
Treatment and Recovery	73
Veteran and Military Family Resources	74-76
Victim Assistance Services	76-78
City Attorney Offices	79-80
County Attorney Offices (South-central and Eastern MT)	81
Law Enforcement Agencies by County	82-85
Task Force Membership Application/Donation Information	87

**Alphabetical List of Resources**

	Page
Adult Education Center (Lincoln Center)	56
Adult Protective Services - Dept of Public Health & Human Services	54 & 72
Adult Resource Alliance of Yellowstone County	73
Alcoholics Anonymous (Al-Anon, and Alateen)	73
Alternatives, Inc.	53
Angela’s Piazza	46
Ask-A-Nurse	66
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Yellowstone County	46

Big Sky Senior Services, Prevention of Elder Abuse Programs	72
Billings Area Re-Entry Task Force (BARTF)	54
Billings Childcare Association	47
Billings Clinic	67
Billings Clinic Behavioral Health Clinic	70
Billings Community Center/Senior Citizens Center	73
Billings Food Bank	47 & 59
Billings Housing Authority	63
Billings Vet Center	74
Boys and Girls Clubs	47
The Center for Children & Families	47
Children and Family Resources	46-53
Child and Family Services – DPHHS	48
Child Care Resources and Referral	48
Child Support Enforcement – DPHHS	48
Churches - Check your local telephone directory	-
City Attorney Offices	79-80
Community Based Services – YBGR	49 & 59

iii

	Page
Community Crisis Center	43
Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Montana	60
Consumer Protection and Victim Services–MT Dept of Justice	77
COR Enterprises	55 & 57
Corrections and Re-Entry	53-54
Counseling and Therapy - Professional	38 & 71
Council on Aging (See Adult Resource Alliance)	73
County Attorney Offices	81

Crisis Hotlines – 24 hour	45
Crisis Intervention	43
Crow/Northern Cheyenne Hospital	67
Crow Rural Domestic Violence Responders at Crow Police Station	76
Dental/Medical Services	66-70
Department of Public Health and Human Services - Adult Protective Services	54 & 72
Department of Public Health and Human Services – Child and Family Services Division	48
Department of Public Health and Human Services - Child Support Enforcement Bureau	48
Disability Services	54-56
Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (DSVS)	76
Domestic Violence Crisis and Support Lines	44
Dress for Success	60
Eastern Montana Veterans Home	74
Education Services	56-57
Employment Services	57-59
Family Service, Inc.	60
Family Assistance Centers (Veterans)	74

iv

	Page
Family Support Network	49
Family Tree Center	50
Friendship House	50
Gateway House (YWCA)	77
General Assistance Resources	59-63
Government Resources – City – County – State	79-85
Harmony House - HRDC	51 & 64
Head Start	51 & 57
Healing Hearts Program of Lame Deer	77
Homeless Education Liaison – School District 2	66

Homeless/Housing Resources	63-66
Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program	74
HUB - Mental Health Center	64
HRDC – Alternative Education	57
HRDC – Harmony House	51 & 64
HRDC - Human Resources Development Council - District 7	61
HRDC – Youth Employment and Training	58
Independence Hall – Volunteers of America, Northern Rockies	64 & 74
Indian Health Board of Billings	67
Indian Health Service Behavior Health	71
Interfaith Hospitality Network	65
Job Connection	58
Job Corps	58
Job Service – State of Montana	58 & 75
Labor Ready	58
La Vie	68
Law Enforcement Agencies	82-85

v

	Page
LIFTT - Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow	55
Maternal Child Health, Family Health Services	51 & 68
Medical/Dental Services	66-70
Mental Health Center	71
Mental Health Resources	70-71
Montana Legal Services Association	61
Montana Department of Justice – Office of Consumer Protection and Victim Services	77
Montana State of - Vocational Rehabilitation	56 & 59
Montana Rescue Mission	65
Mission for Men	65
Mission for Women & Families	65
Montana Wyoming – Tribal Leaders Council	62

Office of Consumer Protection and Victim Services Montana Department of Justice	77
Office of Public Assistance	61
Passages, Alternatives Inc.	54
Planned Parenthood of Billings	69
PLUK (Parents Let's Unite for Kids)	55
Rimrock Foundation	73
Riverstone Health	69
Ronald McDonald Care Mobile	70
Ronald McDonald House	70
Rural Employment Opportunities, Inc. (REO, Inc.)	59
Saint Vincent Behavioral Health Associates	71
Saint Vincent De Paul Society	62
Saint Vincent Health Care	70
Salvation Army	62
SAVES, Inc.	77

vi

	Page
School District 2 Homeless Education Liaison	66
Senior/Elderly Services	72-73
Sexual Violence Victim Services – YWCA Gateway	77
Social Security Administration	63
Suicide Prevention Resources	43
STEP - Support and Techniques for Empowering People	52 & 56
Ted Lechner Youth Services Center	54
Therapy and Counseling - Professional	38 & 71
Treatment and Recovery Services	73
Tumbleweed Runaway Program, Inc.	52 & 66
VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic	75
Veteran and Military Family Resources	74-76
Veterans Upward Bound	76
Victim Assistance Resources	76-78

Victim Witness Program	79 & 81
Vocational Rehabilitation – State of Montana State	56 & 59
Volunteers for Justice Program – Yellowstone Co. Attorney78	
YBGR- Community Based Services	52
Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch	52
Yellowstone County Council on Aging – now: Adult Resource Alliance of Yellowstone County	73
Young Families Early Head Start Program	53 & 57
Youth Court Services - 13 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District	54
Youth Services Center – Ted Lechner	54
YDI - Youth Dynamics – Billings & South Central Montana	53
YWCA	63
YWCA – Gateway – Sexual Violence Victim Services	77

vii

This handbook available on-line at the Task Force website:  
[www.bafvtf.org](http://www.bafvtf.org)

If you want a printed copy of the handbook or your organization wants them to distribute to clients or others please contact the Task Force through the website.

Thank you to those who contributed to the revisions of this 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Family Violence Handbook

Lynelle Amen and Sandra Harris, Yellowstone Co. Attorney's Office  
 Karen Benner, Billings City Attorney's Office  
 Becky Bey and Brenda Roche, Center for Children and Families  
 Lisa Cetrone Wells, Ted Lechner Youth Services Center  
 Joe Cobos, Montana Veterans Upward Bound  
 Stacy Dreessen and Jeannie Zuidema, Family Tree Center  
 Nancy Farrar, Family Support Network  
 Officers Mark Keyes and Katie Nash, Billings Police Department  
 Erin Lambert, YWCA-Gateway House  
 Ed Lambrecht and Ashley Strobel, Domestic & Sexual Violence Services  
 Kristin Lundgren, United Way of Yellowstone Co.  
 Joy Mariska, Interested Citizen  
 Maria Martin, Passages of Alternatives Inc.  
 Laura McKee, Dept. of Corrections  
 Londa Simpson, MSU-B Student  
 Joseph Walsh, Walsh Counseling  
 Becky Webber, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Yellowstone Co.

## **Billings Area Family Violence Task Force**

The Billings Area Family Violence Task Force initiated its efforts against family abuse in 1990 as a result of the McGuire Memorial Conference on Family Violence held in Billings earlier that same year. The McGuire Memorial Conference on Family Violence commemorated the homicide of Dr. Isabel McGuire and her two young daughters, Katherine, and Jennifer. In the culmination of an abusive domestic relationship, Dr. McGuire's second husband killed all three and subsequently killed himself. These crimes deeply affected the Billings medical and professional community. Dr. Brian McGuire and a number of community professionals organized the first conference five months after the tragic death of his former wife and daughters.

### **Mission**

The Billings Area Family Violence Task Force is a group of concerned citizens and professional people committed to the coordination of community resources and education of service providers and the general public for the purpose of reducing family violence in Billings and the neighboring communities.

### **Target Population**

The Billings Area Family Violence Task Force is dedicated to serve: any person residing or who formerly resided in the home, including a spouse, former spouse, children, or other person who is related by blood, law, or intimate relationship that experiences the infliction of physical, sexual, or psychological (emotional) injury. This includes people of all ages, from infants to the elderly.

### **Goal and Objectives**

The primary goal of the Task Force is reduce family violence by providing information and education on family violence for physicians and medical

staff, attorneys, law enforcement, corrections personnel, clergy and police chaplains, school personnel, victim advocates, other professionals, students, and the general public, and by coordinating services to victims of family violence.

The Task Force meets the first Monday of each month, except for major holidays, at 5:30 at the Billings Clinic, Mary Alice Fortin Health Conference Center. Meetings are open to the public.

For more information or to become a member, go to [www.bafvtf.org](http://www.bafvtf.org).

ix

## **Dedication**

The Family Violence Resource Handbook is dedicated to the living memory of Katherine, Jennifer, and Isabel McGuire, M.D.



# **PART 1**

## **REFERENCE**

### **MATERIAL**

## **Introduction – A Place to Begin**

This handbook tells you what you can do if you are threatened or abused by members of your family or household. It is a self-help guide.

**NO ONE** has the right to hit you or threaten you. It is against the law for anyone to injure or threaten you, even if it is your spouse, live-in, former spouse, parents, or children. While family violence was not always taken seriously in the past, Montana now has a law that can help. Judges, Police Officers, and Attorneys handling cases are all bound to follow this

law, which makes family violence a crime. They are all continuing to be trained and better informed on the issues of family violence.

Victims of family violence must realize that they need to work with law enforcement and the city or county attorney's office in order to successfully prosecute family violence cases. Many times, prosecution is the only way to end the violence that occurs. You must be ready to do something for yourself if you want the threats or beatings to stop.

The statistics show that family violence crosses all social, economic, and racial levels; a woman in the United States is beaten every 15 seconds; is forcibly raped every 6 minutes; and every 8 hours is murdered by a husband, ex-husband, boyfriend, or ex-boyfriend. Family violence is a generation-to-generation problem - all children from a violent home are 1,000 times more likely to become abusive adults themselves. **The time to stop the cycle is now.** Do something for yourself and for your family.

*“By better understanding the cycle of violence – and by applying targeted solutions at every phase of it – we can stop and disrupt violent patterns. This work could not be more urgent. Today, 1 in every 100 American adults is incarcerated – and two-thirds of those who transition out of our jails and prisons eventually are rearrested. This is not acceptable. Helping our young people avoid lives of violence and crime ... is not just a proven public safety approach. It is an economic imperative. And it is our moral obligation.”*

Attorney General Eric Holder

1

## **Types of Family Violence or Abuse**

Several classic types of violence or abuse often occur in families:

1. **Physical:** Aggressive behavior done to the body. This includes pinching, pushing, spitting, shoving, hair pulling, strangulation, and can range from beating with fists or open hand, to shooting or stabbing.
2. **Sexual:** Physical attacks on sexual organs, forced or coerced sexual activity often accompanied by violence or the threat of violence; includes criticizing sexual performance, labeling or name calling related to sexual activity.

3. **Psychological:** Coercion and dominance through threats of violence, suicide, or break-up; includes violation of Temporary Order of Protection activities, social relationships, money, and expressions of feelings; includes attacks on physical appearance, attitudes, self-esteem, and also frightening behavior.
4. **Destruction of Property or Pets:** Dominance through destruction of household or cherished possessions or even pets, used to hurt or scare the victim.

If you are experiencing any one or a combination of the above types of abuse, you are a victim of family violence. A common misconception among victims is that unless they are hit, they are not being abused. **This is not the case.** Abuse and family violence can take many subtle forms that damage as severely as the physical violence aspect of abuse.

**Abuse and family violence can take many forms.  
Physical - Sexual - Psychological -  
Destruction of Property**

2

**Characteristics of Domestic Abusers**

Not every home, marriage, or relationship includes abuse or battering. Most do not. Most men remain nonviolent toward their intimate female partners over the course of their lifetime.

In the small percentage of people who batter, men are most often the wrongdoers in domestic abuse. However, women tend to be the abuser in about 10% of domestic abuse situations. In either respect, battering is no longer culturally accepted in our country. Battering, even the threat to abuse, is against the law. An offender can be arrested and placed in jail.  
**Domestic abuse is a crime!**

Men who abuse their partners do so as a learned behavior that develops from childhood. Not all batterers are alike. Habitual batterers may verbally abuse their spouses, humiliating, shaming, and cursing them. Emotional and physical abuse are significantly related to one another. Often, an abusive male feels powerful and whole only when he is

engaged in violence. Men may assault their partners emotionally by dominating or isolating them, controlling their use of time and space, and monitoring their expenditures.

An abusive man may seem to "have it all together" on the outside and not appear to be a person who would abuse a spouse. This is their "normal" state. You can not tell an abuser just by looking at him. Abusive men often times abuse women they say they love. They often fear abandonment and this imagined abandonment may trigger abuse.

There are ways for most batterers to change and cease their violence. If you think you may be a batterer, you can get help. You can learn to understand the origin of abuse and learn not to abuse.

### 3

## **Montana's Domestic Abuse Law (Partner or Family Member Assault)**

Montana has a specific law that addresses the growing problem of domestic abuse. The law states that a person has committed the crime of Partner or Family Member Assault if they have purposely or knowingly caused bodily injury or a reasonable apprehension of bodily injury in a partner or family member or negligently caused bodily injury to a partner or family member with a weapon. A "family member" means fathers, mothers, children, brothers, sisters, and other past or present family members of a household including relationships created by adoption and remarriage, stepchildren, stepparents, in-laws, and adoptive children and parents. These relationships continue regardless of the ages of the parties and whether the parties reside in the same household. A "partner" includes spouses, former spouses, persons who have a child in common, and persons who have been or are currently in a dating or ongoing intimate relationship with a person of the opposite sex.

This law is special because, unlike assault, a third conviction is a felony. The first conviction under this law is punishable by a \$100 to \$1,000 fine and/or one day up to one year in the county jail. The second conviction is punishable by a \$300 to \$1,000 fine and/or three days up to one year in the county jail. The third conviction is punishable by \$500 up to

\$50,000 fine and/or 30 days to five years in the state prison. Additionally, the convicted person is required to pay for and complete a counseling assessment focused on violence, controlling behavior, dangerousness and chemical dependency; all recommendations made by the assessment must be followed. The convicted person must also pay for and participate in at least 40 hours of counseling. The offender may be ordered to pay restitution for medical expenses, wage loss, counseling, or property damage to the victim.

An arrest may occur anyplace, including the offenders home, at any time of the day or night. Arrest is the preferred response in cases involving injury, use or threatened use of a weapon, temporary order of protection violations or imminent danger.

If the officer thinks that the parties were involved in mutual aggression, the officer must determine whom the predominant aggressor is based upon past history, relative severity of injuries, self-defense, relative sizes and strengths of the parties, fear or lack of fear, and witness statements.

4

While Montana law provides for the predominant aggressor to be arrested regardless of who the first aggressor was, it is important for victims to know that for a variety of reasons, an arrest may not occur.

Whenever police officers make an arrest under the domestic violence law, they must tell the victim about the options available in the community, such as the availability of a shelter or other services in the community. In addition, the city or county attorney's office can file criminal charges, and the victim may apply for an order of protection that:

- prohibits the offender from threatening to hurt you or your children
- directs the offender to leave your home and prohibits the offender from contacting you
- prevents the offender from transferring any property except in the usual course of business
- prohibits the offender from being within 1500 feet or other appropriate distance from you, any named family member, and your workplace or other specified sites
- gives you possession of necessary personal property
- prohibits the offender from possessing or using the firearm if one was used in the assault.

A court may issue a standing “no contact order” and direct law enforcement to serve the order on the offender. The court order may specify conditions necessary to enhance the safety of any protected person, including prohibiting the offender from contacting them in person, by a third party, telephone, electronic communication, or in writing. The court may also impose a 1,500-foot restriction on the offender to stay away from the protected person.

The notice of no contact order must be given orally and in writing by a peace officer at the time the offender is charged with the assault and is effective for 72 hours or until modified by the court.

The Court may amend the no contact order during the offender's first appearance and order its continuance. If a person violates the order, a fine of up to \$500 and/or imprisonment for a term up to 6 months may be imposed. Each contact or attempted contact is a separate offense, and consent of the protected person is not a defense.

## 5

### **The Offense of Stalking**

Stalking is generally defined as the purposely or knowingly repeated following, harassing, threatening, or intimidation of another person. The offender can do this in person, such as appearing at their victim's home or place of business, leaving written messages or mailing letters, making phone calls, sending electronic communication, or vandalizing a person's property, or taking any other action which causes emotional distress or fear of bodily harm or death. (Montana Code Annotated: 45-5-220)

Data collected from the National Violence Against Women (NVAW) Survey (U.S. Department of Justice, July 2000) found that "8 percent of women and 2 percent of men in the United States have been stalked at some time in their life". Even though stalking is a gender-neutral crime, 78% of the victims were female and 87% of the offenders were male. The NVAW Survey also found a strong link between stalking and other forms of violence in intimate relationships. Women (81%) who were stalked by a current or former husband or cohabiting partner were also physically assaulted by that person and of those women 31% were also sexually assaulted.

It is against the law in Montana for anyone to stalk another person. This law is violated if the offender purposely or knowingly causes:

- substantial emotional distress
- reasonable apprehension of bodily injury or
- reasonable apprehension of death

Someone who is a victim of stalking can apply for a temporary order of protection in a way similar to applying for a temporary order of protection outlined on page 11.

A person convicted of a second or subsequent offense of stalking shall be imprisoned up to five years in the state prison and/or fined up to \$10,000. Separately, a person convicted of a *first* offense of stalking against a victim who was under the protection of a restraining order shall be imprisoned up to five years in the state prison and/or fined up to \$10,000. In other words, second offense or first offense plus TRO both equal felonies. The convicted person may be sentenced to pay all medical, counseling and other costs incurred by or on behalf of the victim as a result of the offense.

## 6

### Strangulation

Many victims may refer to this type of assault as “being choked.” “Strangulation” is actually external pressure exerted on the neck, cutting off air and blood flow. “Choking” is an internal blockage of the trachea or windpipe from caused by an object. Manual strangulation, i.e. squeezing the neck with the hands, forearms, etc is most common in domestic violence cases.

Strangulation can result in the inability to breath, a lack of blood flow to the brain, and death. Effects of strangulation may last for several days after the assault, as well. Some of these effects include

- ringing in the ears
- dizziness
- nausea or vomiting
- difficulty swallowing
- sore throat
- change in voice or difficulty speaking
- petechial hemorrhaging (tiny red dots - broken blood vessels - in the eye)
- long-term nerve damage
- Internal swelling of the throat which may continue for some time

Victims have died up to 36 hours after the assault due to swelling, and some victims have even died weeks later because the lack of oxygen caused brain damage. **Always seek medical attention if you have been strangled, and monitor yourself for the possible effects, like those listed above.**

Under Montana law, assaults that include strangulation may be investigated and charged as felonies under the definitions of aggravated assault or criminal endangerment. A person commits the offense of aggravated assault when that person purposely or knowingly, with the use of physical force or contact, causes reasonable apprehension of serious bodily injury or death in another. A person commits the offense of criminal endangerment when that person knowingly engages in

conduct that creates a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury to another. Victims of strangulation often express that they were afraid they were going to die due to the inability to breathe or the feeling that they were about to lose consciousness.

## 7

### **Domestic Abuse of Men**

Men are also victims of domestic abuse. Breaking the silence or disclosing the abuse can be particularly difficult. Overcoming the shame and guilt that result from being abused is also difficult.

As a victim of domestic abuse, a man faces societal pressures and views that a female victim is not likely to encounter. Men are usually seen as being tough, in charge, the breadwinner. The traditional male role discourages you from taking adequate steps to help the injury of your mental and physical health from domestic abuse.

As a victim of domestic abuse you are entitled to the same protection by law enforcement. You are entitled to the same services offered by the community as are female domestic abuse victims, including the city or county attorney's office filing charges and obtaining a Temporary Order of Protection.

## **Family Violence and Crime Prevention**

If individuals want to feel safe in their daily lives, each is responsible for developing and maintaining safe homes, neighborhoods and communities. Acknowledging that is the first step in keeping our families, friends, neighbors, and ourselves safe and free from victimization. Being observant in our surroundings and paying attention when situations may call for some kind of intervention is important. Reporting unsafe or potentially criminal behavior to appropriate authorities is essential to safe communities.

Family violence often involves especially heinous criminal activity. Yet many consider it a private matter and do not want to get involved. Nearly every day, articles appear in local newspapers about people being charged with offenses related to assaults on spouses, girlfriends, and small children. Most cases of domestic abuse are patterned crimes that have occurred repeatedly over time. It is unlikely that no one outside of the household is aware of the violence in the home. Still the incidents are not reported. Often domestic violence cases only come to the attention of authorities when someone is seriously injured or killed. When that happens, it is likely that others in the lives of the victims and offenders have not intervened when they could have, thereby preventing the ongoing violence.

## **Neighborhood Watch as a Preventive Tool**

The Billings Police Department has an active Neighborhood Watch Program which is operated through the Crime Prevention Center. Many neighborhoods within the City of Billings have organized a Neighborhood Watch. This national program involves active participants in the community watching out for each other to help deter crime in their neighborhoods. Any community resident, young, old, renter or homeowner can be part of the program. It just takes a few concerned residents or community organization to start a Neighborhood Watch. It is simply a group of concerned citizens that have organized, become acquainted, and decided to better their neighborhood. When members suspect criminal activities, they are encouraged to contact law enforcement and not to intervene personally. For more information call the Billings Police Department's Crime Prevention Center at 247-8590.

## **If You are a Victim of Family Violence**

### **Remove Yourself from the Situation**

1. Go to the Gateway House Shelter. Gateway is open to women and their children who have been physically, sexually, and/or psychologically abused and is available 24 hours a day. You may stay up to 12 weeks. Call 245-4472 or 259-8100
2. Go to a friend or relative's house. Do whatever you can to put distance between yourself and your abuser.
3. Get a Temporary Order of Protection. You can obtain a Temporary Order of Protection that commands the abuser to stay away from you, but you must be willing to enforce it by calling the police if something happens. See page 11 for more information.

### **Call the Police**

1. Call your local Police or Sheriff • Dial: 9-1-1. You should call the police or sheriff's department during or immediately after the incident, whether you want help in leaving or not. The police must give you information on what your rights and options are.
2. You may go to the police station to report the incident and sign a complaint. In either case, be sure to have pictures of your injuries taken and save any evidence of the incident, such as torn or bloodied clothing.
3. If you do not feel satisfied with the response from law enforcement, call the administrator of that agency or the city or county attorney's office.

If you think you may be a victim of a federal crime call one of the following numbers:

FBI Victim Specialist  
Federal Bureau of Investigations  
(406) 896-3263

Victim Witness Specialist  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
(406) 247-4672

The purpose of a Temporary Order of Protection is to promote the safety and protection of all victims of partner and family member assault, victims of sexual assault, and victims of stalking.

You may apply for a Temporary Order of Protection if: you are in reasonable apprehension of bodily injury by your partner or family member and/or you are the victim of assault, intimidation, criminal or negligent endangerment, unlawful restraint, kidnapping, or arson committed by your partner or a family member. A "family member" means: fathers, mothers, children, brothers, sisters, and other past or present family members of a household. This includes relationships created by adoption and remarriage, stepchildren, stepparents, in-laws, and adoptive children and parents. These relationships continue regardless of the ages of the parties and whether the parties reside in the same household.

The Temporary Order of Protection will be issued for up to 20 days; after that time, a hearing will be held to determine whether the Order should be kept in effect. Your abuser will get notice of the hearing and you must appear at the hearing to request an extension or the Order will be discontinued.

Violation of an Order of Protection is a criminal offense. You need to call the police or sheriff at 9-1-1- to enforce the Order. They can either speak with the abuser or arrest the abuser if the Order is being violated.

You may go to District, Justice, Municipal or City court to obtain a Temporary Order of Protection against a family or household member. All courts will have the necessary forms you will need to fill out. Any victim service provider or the self-help law center can help you fill the forms out correctly.

**Violation of an Order of Protection is a Criminal Offense.  
Call the Police or Sheriff to enforce the Order!**

**What Happens After an Arrest**

Once police have been called and an arrest is made, the police will want to take your statement and those of any witnesses, photograph any injuries, and collect any evidence. The person arrested is now referred to as the "defendant" and will be taken to the County Detention Center

and confined in jail. The defendant will usually appear in court the next business day.

At court, the defendant will be given a copy of the complaint filed by the city or county attorney's office. If the charge is a first or second offense, it is a misdemeanor; the defendant will enter a plea of guilty or not guilty at that time. If the plea is not guilty, a trial date will be set for 2 - 4 months in the future. The defendant may be released on bond with an order not to contact you. If the plea is guilty, the judge may sentence the defendant at that time. If the charge is a third offense, it is a felony and the defendant will be transferred to district court to enter a plea within several days.

When the defendant pleads "not guilty" and a trial date is set; the city or county attorney's office will notify you. It is very likely that you will be asked to come to the prosecutor's office so the prosecuting attorney can talk with you about the case.

You will be subpoenaed as a witness for the trial. This means the court has ordered you to appear on a date and time set, and that you can be held in contempt of court and go to jail if you do not appear.

It is very important that you cooperate with law enforcement and with the city or county attorney's office in the prosecution of domestic abuse cases. Often times, it is the only way to make an abuser stop the behavior. The State also has an interest in the prosecution of these cases, to ensure that it does not happen again.

The prosecuting attorney is required to consult with the victim regarding dismissal of the case, release of a defendant during the proceedings or plea negotiations or pretrial case diversion.

Victims are entitled to information regarding arrest and release, the crime that has been charged, the presentence report process, and the sentencing hearing. A victim has the right to present a statement at the sentencing hearing. Finally, a victim has the right to information from the Department of Corrections concerning incarceration of a convicted felon.

## **Victim/Witness Programs**

The Yellowstone County Victim/Witness Program provides full-time Victim/Witness Assistants working in the Yellowstone County Attorney's Office. Other counties also have Victim/Witness Assistance Programs. The Victim/Witness Assistants work with criminal cases in Justice and District Court, whether the case is a misdemeanor or felony. The Yellowstone County Attorney's Office also provides the Volunteers for Justice Program in which volunteers support victims & witnesses of

crime as their cases move through the justice system. For more information, see Volunteers for Justice Program in the Resource section.

The City of Billings also has a Victim/Witness Program that serves the Billings Municipal Court and works with the Billings City Attorney's Office. The Victim/Witness Assistants work with misdemeanor criminal cases in the Billings Municipal Court.

The Federal Victim/Witness Program serves the U.S. District Court and works with the U.S. Attorney's office. The Victim/Witness Assistants work with federal criminal cases being heard by the U.S. District Courts.

Victim/Witness Programs provide assistance in a variety of forms including but not limited to helping petitioners obtain Orders of Protection; accompanying victims to court for hearings or trials; explaining the court system and criminal justice processes; accessing counseling services; assisting with employers, creditors, assisting the courts with arraignments, issuing subpoenas, arranging travel accommodations, arranging and assisting with victim interviews; follow-up photographs; providing answers to victims/witnesses involved in criminal cases and parole hearings, issuing notices of case status, and other assistance as warranted. Victim/Witness Programs also ensure that victims/witnesses are notified of the status and ongoing procedures of criminal cases, from the reporting through disposition of the case and beyond if the defendant is sentenced to prison. Assistance is also provided in the form of a liaison between the victims/witnesses and the judicial system, including the courts, law enforcement, attorneys, judges, defense attorneys, Crime Victims Compensation, Probation/Parole, MT State Prison, Women's Prison, and so on.

Montana law states that victims and witnesses have specific rights and responsibilities. The program is designed to make certain those rights are enforced and that appropriate information and assistance is provided to victims and witnesses.

## **Montana Crime Victims Compensation Program**

The Crime Victim Compensation Program can help victims pay certain expenses directly related to a personal injury crime.

### **Who can apply for benefits?**

- A victim of a crime. Must be 18 years of age.
- A person legally authorized to act on behalf of the victim (parent or guardian)
- Dependent of a deceased victim.

The compensation program cannot pay benefits until all available collateral sources have been expended. If you have health insurance,

life insurance, Medicaid, Indian Health Services or other collateral sources, all medical charges must be submitted to them for payment before the compensation program can pay the balance.

**Primary victim benefits;**

Medical payments may be made for reasonable physician and hospital services, medicine, ambulance, mental health counseling, or other approved treatment.

Wage loss payments are made for lost wages if the victim was employed at the time the crime occurred and loses over one work week or more. Wage loss is paid from the date the loss began. Benefits continue until the victim returns to work or is released by a physician. Amounts paid for wage loss are made bi-weekly.

Death benefits to the surviving spouse or dependent may apply for deceased victim's death benefits, medical costs, and funeral expenses. Wage loss benefits may be available. Reasonable burial expenses, including a marker for the grave, are allowed up to \$3,500.

**Secondary victim benefits;**

Mental health counseling benefits can be available for certain family members: Counseling benefits can be awarded to the parent, spouse, child, brother or sister of a victim who is killed as a direct result of the crime.

Mental health counseling benefits can be awarded to the parent(s) or sibling(s) of a minor who is a victim of a sexual crime. A step-parent may receive consoling of the victim resided in the same house as the step-parent.

**To file a claim:**

Benefits cannot be considered until a claim is filed. If you have any questions or would like to request a claim form, please contact:

Crime Victim Compensation  
P.O. Box 201410  
Helena, MT 59620-1410  
Phone: 1-800-498-6455 or (406) 444-3653  
Email: [dojovs@mt.gov](mailto:dojovs@mt.gov)  
Web: [www.doj.mt.gov](http://www.doj.mt.gov)

Claim forms may also be obtained from law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys, hospitals or victim witness/advocate programs.

**Eligibility requirements:**

- The crime must be reported to law enforcement within 72 hours or show good cause why it wasn't reported.

- The claimant/victim must fully cooperate with law enforcement and prosecutors. Benefits may be awarded whether or not the offender was apprehended or prosecuted.
- The claimant/victim must file a claim with Crime Victim Compensation within one year of the crime or show good cause why it wasn't filed.
- Benefits may be awarded to non-residents injured in Montana, or to Montana residents injured in a state that does not have a Crime Victim Compensation program that compensates non-residents.
- Benefits may be reduced or denied to the extent the victim contributed to his or her own injuries or death.

### **Guidelines for When You Are Subpoenaed as a Witness for Trial**

1. The way you dress and present yourself is a direct reflection on you. It is to your advantage to dress neatly and to conduct yourself in a courteous manner. Be comfortable. If you feel uncomfortable in a suit or dress, don't wear one.
2. Before you testify, try to picture the scene, objects there, distances and just what happened so you can recall more accurately when you are asked. If your answer is an estimate, be sure to say so.
3. Try to look straight at the person asking you the question when you answer. However, it is helpful to direct your answer to the jury occasionally.
4. If one of the lawyers objects to a question, do not answer until the Judge has ruled on the objection.

5. Listen carefully to the questions asked of you. No matter how nice the attorney may seem on the cross-examination, he or she may be trying to confuse your testimony.
6. Be sure that you understand the question that is asked. Ask for the question to be repeated, if necessary, and then give a thoughtful, considered answer. If you do not know the answer to a question, say so. Do not volunteer information not asked of you. "I don't know" and "I can't remember" are perfectly good answers.
7. Avoid saying, "that's all that was said," or "nothing else happened." Instead say, "I can't think of anything else right now," or "that's all I remember." It may be that after more thought or another question you will remember something important.
8. To refresh your memory, write down a diary of the details of your victimization. As time goes by the details will dim and the written account will bring back details easily blocked out by your memory.
9. Be prepared to wait when appearing for any hearing or trial. You may want to bring a book or handwork to pass the time.
10. The most important thing to remember is to **Always Tell the Truth!**

16

## **What is Trauma?**

A traumatic event is an event in which a person experienced, witnessed, or was confronted with an event or events that involved actual or threatened death or serious injury, or a threat to the integrity of self or others. One may respond with intense fear, helplessness, or horror. Children may express disorganized or agitated behavior.

Trauma may have many sources, including neglect, physical abuse, psychological abuse, sexual abuse, witnessing of domestic abuse and other violence, community violence, school violence, traumatic loss, medical trauma, natural disasters, war, terrorism, refugee trauma, and others. Trauma may be tied to two specific trauma-related diagnoses, Acute Stress Disorder (ASD) and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), but the definition of trauma is also free standing.

Both ASD and PTSD share specific symptoms involving exposure to a traumatic event which may which cause significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning. ASD occurs within 4 weeks of the traumatic event, and lasts no longer than 4 weeks. PTSD is of a more lasting duration. Onset may be immediate or delayed for 6 months or more after the traumatic event.

## **Trauma-Informed Care**

The following information is adapted from “Responding to Childhood Trauma: The Promise and Practice of Trauma Informed Care” by Gordon R. Hodas, MD, Statewide Child Psychiatric Consultant, Pennsylvania Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, February 2006.

At the basic level, trauma informed care involves the provision of services and interventions that do no harm – e.g., that do not inflict further trauma on the individual or reactivate past traumatic experiences. Beyond this, trauma informed care helps the individual to heal. The concept is not limited to mental health, and in fact applies to multiple systems and settings. Thus, for children, trauma informed care is applicable to a range of settings, whether psychiatric inpatient or residential treatment, secure detention, shelter or group homes, or residentially based schools. Trauma informed care is relevant to ambulatory care and to community programs. Since children with serious emotional disturbance and significant trauma histories typically are involved in multiple systems, trauma informed care also entails cross-system coordination that incorporates consideration of trauma into comprehensive service planning.

17

## **A Synopsis of Child Development and Differential Responses to Traumatic Exposure**

Taken from National Institute of Mental Health Fact Sheet (2001,2005)

Children experience rapid changes in development, making childhood a time of both great opportunity and extreme vulnerability. Multiple factors influence the short- and long-term impact of trauma on a child. Given the complexity of interacting factors and the uniqueness of every child, it is not possible to precisely delineate the relative contributions of each factor, just as it is not possible to predict the eventual outcomes for a child with certainty. Nevertheless, it is important that both parents and professionals understand some of the variables that influence the child's response to traumatic exposure. Three sets of factors are considered: 1) Characteristics related to the individual child, 2) Characteristics related to the trauma exposure, and 3) Post-trauma factors.

### **1) Characteristics of the Individual Child:**

The age of the child is an important variable. In contrast to earlier belief that early trauma had little impact on the child, it is now recognized that early trauma has the greatest potential impact, by altering fundamental neurochemical processes, which in turn can affect the growth, structure, and functioning of a child's brain.

Whereas trauma during adulthood tends to be more circumscribed (although still significant) and is activated by exposure to cues associated with the traumatic event, early childhood trauma tends to have more global and pervasive consequences for the child, affecting the basic template for development.

Children ages 5 years and younger tend to show the greatest reactivity, in general, to the impact of the traumatic event on the mother or other primary caregiver, rather than to the trauma per se. In the aftermath of a traumatic event, children in this youngest age group show combinations of the following responses to trauma, which combine both internalizing symptoms and externalizing behaviors:

- Fear of being separated from the mother or primary caretaker, and excessive clinging.
- Crying, whimpering, screaming, trembling and frightened facial expressions.
- Immobility or aimless motion.
- Regressive behaviors, such as thumb sucking, bedwetting, and fear of darkness.

18

Children ages 6 to 11 years may show combinations of responses:

*-Internalizing symptoms:* Extreme withdrawal; emotional numbing or “flatness”; irrational fears; somatic complaints; depression; anxiety; guilt; inability to pay attention; other regressive behaviors, including sleep problems and nightmares.

*-Externalizing behaviors:* Irritability; outbursts of anger and fighting; school refusal.

Adolescents ages 12-17 years, in general, may exhibit responses similar to those of adults, which include:

*-Internalizing symptoms:* Emotional numbing; avoidance of stimuli; flashbacks and nightmares; confusion; depression; withdrawal and isolation; somatic complaints; sleep disturbances, academic or vocational decline; suicidal thoughts; guilt; revenge fantasies.

*-Externalizing behaviors:* Interpersonal conflicts; aggressive responses; school refusal or avoidance; substance abuse; antisocial behavior.

## **2) Characteristics of the Trauma Exposure**

- Proximity to the Trauma
- Specific Type of Trauma
- Gender
- Relationship to the Perpetrator
- Severity, Duration, and Frequency of Trauma
- Chronicity of Trauma

## **3) Post-Trauma Factors**

- Early Intervention
  - Social Support and Social Responses
  - Response to Interventions and Degree of Symptom Resolution
- Protective factors that protect against child maltreatment, in contrast, include the following:
- A supportive family environment;
  - Nurturing caregiver skills;

- Stable family relationships;
- Consistent household rules and monitoring of the child;
- Adequate housing;
- Parental employment;
- Access to healthcare and social services;
- Caring adults outside the family who serve as role models or mentors;
- Communities that support caregivers and help prevent abuse.

## Child Abuse

According to data compiled by the Center for Children and Families of Billings, in the United States, over 2.5 million reports of child maltreatment (involving 3.7 million children) were received. Of these, approximately 702,000 individual cases of child abuse or neglect were confirmed; boys and girls were abused on an almost equal basis. Approximately 80% of all child abuse is perpetrated by parents. 1,770 children were killed by their abusers. More than 79% of the children killed were under age 4. As of 2009 there were 424,000 children in foster care in the United States. In Montana, the child welfare system encounters approximately 1,753 documented victims of abuse and neglect annually. The average annual cost per foster care case is over \$10, 000.

Montana has specific laws for addressing abuse or neglect of children. Criminal penalties for cases involving child victims are much harsher than for adult victims. For example, sexual assault committed on an adult is a misdemeanor; sexual assault on a child is a felony.

If you suspect child abuse or neglect, you may always report your suspicions to the police or sheriff's office or to Centralized Intake of Child and Family Services Division of DPHHS. The Child Abuse Hotline is toll-free 1-866-820-5437.

You MUST report your suspicions if you are:

- A physician, resident, intern, or member of hospital staff
- A nurse, osteopath, chiropractor, podiatrist, medical examiner, coroner, dentist, optometrist, or any other health or mental health professional
- A Christian Science practitioner or religious healer
- School teacher, school official, or employee who works during regular school hours
- A social worker, operator or employees of a registered/licensed daycare or substitute care center, staff of a resource and referral grant program, child and adult food care program or operator or employee of a child care facility
- A foster care, residential or institutional worker, or

- A peace officer or other law enforcement official, or
- A Clergy, or
- A Guardian ad Litem or court appointed special advocate.

You do not need to be certain that abuse is happening; a reasonable suspicion should cause you to call and report.

## 20

Once the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) or law enforcement is notified, an investigation will be conducted. DPHHS will investigate either informally or formally, and may remove the child or children from the setting in which the abuse or neglect is alleged to have occurred.

## KEEPING KIDS SAFE FROM ABUSE

**Set and respect boundaries.** Allow children to say no to tickling or other physical contact (even hugs and kisses from grandma). Children should have privacy in the bathroom, while changing, or other personal activities.

**Avoid one-adult/one-child situations.** Child abuse is less likely to occur in group settings. Child abusers work to gain a family's trust in order to be alone with a child and are more often than not someone the family and/or child knows.

**Monitor Internet and technology use.** Child abusers frequently use the Internet or other technology to gain a child's trust and then to lure them to meet in person.

**Use the proper names of body parts.** Children are able to better understand their bodies when they know the proper names for their genitals. It also sends a message to children that their parents are willing to talk about sex or other subjects that they may be hesitant to bring up.

**Avoid teaching children to say "NO" or about good touch/bad touch.** Sex feels pleasurable and that is no different for children. Children who are abused frequently feel guilty because they experienced some sexual pleasure during the abuse. Teaching children to just say no to strangers is ineffective. The fight or flight response may kick in and a child may physically be incapable of saying "NO" only to later feel guilty because they had been taught to say no and most child abusers are someone the child knows, not a stranger.

## Children Who Are Being Abused

If you are a child who is being abused, whether it is by a parent, stepparent, brother or sister, or any other adult, you should **TELL SOMEONE**. Try talking to your parents, a school counselor, teacher or principal, someone at your church or a friend's parent. You could also call the **Department of Public Health and Human Services - - Division of Child and Family Services**. The department has caseworkers that can help you and your parents. You can contact a Centralized Intake Specialist anytime day or night by calling toll-free (866) 820-5437.

Just because you are a child does not mean that you can be abused. Don't be afraid to tell or to ask for help - that may be the only way that the abuse will stop and the abuser will get the help that they need.

## **Helpful Ways for School Professionals and Families to Address Mental Health Concerns**

(Excerpted from a paper prepared by mental health coalition partners including AACAP, ASCA, CABF, CHADD, FFCMH, MHA, and NAMI)

Schools are a critically important source of information for families about their children, including information about their emotional and mental well being. With children in the classroom for the majority of their day, teachers and school professionals are in a key position to notice learning, functioning and behavioral problems that should be communicated to parents.

Information teachers and school health professionals should communicate with parents:

- Observations about the student's academic and/or functional performance, or behavior in the classroom or school;
- Modifications being made to address the student's academic and/or functional performance;
- Options for referring students for an educational and/or health care evaluation, according to school policy;
- If things do not improve, schools should follow local procedures to ensure that the student is provided with specialized educational services, consistent with section 504 of the rehabilitation act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); and
- Provide parents with resources to help them better understand IDEA and 504 accommodations.

Teachers, school administrators, and school health professionals may be the first to notice changes in a student's attendance, behavior and achievement. Good communication between home and school can be the first defense in identifying when referrals, interventions, and/or services are warranted. Although, communication about concerns is essential, teachers, school administrators, and school health professionals should avoid suggesting a mental health diagnosis and recommending prescription medication for a student.

Parents appreciate learning about concerns related to their child's behavior, significant developmental delays, and academic performance. When there are major concerns, parents also want to know how best to address these challenges -- this may include information about how to obtain a comprehensive health care evaluation and perhaps a mental health evaluation.

Research shows that approximately 10% of children and adolescents have a serious mental health treatment need that significantly impacts their day-to-day activities. The early identification of mental health related concerns is essential to improving academic and functional performance, and in avoiding tragedies. Though the following signs may be the result of another health condition or other life circumstances, they can assist parents in determining if their child may need further help from a mental health professional:

- Decline in school performance
- Persistent difficulty with peers
- Poor grades despite strong efforts
- Constant worry or anxiety
- Persistent somatic complaints
- School refusal or loss of interest in usual activities
- Persistent and disruptive hyperactivity
- Inability to focus or concentrate
- Repeated disrupted sleep patterns
- Continuous or frequent aggression, “acting out” or oppositional behavior
- Persistent sadness and/or irritability

Schools are just one of the players needed to identify children and adolescents who may be struggling with undiagnosed and untreated mental illnesses and linking them with an evaluation and effective services. Effective collaboration must also be developed between schools and other child-serving systems, including the community mental health treatment system, primary care, the child welfare system, and juvenile justice. Only then will we see real progress toward improving the overall health and well-being of children.

24

In communicating mental health related concerns with families, following are some of the factors that teachers and school professionals should consider:

- Remove feelings of blame or guilt about a child’s mental health concerns;
- Recognize and acknowledge that parental denial and anger may exist;
- Communicate empathy and compassion for the parents’ circumstances;
- Recognize that stigma continues to be associated with mental health related issues;

- Provide parents with resources and share with them that education is the key to understanding mental health related concerns;
- Take a problem-solving approach to addressing mental health concerns; and
- Recognize the value of parents and schools working together as a team.

## **Children of Incarcerated Parents**

The information contained in this section was taken from research from several sources including the Child Welfare League of America, California Research Bureau of the California State Library, American Bar Association, The Women's Prison and Home Association, Inc., Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents, Family & Corrections Network, and the Columbia University School of Social Work. Because the research reflects consist findings across studies and because of space limitations in this handbook, specific items are not attributed to any specific source.

Children of incarcerated parents are the unidentified victims of their parent's actions. Children experience emotional turmoil as a result of their often permanent loss of their parent. Their emotions may include fear, anxiety, sadness, depression, loneliness, guilt, anger, and others. They also experience enduring traumatic stress which puts them at increased risk for academic failure, truancy, dropping out of school, gang involvement, early pregnancy, drug abuse, and delinquency. These

problems are often compounded by problems of poverty, violence, parental substance abuse, abuse and neglect, and multiple care givers.

Ten million children in the U.S. have experienced parental incarceration. Approximately 75% of female prisoners and 67% percent of male prisoners are parents. On any given day, 2 million children have at least one parent in state or federal prisons. More than 200,000 have incarcerated mothers. Recent numbers from the Montana Department of Corrections reflects that over 2,000 men from Yellowstone County are in prison, many of them fathers of children who live in Yellowstone County. The Women's Prison, currently has over 250 women inmates. This group of women has a total of approximately 400 children.

Twenty-two percent of children are less than 5 years old when their parent goes to prison, and while many children never visit their parent in prison, the most devastating aspect of parental incarceration is the lack of contact children have with their parents. Children need consistent caring adults who understand that children love their parents even when they have committed a crime; people who will not condemn the parent as worthless; people who understand the emotions felt by children; a chance to express feelings and learn to cope with them; a chance to learn and practice skills and keep busy; affiliation with a community that provides meaning for the child beyond their own crisis; people who can help maintain contact with the parent or explain why not.

## 26

Consistent and sustained relationships are key to helping a child adjust to a parent's arrest and incarceration. Mentoring programs can fill some of the need. Mentors can provide council, friendship, guidance, instruction, modeling, and encouragement, building up the child's strengths, developing or increasing their competence and confidence.

Where these children live is also a concern. When fathers go to prison, the majority of children remain with their mothers. But, when mothers go to prison, about 60% of the children live with a grandparent. About 20% of the children entering the child welfare system and many remaining in foster care long-term have incarcerated parents. Some are in kinship foster homes. About 25% of the youth outside of the system live with non-relatives, often under questionable circumstances.

When a parent goes to prison, the default caregiver of the children is often in need of assistance, including support and understanding from family, friends, and the community; emotional support; information about children of incarcerated parents and services available to them in the community; guidance on what is best for the children and how to answer their questions; respite care; and help with managing the needs and services which are often fragmented, unavailable, and costly.

The impact of parental incarceration on a child's development, from infancy on, is reflected in impaired parent-child bonding, anxiety,

developmental regression, acute traumatic stress, survivor's guilt, reactive behaviors, and rejection of limits on behavior. The accumulation of risk factors can be devastating. Children of offenders are 5 times more likely than their peers to end up in prison, with 1 in 10 incarcerated before reaching adulthood.

While children of incarcerated parents are at risk for negative behaviors, their lack of visibility to Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare agencies prevents positive interventions, leading to neglect of their needs. Seldom are questions about children and their needs asked of prisoners. Mothers will often lie about their children to avoid agency involvement. These children often come to the attention of authorities when they enter school under the informal care of friends or relatives who lack legal authority. Better methods of identifying these children are needed. The interconnecting patterns of childhood trauma, emotional response, reactive behavior, and potential criminal activity can lead to intergenerational incarceration absent positive intervention.

## **Teen Dating Violence**

For teenagers dating is an introduction to navigating the tricky and rewarding territory of romantic relationships. Unfortunately for many teens, dating is an introduction to the darker side of human interaction: violence, isolating jealousy, and emotional abuse. Nationally, 1 in 3 girls has experienced physical, emotional, or verbal abuse in their relationships.

While teen dating violence affects both males and females, it is, like domestic violence, overwhelmingly a problem of male violence. Why do some teens hurt their dating partners? A leading researcher on domestic violence, Lundy Bancroft, argues that men's beliefs about women and their worth, as well as men's beliefs that their needs are more important than the needs of their wives/girlfriends and that isolating women is acceptable are the most consistent predictor of whether a man will abuse or not. The same attitudes are reflected in some teen relationships, as boys are exposed to the same messages promoted by media, role models, and parents. Teen boys who hold sexist beliefs about girls are more likely enact behaviors that isolate, frighten and hurt their dating partners.

Some of these isolating, frightening, and hurtful behaviors can be seen in the following Teen Dating Violence warning signs. Are you (or a friend, or a child) going out with someone who....

- is excessively jealous
- checks in with you constantly or makes you check in with him/he

- has an explosive temper
- is violent: has a history of fighting, abuses animals, brags about mistreating others
- tries to control you by giving orders, making all the decisions, telling you what you should and should not wear
- pressures you or is forceful about sex
- isolates you from friends and family and puts down people who are important to you
- believes in the stereotypical gender roles for males and females
- gets too serious about the relationship too fast

28

- blames you when he/she mistreats you; tells you that you provoked him/her
- does not accept responsibility for his/her actions
- has a history of bad relationships and blames them on previous partners
- you fear or worry about how he/she will react to things you say or do
- owns or uses weapons
- won't let you break up with him/her  
(taken from Eastside Domestic Violence Program)

**What can we do to address teen dating violence?**

- *We need to question* prejudices about women in our friendships, in the media, in ourselves.
- *We need to talk* about the issue of teen dating violence with our kids, friends, and students.
- *We need to educate ourselves* on the warning signs of teen dating violence. Visit <http://loveisnotabuse.com>, [www.dsvsmontana.org](http://www.dsvsmontana.org), and [www.thatsnotcool.org](http://www.thatsnotcool.org) for descriptions of signs of abuse.

Early relationships set the tone for our relationships for the rest of our lives. As a community, let us help our young people navigate adolescence without the threat of violence and intimidation.

## **Elder Abuse and Abuse of Persons with Developmental Disabilities**

Special adult protection laws deal with reporting abuse or exploitation of elders or people with developmental disabilities. However, the criminal laws covering abuse or assault of the elderly or developmentally disabled family members are the same as for any other abusers.

The mistreatment or neglect of a senior or person with a disability is often by a relative or other caregiver. This abuse takes many forms:

- threatened or actual violence
- desertion or neglect
- deprivation of food, clothing, or shelter
- verbal abuse
- sexual abuse
- over medication
- deprivation of services essential to physical or mental health
- financial exploitation.

Perpetrators of elder abuse often exhibit behaviors similar to other abusers; for example, they isolate the victim from family, neighbors and caregivers. Perpetrators are often financially or emotionally dependent on the victim and may have mental illness or drug dependency issues. Victims of elder abuse often live alone or with the abuser and may have difficulty caring for themselves and may be reluctant to seek help because they depend on the abuser for basic survival. Victims may be afraid of being institutionalized or embarrassed about their condition.

Financial exploitation of elders is a significant problem. Warning signs may include confusion on the part of the elder about their assets and finances, unpaid bills, frequent withdrawals from the elder's accounts, transfer of property or other assets to another person, and failure of a caregiver to provide food, shelter, clothing and medical care even though the elder has financial resources to meet their own needs. Financial exploitation, like any other form of elder abuse, should be reported.

**Suspected elder abuse in south central Montana should be reported to South Central Montana Adult Protective Services at (406) 655-7640.** Caseworkers are specially trained to investigate elder abuse while respecting the elder's right to remain as independent as possible. For more information on elder abuse and a statewide listing of Adult Protective Services offices, visit the website: [www.mtelderabuseprevention.org](http://www.mtelderabuseprevention.org).

30

## **Suicide and Suicide Prevention**

**See Pages 43-45 for 24 hour Crisis and Support Lines**

The National Strategy for Suicide Prevention (NSSP) recommends the public health approach to preventing suicide as "a rational and organized way to marshal prevention efforts and ensure that they are effective." It distinguishes the public health approach, which identifies patterns of risk and behavior in groups of people, and from the medical model, which focuses on individuals. The public health approach to suicide prevention, as presented in NSSP, has five basic steps:

- Clearly define the problem, by collecting data and other information.
- Identify risk and protective factors. Risk factors are associated with (or lead to) suicides and suicide attempts. Protective factors reduce the likelihood of suicide.
- Develop and test interventions. Most interventions seek to reduce risk factors and/or enhance protective factors. Such preventive measures should be scientifically tested to determine if they actually work before being disseminated and implemented.
- Implement interventions.
- Evaluate effectiveness. Suicide prevention programs should always be evaluated to verify that they are working and to understand how to make them more effective in the particular situation in which they are being used.

Finally, if the interventions are actually having an effect, then additional data collection will help determine how the nature of the problem may be changing in response to those interventions. For example, it may be that an intervention which is successful at reducing suicide by one particular method, such as firearms, is contributing to an increase in the number of suicides by poison. Once the program has been re-defined, the cycle can repeat to address the new situation.

The following summary contains selected information from Suicide Prevention Resource Center, Education Development Center.

### **Risk and Protective Factors for Suicide**

Risk factors may be thought of as leading to or being associated with a greater potential for suicidal behavior. Protective factors reduce the likelihood of suicide. They enhance resilience and may serve to counterbalance risk factors. Risk and protective factors may be bio-psychosocial, environmental or socio-cultural in nature. Understanding the interactive relationship between risk and protective factors in suicidal behavior and how this interaction can be modified are challenges to suicide prevention. The impact of some risk factors can clearly be reduced by certain interventions. Risk factors that cannot be changed (such as a previous suicide attempt) can alert others to the heightened risk of suicide during periods of the recurrence of a mental or substance abuse disorder or following a significant stressful life event. Protective factors include an individual's attitudinal and behavioral characteristics, as well as attributes of the environment and culture.

### **Protective Factors for Suicide**

- Effective clinical care for mental, physical and substance use disorders
- Easy access to clinical interventions and support for help seeking
- Restricted access to highly lethal means of suicide
- Strong connections to family and community support
- Support through ongoing medical and mental health care relationships
- Skills in problem solving, conflict resolution and nonviolent handling of disputes.
- Cultural and religious beliefs that discourage suicide and support self preservation.

Positive resistance to suicide is not permanent, so programs that support and maintain protection against suicide should be ongoing.

### **Risk Factors for Suicide**

#### *Bio-psychosocial Risk Factors*

- Mental disorders, particularly mood disorders, schizophrenia, anxiety disorders and certain personality disorders
- Alcohol and other substance use disorders
- Hopelessness
- Impulsive and/or aggressive tendencies

#### *Bio-psychosocial Risk Factors continued*

- History of trauma or abuse
- Some major physical illnesses
- Previous suicide attempt

- Family history of suicide

#### *Environmental Risk Factors*

- Job or financial loss
- Relational or social loss
- Easy access to lethal means
- Local clusters of suicide that have a contagious influence

#### *Social-cultural Risk Factors*

- Lack of social support and sense of isolation
- Stigma associated with help-seeking behavior
- Barriers to accessing health care, especially mental health and substance abuse treatment
- Certain cultural and religious beliefs (for instance, the belief that suicide is a noble resolution of a personal dilemma)
- Exposure to, including through the media, and influence of others who have died by suicide

One problem in studying nonlethal suicidal behaviors is a lack of consensus about what actually constitutes suicidal behavior. It is not yet possible to say with certainty that risk and protective factors for suicide and non-lethal forms of self-injury are the same.

For more information on suicide, suicide prevention, or specifically the public health approach to suicide prevention, see the [Introduction to the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention](#) or contact the at [www.sprc.org](http://www.sprc.org).

## **Military Service Members and Their Families**

Domestic violence can happen in any family. While that is also true of military families, these families are under more unique stressors than most families living in American communities. The closest parallel may be with police officers, where divorce and family conflict are common. Addressing concerns for military families is made more complex by the reality that circumstances of modern U.S. military service will impact

service members and their families in different ways than in the past. Current strategies used in war zones in the Middle East, including roadside bombs, improvised explosive devices, and suicide bombers are different than was previously experienced by service members. Repeated deployments to war zones also compound the issues.

Due to the circumstances of today's war experience, a higher number of service members are being diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury than ever before. Both conditions, which vary in the degree of severity, may cause return to civilian life and employment to be much more difficult for many service members. Also, because of the improved medical care available to injured service members, many who previously would have died from the injuries they suffered, are now surviving and living with significant disabilities.

More women are serving in the military with more women than ever serving in war zones. Many are wives and mothers. This reality is a new challenge for agencies developing resources for veterans. Special programming is needed to address the unique needs of female veterans. Montana has the highest number per capita of women veterans.

Changes in communication also are having an impact on service members and their families. News stories and images taken in war zones provide instantaneous information to people back home. While this may cause alarming images for families of service members serving in dangerous areas of the world, good news also travels quickly. Cell phones and various on-line interactive communications are allowing for improved communication between service members and their families. While these methods of communication cannot replace personal contact between active duty service members and their families, it is helpful for maintaining the bonds of the family.

Improved communication allows service members to be much involved in major family decisions and activities than was previously possible. This aids in the service members' transition back to family life.

34

## **Providing Services to Military Service Members and Their Families**

An important resource to individuals or organizations trying to develop or provide services to military service members or their families is the Real Warriors website: [www.realwarriors.net](http://www.realwarriors.net).

If you click on the "Health Professionals" tab at the top of the website, it will introduce you to information on the following topics:

- Evidence-based Clinical Practice Guidelines
- Understanding Military Culture and Combat Stress

- Tools and Tips for Health Professionals
- Tools to Use When Counseling Service Members
- Building Resilience for Military Health Professionals
- National Resource Directory
- Other Resources

## **Family Homelessness**

According to the Center for Children and Families, a non-profit organization in Billings, one in 50 or 200,000 children are homeless in the United States every year. Most often the homeless family includes a single mother in her late 20s and 2 children most likely under the age of six. Nearly half of homeless mothers have been victims of sexual abuse at a young age. Two-thirds of homeless mothers report severe physical abuse. In 2009, one-third of the homeless population was chronic substance abusers. Substance abuse is higher for homeless mothers than for women in poor families. Family homelessness in this country costs billions of dollars in systems and services.

Western states have 23% of the nation's total population, but have 37% of the homeless population. In 2008, Montana's homelessness rate increase of 23.2% was the third highest in the country. In Montana only 32% of homeless family members are employed.

Montana has over 3,366 children who are homeless each year. Billings School District 2 had 376 homeless children in school in February 2011. Most of these children were in third grade or lower.

Billings has approximately 2,400 homeless residents each year. Each homeless person costs an estimated \$15,534 each year. That cost is as high as \$115,690 for the chronically homeless person. The annual estimated cost to serve the homeless in Billings in programs for the homeless is \$54 million or approximately \$532 for each tax payer.

**Family Homelessness keeps children from:**

- Stability – Children whose families have housing problems are twice more likely to enter foster care. Childhood separation, particularly involving foster care, is a major predictor of future homelessness into adulthood.
- Security – Homeless children are three times more likely to live in situations where adults “hit or throw things.”
- Education – Studies have shown that three moves of residence which result in three different schools by third grade will cause 30% of the nation’s poorest children to reduce their odds of graduating from high school by 20%.

36

- Health – Children facing housing insecurity are two to four times more likely to be food insecure and consequently have malnourishment, obesity, mental health issues, dental problems, asthma, ear and respiratory infections, and stomach problems; and ultimately yield greater long term economic costs to society.
- Happiness – One in six homeless children have emotional disturbances. This is twice the rate of middle class children.

**Strengthening Children, Families, and Communities**

- Reduce - For families, supportive and subsidized housing are cheaper than emergency housing and are strong predictors of families’ long term exit of homelessness. Placing homeless families in subsidized housing can reduce homeless family rates in shelters up to 50%.
- Redirect – Providing rental assistance and supportive services to a family facing homelessness for one year costs \$13,193. Placing that family’s children in foster care costs \$56,892 per year.
- Reap the Benefits – Studies have shown that communities who provide adequate housing supports for the homeless drastically reduce foster care, hospitalization and emergency room costs.
- Reinvest – By working to solve the homelessness factor in the poverty cycle, supportive housing and services help families get on

track and reduce the future populations exposed to child poverty and \$500 billion in lost productivity, poor health, and increased crime that child poverty causes each year.

## **Choosing a Qualified Therapist**

Following are a few tips to help you with the process:

**Do your research.** See if the therapist has a website or information available that tells you about who he/she is, what her training is in, where he/she studied, and what type of clients he/she works with. Ask friends, pediatricians, general physicians, and colleagues for ideas of who you could go to. Determine if you want to work with a male or female therapist. Many people who have been abused or are struggling with post traumatic stress experiences may be more comfortable with a specific gender. It is okay to express this and advocate for the gender of therapist you want.

**Make the call.** Most therapists have voice mail or an answering service to take messages because they are in session throughout the day. Once they return your call, do not hesitate to share a bit about what you are looking for and in need of and ask questions. Be sure to ask how the therapist gets paid. Is the therapist a cash only therapist? Or, does the therapist take private insurance? Medicaid? Medicare? Be sure to choose a therapist who is credentialed with your insurance company. This is important to figure out before you get in the door. It will prevent issues later on. You may also be eligible for an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) through your work which may allow for some free

sessions. Feel free to find a therapist who is credentialed with your EAP. If you are pleased with the response to your initial phone call, make an appointment. If not, call another therapist.

**Attend the appointment.** Most people get a sense of whether or not they fit with the therapist in the first couple sessions. If you find a great fit in the first couple sessions, great! Keep moving forward with that therapist working with them in an open, honest, team-oriented manner. If you find yourself not “feeling it” in the first couple sessions, talk to the therapist about this.

### 38

There may be a misunderstanding about expectations or a miscommunication. These can be easily handled and the relationship may continue to blossom as you move forward. If you still are not “feeling it” after that, let the therapist know that she is not a good fit for you, your family, or your child. Then, make another call.

**Do not give up!** Finding the “right” therapist can take some time. There are people out there who will be a good fit. Be true to yourself and advocate for what you need. You drive your treatment plan and communicating openly with your therapist will allow the best treatment of you and your children. Attending your sessions regularly is an important piece of treatment. If you are going to miss a scheduled appointment, be sure to give the therapist at least 24 hours notice or call as soon as you know that you are going to miss. This will help the therapist to fill that hour with another client who may need to get in as well as keep your relationship with the therapist open and honest.

## Finding a Divorce Attorney

A number of attorneys in your local town or in Billings practice in the area of family law. Look in the phone book for their names, or speak with friends or family members who have hired an attorney in the past. Call the attorney’s office to find out information on rates charged, or make an appointment for an initial consultation.

If you are not comfortable with the attorney after the first meeting, find another one that you are comfortable with. Many attorneys do not charge for the initial consultation and often have convenient hours for

you to come in. You need to let the attorney know if criminal charges are pending or that there has been violence in your family relationship.

## **Establishing Self-Sufficiency**

If you are planning to leave your home to avoid further abuse, there are important items to take with you for assistance in getting support services. Give these to a neighbor, relative, friend, or put them in the coat you will wear when you leave.

- Birth certificate for yourself and your children
- Social Security cards
- Immunization records
- Driver's license
- Credit or cash cards
- Medications and prescriptions
- Cash, jewelry or other valuable items
- Vehicle title, registration, proof of insurance
- Take your children with you, if possible.

If you have the time, you should consider the following:

- Keep your last bank account statement
- Open an account at a different bank and have the statement sent to a different address
- Put a change of clothing for yourself and your children in a laundry basket. A laundry basket may go unnoticed versus a suitcase.
- If you call for assistance and your phone has automatic redial, call another number so your abuser will not know that you called for help or assistance.

**You can make it on your own!** Use the resources of your community, starting with help from a battered spouse shelter. They can refer you to other sources of help.

**When you are seeking any kind of assistance or services, if you do not succeed at first, do not give up. Keep calling until you find the resources that suit**

**your needs.**

**Do Not Be Afraid to Ask for Help!**

**PART 2**  
**RESOURCE**  
**GUIDE**

# Resource Guide by Category

## CRISIS INTERVENTION

### Community Crisis Center

Address: 704 N. 30<sup>th</sup> St.

Phone: 259-8800

Services: Provide crisis services to anyone in need of mental health, substance abuse, or in need for social services reasons. Provided licensed mental health and addictions counselors, case management, and referrals to other services. Also provide various weekly recovery groups which are open to the public.

Hours: 24 hours, 7 days per week

Cost: Accept most payment types including cash and insurance. No one is turned away due to inability to pay.

### Suicide Prevention Resources

**Local Resources** (also see individual alphabetical listings)

Community Crisis Center: 259-8800

Billings Clinic Behavioral Health Clinic: 255-8550

St. Vincent Behavioral Health Associates: 237-3585

NAMI: 256-2001

Planting Seeds of Hope: 252-2550

Montana Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK(8255)

Suicide Prevention Resource Center, Education Development Center, 55 Chapel Street, Newton, MA 02458. 877-438-7772 [www.sprc.org](http://www.sprc.org)

## Domestic Violence Crisis and Support Lines

Anaconda (406) 563-7972

Billings (406) 259-8100 YWCA (crisis line, DV shelter, sexual assault)

Boulder (406) 225-4075

Bozeman	(406) 586-4111 (shelter)	(406) 586-3333 (sexual assault)
	(406) 994-7069 (MSU Campus)	
Butte	(406) 782-8511	
Columbus	(406) 446-2296	(406) 425-2222 (crisis line)
Conrad	(800) 219-7336	
Crow	(406) 638-2957	
Deer Lodge	(406) 846-2711	
Dillon	(406) 683-3621	
Glasgow	(406) 228-8400	
Glendive	(406) 377-6477	(406) 989-1318 (crisis line)
Great Falls	(406) 453-1018 (shelter)	(406) 453-4357 (sexual assault)
Hamilton	(406) 363-4600	
Havre	(406) 265-2222	
Helena	(406) 442-6800	(406) 459-3254 (crisis advocate)
Kalispell	(406) 752-7273	
Lame Deer	(406) 477-6432	
Lewistown	(800) 535-2303	
Libby	(406) 293-3223	
Livingston	(406) 222-8154 (shelter)	(406) 222-2050 (victim witness)
Malta	(877) 972-3232	(406) 654-5301 (Hospital)
Miles City	(406) 234-0542	(406) 951-0475 (crisis line)
Missoula	(406) 542-1944 (shelter)	(406) 243-6559 (sexual assault)
Pablo	(888) 217-5637 code 083	
Plentywood	(877) 972-3232	
Polson	(800) 228-1038	
Red Lodge	(406) 446-2296	(406) 425-2222 (crisis line)
Roundup	(406) 535-2303	
Scobey	(877) 972-3232	
Sidney	(406) 433-7421	
Stanford	(800) 535-2303	
Superior	(406) 822-4202	

## **24 HOUR CRISIS HOTLINES**

**If you or someone else is in danger and require immediate assistance please call 911.**

Community Crisis Center (open 24 hours): 259-8800 1-800-273-8255

National Domestic Violence Helpline 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

Native Indian Crisis Association: (406) 338-7922

Montana Toll Free Child Abuse Hotline 1-866-820-KIDS (5437)

Montana Elder Abuse Helpline (not a 24 hour number) 1-800-551-3191

Local Numbers

Billings 655-7640  
Columbus 322-4821  
Hardin 655-8735  
Red Lodge 446-4692

Montana Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK(8255)

RAINN National Sexual Assault Hotline 1-800-656-4673

Tumbleweed Runaway and family crisis program:

Local: 259-2558 Toll Free 1-888-816-4702

Suicide Prevention Resource Center, Education Development Center,  
55 Chapel Street, Newton, MA 02458. **877-438-7772** [www.sprc.org](http://www.sprc.org)

**Other Local Resources** (also see individual alphabetical listings)

Billings Clinic Behavioral Health Clinic: 255-8550

St. Vincent Behavioral Health Associates: 237-3585

NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill): 256-2001

Planting Seeds of Hope: 252-2550

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**Angela's Piazza**

Address: 420 Grand Avenue, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 255-0611

Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F; Evening Support Groups

Services: Where women come together and help each other; Medicine Wheel; 12-step programs geared for women; support services for women in prison, on pre-release, or recently out of prison; education and support for domestic abuse; sexual assault support groups; support group for girls ages 8-15; classes on parenting and nutrition; assistance in writing resumes and job interviewing; pastoral counseling, advocacy, and referrals.

Cost: Donation.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Yellowstone County**

Address: 504 North 20 St, Ste. B, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 248-2229

Hours: 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. M-F and by appointment

Website: www.bbbsyc.org

Services: Create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships for children ages 5-15. Children, parents/guardians, and volunteers are carefully screened to ensure a fun and safe “match.” for everyone.

-The Community-Based program provides adult volunteers to spend an hour or two per week with a child, doing things they both enjoy.

-The School-Based program involves high school juniors and seniors at all Billings and Laurel high schools taking Big Brothers Big Sisters as a class. The actual class is held at the Big Brothers Big Sisters office, where they experience interactive education on many topics related to mentoring which then prepares and supports them while they mentor 2 younger children on alternating days during the school year.

-Two special initiatives are supported; mentoring children whose parents are incarcerated; and working with local Native Americans communities to recruit more Native “Bigs” and serve more Native “Littles”.

Cost: None.

46

**Billings Childcare Association**

Address: 145 Grand Avenue, Suite 3, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 252-8524

Services: Provides education training, teaches childcare, and helps to support day care providers. They report to the Department of Public Health and Human Services when child abuse in day care homes is suspected. Sponsors the childcare food program.

Cost: None, if the childcare provider is a registered provider.

**Billings Food Bank**

Address: 2112 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. No.

Phone: 259-2856

**Boys & Girls Clubs**

Boys & Girls Clubs of Billings and Yellowstone County

Address: 505 Orchard Lane, Billings

Phone: 245-2582

Boys & Girls Clubs of Crow Agency

Phone: 638-2928

Boys & Girls Clubs of Hardin

Address: 731 3<sup>rd</sup> St. W.

Phone: 665-2773

Boys & Girls Clubs of Lodge Grass

Phone: 639-2155

### **The Center for Children & Families**

Address: 3021 3rd Avenue North

Phone: 294-5090

Website: <http://ForFamilies.org>

Services: Provides mental health services to families, including neuropsychological testing and parent-bonding assessments as well as individual, play and family therapy. Also provides sober-supportive housing services for mothers/children (through the Second Chance Homes Project) and supportive services for foster/adoptive families (through the Forever Families program).

Cost: Please contact the Center to request information about cost related to individual services/programs.

47

### **Child Care Resource and Referral - HRDC**

Address: 7 North 31st Street

Phone: 406-247-4732

Website: [www.hrdc7.org](http://www.hrdc7.org)

Services provided: Assist eligible, low-income parents who are attending school and/or working to afford quality child care for young children, Provide early childhood training to Registered and Legally Certified providers, Sponsor of the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

Hours: 8am-5pm, M-F

Cost: No cost to apply for child care assistance but must meet eligibility requirements, Training fees vary.

### **Child and Family Services Division**

**Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services**

Address: 2525 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Suite 309, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 657-3120 Child Abuse Hotline 1-866-820-5437

Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F.

Website: [www.dphhs.mt.gov/cfsd/](http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/cfsd/)

Services: Investigation of child abuse and neglect. Provides child protective services. Voluntary or involuntary services for families with incidents of child abuse or neglect. Conducts training and licensing for foster and adoptive homes and training for mandated

reporters.  
Cost: None.

### **Child Support Enforcement Bureau**

#### **Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services**

Address: 1500 Poly Drive, Suite 200, Billings, MT 59102

Phone: (406) 655-5500      Toll Free in Montana: 1-800-346-5437

Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F

Website: [nhps://app.mt.gov/csed/](http://nhps://app.mt.gov/csed/)

Services: Provides child support enforcement and collection for welfare and non-welfare cases. Serves 24 eastern Montana counties. A p p l y through this office or the local Office of Public Assistance.

Cost: Application fee (based on household income). No cost to people trying to collect.

48

### **Community Based Services - YBGR**

Address: 3212 1st Avenue South, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: 245-2751

Services: Provides various in-home and non-residential services for children with serious mental health diagnoses and their families. Please call for more information.

### **Family Support Network, Inc.**

Address: 1002 10th Street West, Suite 1, Billings, MT 59102

Phone: (406) 256-7783

Toll Free: 1-877-376-4850

Fax: (406) 256-9879

Website: [www.mtfamilysupport.org](http://www.mtfamilysupport.org)

Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F

Services: A statewide non-profit agency who works with families at risk for abuse and neglect and families who have a child with mental health issues. Provides in-home and supervised visitation services and work with families to increase their capabilities to nurture children and provide safe and stable environments. Family friendly visitation rooms and kitchen are provided. Family Support Specialists promote positive parent-child interactions, help with life skills and referral to other resources. Certified teachers offer afternoon and evening parenting classes utilizing Nurturing Parenting Program, an evidenced-based curriculum that is accepted by city, county and municipal courts and by Child and Family Services. Referrals for services come from Child Protective Services, schools, medical professionals, community agencies, and self-referral.

Cost: dependent on grant funding and program referral for all services. Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) is a program of the Family Support Network that helps parents gain skills to promote positive relationships, teach new routines and behaviors, encourage desirable behavior and manage misbehavior and is available free of charge to all community members.

49

### **Family Tree Center**

Address: 2520 5th Avenue South, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 252-9799

Fax: (406) 256-3014

Website: [familytreecenterbillings.org](http://familytreecenterbillings.org)

Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. M-Th. Parenting classes available in the evenings.

Services: Provides support and education for parents. Services include: Parenting classes using the Nurturing Parenting Program which facilitates knowledge in child development, positive guidance, self-care, and many other issues that affect families, in age-appropriate classes. Home visiting provides families of children ages 0 to 12 with a Family Advocate who will work individually with them on goals identified together to help lessen the stressors within the home and improve family relationships. Respite Child Care provides quality, nurturing childcare at no cost to parents/caregivers in need. Community Caring is a volunteer based program that provides new parents with a source of support and encouragement. Montana Women's Prison Parenting program provides parenting classes, groups, one- on-one parent/child visits, and monthly kid's day activities at the prison. Supporting Kids of Incarcerated Parents (SKIP) is designed to work with both the incarcerated parent and the caregivers so that the children have a stable, supportive environment in which they have the best chance of succeeding, both personally and socially. A SKIP advocate is able to provide caregivers with information regarding community resources available in their area, explaining incarceration to children, and reunification plans.

Cost: None for self-referred families.

### **Friendship House**

Address: 3123 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 259-5569

Website: [www.friendshipmt.org](http://www.friendshipmt.org)

Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. M-F

Services: Provides clothing (low cost), resources, referrals, recreational and support services to youth and adults. Offers the Neighborhood Task Force, and tax form help, informational counseling and referrals. Provides a summer enrichment program from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F, June thru August, and an after-school program from 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday during the school year. Provide parenting classes to help develop parenting skills (contact for date/time of classes).

Cost: Nominal fee for some activities, sliding fee scale for summer daycare and fee for after-school program.

50

### **Head Start**

Address: 615 N. 19 St., Billings MT 59101

Phone: 245-7233

Services: Provides assessment and educational assistance to preschool aged children from low income families. Please call for information.

### **HRDC Harmony House - HRDC**

Address: 7 North 31<sup>st</sup> Street

Phone: (406) 247-4709

Website: [www.hrdc7.org](http://www.hrdc7.org)

Services: Transitional living for 10 homeless women, ages 18-21, who are pregnant or parenting their first child. Participants may live in Harmony House for up to 21 months with an additional 6 months of aftercare services provided to aid in the transition to independent living. Life Skills classes provide education on parenting, child development, job skills, education, self esteem, relationships, community service learning, finding and maintaining employment, cooking, maintaining a household, and other topics. Participants are asked to complete 30 hours of productive activities each week,

Hours: Staff are available 7 am – 9 pm for meetings and life skills coaching. Staff is available 24 hours a day in case of emergencies.

Cost: Damage deposit of \$100. Monthly rent based on income.

### **Maternal Child Health, Family Health Services**

Address: 123 S. 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 247-3360

Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F

Website: <http://www.ycchd.org/mch/BetterBabies.htm>

Services: Provides services to pregnant women and teens, nursing mothers and children under 5 years of age through the WIC program. Includes information and food assistance, registered nurses, social workers, dietician, developmental testing for children under 5 and referrals to other agencies.

Cost: None for those who qualify. Insurance and Medicaid are accepted.

**STEP - Support and Techniques for Empowering People**

Address: 644 Grand Avenue, Suite 1, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 248-2055

Toll Free: 1-800-820-4180

Hours: 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. M-F

Website: www.step-inc.org

Services: Support skills to enable parents to help children and adults with developmental disabilities reach optimal independence. Provide information, referral to services and adaptive equipment, crisis intervention, counseling, resource material, educational activities. Two children's group homes. Supported Living and Day Program services for adults.

Cost: The majority of services are offered through a contract with the Department of Public Health and Human Services Developmental Disabilities Program at no cost to the family.

**Tumbleweed Runaway Program, Inc.**

Address: 505 North 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 259-2558 24 hour crisis hotline: 1-800-816-4702

Office Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. M-F

Crisis Hours: Crisis counseling and sheltercare services available 24 hours, 7 days per week.

Services: Provides crisis intervention, counseling, information, referral, shelter care and other services for youth between the ages of 10 and 18 and their families.

Cost: None.

**YBGR - Community Based Services**

Address: 3212 1 Avenue South, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: 245-2751

Services: Provides various in-home and non-residential services for children with serious mental health diagnoses and their families. Please call for more information.

**Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch**

Address: 1732 S. 72 St. W., Billings, MT 59106

Phone: 655-2100

Services: Provides residential treatment for children with serious mental health diagnoses.

Cost: Please call to inquire

52

### **Young Families Early Head Start Program**

Address: 1020 Cook Avenue, Billings, MT 59102

Phone: (406) 259-2007

Hours: 7:15 a.m. – 4 p.m. M-F

Services: Delivers comprehensive services for teen parents, children with disabilities, and low income families for children ages 0 to 3. Focus is on the needs of the families in areas of health, education, nutrition, social services, career planning, and parent involvement, to enhance the quality of life of parents and children. Daycare is provided during school.

Cost: None.

### **Youth Dynamics (YDI) – Billings & South Central Montana**

Address: 2334 Lewis Avenue, Billings, MT 59102 (YDI staff will travel up to 60 miles from Billings to provide clinical services)

Phone: (406) 245-6539

Fax: (406) 245-9647

Website: [www.youthdynamics.org](http://www.youthdynamics.org)

Hours: 8 am – 5 pm, Monday - Friday

Services: Provide family-focused youth/family mental and behavioral services for seriously emotionally disturbed children, including assessment, individual and family therapy, therapeutic mentoring, case management, in-home services, respite care, therapeutic foster care, substance abuse treatment, independent living services, and intensive-level therapeutic youth home services.

Cost: Depends upon service. Accepts HMK/HMK Plus (CHIP/Medicaid), and private insurance. Sliding scale fees are available.

## **CORRECTIONS AND RE-ENTRY SERVICES**

### **Alternatives, Inc.**

Address: 104 North 31 Street, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 259-9695

Services: Pre-release center and jail alternative program. Provides the required 40 hours of aggression control counseling mandated by Montana law to the offender. Victims are given referral information regarding TRO's, Gateway House, etc., and they may participate in the counseling if they so choose. Follow up is also conducted with the victim and the offender.

Cost: No cost to the victim.

53

### **Billings Area Re-Entry Task Force (BARTF)**

MSU Billings - Garfield School

Address: 3212 1st Avenue South

Phone: 896-5871

Websites: www.msubillings.edu/BARTF

Services: BARTF addresses the challenges facing female offenders who are incarcerated, in pre-release, and/or under correctional supervision in the Billings area. The Task Force is committed to reducing the recidivism of female offenders and working to establish a pre and post-release community service network to assist in re-entry and also to ensure public safety.

Cost: None

### **Passages – Alternatives, Inc.**

Address: 1001 S. 27 St., Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 294-9609

Services: Pre-release center and jail alternative program with multiple programs provided to residents. Also provide supervision assessments.

### **Ted Lechner Youth Services Center**

Address: 410 S. 26<sup>th</sup>, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 256-6825

Services: Provides temporary shelter care to youth that have emotional and behavioral problems referred through a recognized child-placing agency. Examples: abused, neglected and runaway youth. Facility is owned and operated by Yellowstone County.

Cost: Services are funded by various public agencies. Private donations are accepted to support operational costs.

### **Youth Court Services - 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Address: Yellowstone County Courthouse, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Billings, MT 59101

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 35031, Billings, MT 59107

Phone: (406) 256-2838

Services: Provides supervision for juveniles who have broken the law; preventive guidance can be given to juveniles on the verge of breaking the law. Referral services are provided. Risk and Needs Assessments for youth are available upon request.

Cost: Program fees and fines may be imposed.

## **DISABILITY SERVICES**

### **Adult Protective Services**

#### **Department of Public Health and Human Services**

Address: 2121 Rosebud Drive, Suite D, Billings, MT 59102

Phone: (406) 655-7640

Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F (closed during the noon hour)

Services: Provides adult protective services, including investigations and services to abused elders or disabled adults. Anyone may call to report.

Cost: None

### **COR Enterprises**

Address: 200 S. 24 St., Billings, MT 59101

Phone: 248-9115

Website: [www.corenterprises.com](http://www.corenterprises.com)

Services: Provides vocational opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities. Please inquire for more information.

### **Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow (LIFTT)**

Address: 3333 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North, Suite 100, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 259-5181                      1-800-669-6319

Hours: 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. M-F

Website: <http://www.lifft.org/>

Services: Independent living services, peer mentoring, advocacy, information and referrals, assistance with Social Security work, building ramps, Living Well With Disabilities classes, deinstitutionalization, deaf services, Personal Assistance Services, and equipment loans. People of all ages with all types of disabilities can use LIFTT's services.

Cost: Most services are free.

### **PLUK (Parents Let's Unite for Kids)**

Address: 516 North 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 255-0540                      1-800-222-7585

Website: [www.pluk.org](http://www.pluk.org)

Services: Integration and participation of those with disabilities or illnesses at school, work, home, and community. Support for families to maintain children at home. Decision making empowerment. Access to appropriate education, technology, activities, and rights of those with disabilities. After-school tutoring program.

Cost: None.

55

### **STEP - Support and Techniques for Empowering People**

Address: 644 Grand Avenue, Suite 1, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 248-2055

Toll Free: 1-800-820-4180

Hours: 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. M-F

Website: [www.step-inc.org](http://www.step-inc.org)

Services: Support skills to enable parents to help children and adults with developmental disabilities reach optimal independence. Provide information, referral to services and adaptive equipment, crisis intervention, counseling, resource material, stimulation activities. Two

children's group homes. Short-term care. Support living for adults. Life Span Respite and Senior Citizens.

Cost: None.

### **Vocational Rehabilitation – State of Montana State**

Address: 2121 Rosebud Drive, Suite C, Billings, MT 59102

Phone: (406) 248-4801

Toll Free: 1-888-279-7532

Services: State rehabilitation for individuals with disabilities; Developmental Disabilities Division, Rehabilitative Services Division, Visual Services Division.

Cost: None.

## **EDUCATION**

### **Adult Education Center (Lincoln Center)**

Address: 415 N. 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 247-3710

Website: [www.billings.k12.mt.us](http://www.billings.k12.mt.us)

Services: Provides courses for earning high school diploma, GED remediation courses, pre-college brush up, employment classes in secretarial and accounting fields, networking with other agencies, parenting classes and counseling.

Cost: None for academic brush-up classes, fee for most employment courses. \$48 GED testing fee.

56

### **Head Start**

Address: 615 N. 19 St., Billings MT 59101

Phone: 245-7233

Services: Provides assessment and educational assistance to preschool aged children from low income families. Please call for information.

### **HRDC Alternative Education**

Address: 7 North 31<sup>st</sup> Street

Phone: 406-247-4764

Website: [www.hrdc7.org](http://www.hrdc7.org)

Services: We offer educational support for people who need tutoring in high school, who are working toward their GED, who want to brush up on basic skills, or who want to prepare for college. We serve youth (must be 16 years of age) and adults (any age).

Hours: 8-12; 1-5 Monday through Friday

Cost: 0- this is an income-based program. You must qualify by income. Please inquire for specific guidelines.

### **Young Families Early Head Start Program**

Address: 1020 Cook Avenue, Billings, MT 59102

Phone: (406) 259-2007

Hours: 7:15 a.m. – 4 p.m. M-F

Services: Delivers comprehensive services for teen parents, children with disabilities, and low income families for children ages 0 to 3. Focus is on the needs of the families in areas of health, education, nutrition, social services, career planning, and parent involvement, to enhance the quality of life of parents and children. Daycare is provided during school.

Cost: None.

## **EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES**

### **COR Enterprises**

Address: 200 S. 24 St., Billings, MT 59101

Phone: 248-9115

Website: [www.corenterprises.com](http://www.corenterprises.com)

Services: Provides vocational opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities. Please inquire for more information.

57

### **HRDC Youth Employment & Training**

Address: 3124 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North

Phone: 406-247-4790

Website: [www.hrdc7.org](http://www.hrdc7.org)

Services: We offer life skills classes, education support, incentives, and paid work experience to youth ages 14-21

Hours: 8-12; 1-5 Monday through Friday

Cost: Participants must qualify by income. Inquire for guidelines.

### **Job Connection**

Address: 1501 14 St. W., Billings, MT 59102

Phone: 245-6323

### **Job Corps**

Address: 2121 Rosebud Drive, Billings, MT 59102

Phone: 406-259-2322

## **Job Service – State of Montana**

Address:

Phone: (406) 652-3080

Web: [www.employbillings.com](http://www.employbillings.com)

Services: Provides job search assistance including help with resumes, interviews, skills assessments and online applications. Computers available with internet access, copy machine and fax for employment related purposes. Website features current job openings.

Hours: M-F 8-5

## **Labor Ready**

Address: 2024 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. No., Billings, MT 59101

Phone: 252-8989

Services: Provide temporary employment opportunities.

58

## **Rural Employment Opportunities, Inc. (REO, Inc.)**

Address: 2121 Rosebud Drive, Suite B, Billings, MT 59102

Phone: (406) 256-1140 Toll Free in Montana only: 1-800-546-1140

Website: <http://www.reomontana.org/>

Services: Provides assistance to seasonal workers in seeking permanent fulltime employment, classroom training, etc. Also provides assistance to seasonal migrant workers. Emergency food and gas vouchers and other supportive services are available to qualified applicants.

Cost: None

## **Vocational Rehabilitation – State of Montana State**

Address: 2121 Rosebud Drive, Suite C, Billings, MT 59102

Phone: (406) 248-4801

Toll Free: 1-888-279-7532

Services: State rehabilitation for individuals with disabilities; Developmental Disabilities Division, Rehabilitative Services Division, Visual Services Division.

Cost: None.

## **GENERAL ASSISTANCE**

### **Billings Food Bank**

Address: 2112 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. No., Billings, MT 59101  
Phone: 259-2856

**Community Based Services - YBGR**

Address: 3212 1 Avenue South, Billings, MT 59101  
Phone: 245-2751

Services: Provides various in-home and non-residential services for children with serious mental health diagnoses and their families. Please call for more information.

59

**Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Montana**

Address: 1620 Alderson Avenue, Suite 27, Billings, MT 59102  
Phone: (406) 656-4370 or (406) 252-1020

Services: Debt counseling and guidance, debt management planning, credit reports, employee assistance programs, education for individuals and businesses

Cost: \$10 Counseling fee if pre-approved. \$50 max for debt management plans. Some fees may be waived. Education is no cost.

**Dress for Success**

Address: 304 North 29<sup>th</sup> Street  
Mailing Address: 4520 Rangeview Drive, Billings, MT 59106  
Phone: (406) 256-7304

Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. M-Th; donations received 9-11a.m. Wed

Website: [www.dressforsuccess.org](http://www.dressforsuccess.org)

Services: Each woman has an opportunity to work with a professional consultant to receive appropriate clothing for a job interview. A second selection of clothes when she has obtained a job and a third after being employed for 30 days. Shoes and accessories are provided, along with professional hair and cosmetic assistance.

Cost: None.

**Family Service, Inc.**

Address: 1824 1st Avenue North, Billings, MT 59101  
Phone: (406) 259-2269

Website: [www.famserv.com](http://www.famserv.com)

Hours: 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. M, T, Th, F and 1 p.m.- 4 p.m. Wed

Services: Provides basic necessities for those in need, most for those in emergency situations. Examples: food, clothing, household items,

financial counseling, prescriptions, in-town bus tickets, etc. Also has the Senior Survival Account.

Cost: Fee for some “non-essential” items and repayment of loans.

60

**Human Resources Development Council (HRDC - District 7)**

Address: 7 North 31<sup>st</sup> Street, Billings, MT 59103

Phone: (406) 247-4732; 1-800-433-1411

Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. M-F

Website: [www.hrdc7.org](http://www.hrdc7.org)

Services: Provides a variety of services to low-income population.

Examples of services: energy share, Child Care Resource and Referral, Section 8 housing assistance payment program, families for self-sufficiency and WoRC program, etc. Referrals, counseling, and support.

Cost: None, but must be economically disadvantaged according to federal or state guidelines. Eligibility varies with program.

**Montana Legal Service Association**

Address: 2442 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North, Billings, MT 59103

Phone: (406) 248-7113 1-800-999-4941

Hours: 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. M-TH

Website: [www.montanalegalservices.com](http://www.montanalegalservices.com)

Helpline-Toll Free: 1-800-666-6899

Live Help: [www.montanalawhelp.org](http://www.montanalawhelp.org)

Services: Provides legal services to low income clients on civil cases, such as welfare/food stamps, Social Security benefits, etc., advises domestic abuse victims in dissolution/custody cases and temporary restraining orders through the Family Law Project.

Cost: Must qualify financially, no charge for services.

**Office of Public Assistance**

Address: 111 N. 31st Street, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: 237-0520

Website: [www.dphhs.mt.gov](http://www.dphhs.mt.gov)

Hours: 8am-5pm M-F

Cost: None

Services: Facilitates Medicaid, TANF and SNAP benefits/financial assistance programs for low income families/individuals.

**Montana/Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council**

Address: 175 N. 27th Street, Suite 1003, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: 252-2550

Website: [www.mtwytlc.org](http://www.mtwytlc.org)

Hours: 9am-5pm, M-F (office hours) Hours vary by services

Cost: No cost for most services

Services: Facilitates a variety of wellness, employment, support, advocacy, and recovery services for tribal members and persons who identify as Native American throughout 11 tribal affiliations in MT/WY

**Saint Vincent De Paul Society**

District Council Address: 2610 Montana Avenue, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 252-1855 or 248-1411

Website: [www.svdpmt.org](http://www.svdpmt.org)

Hours: 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. M-F

Services: Provides emergency assistance that varies with individual client need. Examples: clothing, furniture, utility and rent assistance, etc. limited counseling available.

Store Locations: 2624 Montana Avenue, 252-1855  
1235 Grand Avenue, 248-9125

Cost: Based on need and ability to pay.

**Salvation Army**

Address: 2100 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 245-4659

Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., M-F

Services: Provides emergency assistance such as food clothing, counseling, transportation, etc. Conducts programs such as youth and adult groups and camps. Also has a thrift store. Offers church services and Sunday school on Sundays.

Thrift Store: 10 South 30<sup>th</sup> Street, 245-5508

Cost: None for emergency assistance based on individual need.

**Social Security Administration**

Address: 2900 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Room 100, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: Billings (406) 895-1795 T

Toll Free in Montana: 1-800-453-0524

National Toll Free: 1-800-772-1213

Hours: 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. M-F

Website: [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

Services: Processes applications for social security numbers. It administers: Medicare programs; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); programs for the needy, disabled, and aged (over 65). Also manages the earning records for all people covered under social security to insure the correctness of reporting practices.

Cost: None.

**YWCA**

Address: 909 Wyoming Avenue, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 252-6303 Crisis Line: (406) 259-8100

Services: Children's Services (childcare ages 6 weeks to 5 years), Domestic & Sexual Violence Victim Services, Employment & Training Center, and Supported Living

Cost: Cost varies based on services accessed

**HOMELESS/HOUSING RESOURCES****Billings Housing Authority**

Address: 2415 First Avenue North, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 245-6391

Services: Provides low-income housing for those who qualify. There is a waiting list, which goes by date of application. Family self-sufficiency program offered.

Cost: None

**HRDC Harmony House - HRDC**

Address: 7 North 31<sup>st</sup> Street

Phone: (406) 247-4709

Website: [www.hrdc7.org](http://www.hrdc7.org)

Services: Transitional living for 10 homeless women, ages 18-21, who are pregnant or parenting their first child. May reside for up to 21 months with additional 6 months of aftercare services provided to aid in the transition to independent living. Life Skills classes provide education on parenting, child development, job skills, education, self esteem, relationships, community service learning, finding and maintaining employment, cooking, maintaining a household, and other topics.

Participants complete 30 hours of productive activities each week,  
Hours: Staff are available 7 am – 9 pm for meetings and life skills coaching. Staff is available 24 hours a day in case of emergencies.

Cost: Damage deposit of \$100. Monthly rent based on income.

### **HUB - Mental Health Center**

Address: 515 N. 27 Street

Phone: 248-4803

Services: Provides a drop-in center to assist homeless individuals or those at-risk for homelessness with accessing housing, food stamps, SSI, SSDI, shelters and healthcare, and other community services. Also facilitates various support groups and provides access to consumers to on-site laundry and locker services.

Cost: None. Medicare or Medicaid or other insurance are accepted.

### **Independence Hall – Volunteers of America, Northern Rockies**

Address: Due to privacy concerns address not provided.

Phone: (406) 259-5368

Services: -

Housing: Provides housing for 20 male veterans for up to 2 years. Residents are required to look for a job. Staff assist with contacts to various resources.

Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program:

Also at the house, provide supportive services to assist homeless veterans in returning to gainful employment and to more normal routines of life. Participants must look for work and report to staff on their efforts to find a job. This grant-funded program provides clothing, fuel needed for job search travel, and tools for job obtained, among other services.

Cost: Residents pay 30% of their income toward rent.

64

### **Interfaith Hospitality Network**

Address: 40 10th Street W., Billings, MT 59102

Phone: 294-7432

Services:

Hours: 9am-5pm M-F (day center hours)

Cost: None

Website: [www.billingsihn.org](http://www.billingsihn.org)

Services: IHN is a network of community congregations/volunteers providing shelter/meals, case management services and support to families experiencing homelessness.

### **Montana Rescue Mission**

Website: [www.MontanaRescueMission.org](http://www.MontanaRescueMission.org) (under development)

Services: Provides emergency temporary shelter to homeless individuals from a distinctly Christian perspective for those seeking help and solutions. Also available are clothing, hot meals, chapel services (on Sundays pick-up service available), showers, haircuts, emergency transportation, counseling, emergency medical care, advocacy and referrals.

- Three different participation levels of programs are offered. The goal is that each of the classes and levels will help guests with next steps to achieve success in life after they leave the Mission. Each program level carries class credits and chore requirements for program involvement and differ in length of stay.
- The REACH-Out program was designed for the continued social, emotional and spiritual development and enjoyment of children experiencing homelessness. Activities are planned around: **Recreation, Education, Arts, Culture and Health** – **Outside the Mission** environment. The Mission works closely with the Homeless Liaison from the Billings School District for after school tutoring and to ensure school-age children attend school regularly.

### Services for Men

Address: 2822 Minnesota Avenue

Phone: 259-6079

### Services for Women & Families

Address: 2520 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North

Phone: 259-3105

Cost: None.

To Volunteer: (406) 259-3800 Ask for Sheila Cole or fill out the on-line application and e-mail it to her at [mrmbcsheila@180com.net](mailto:mrmbcsheila@180com.net).

65

### **Tumbleweed Runaway Program, Inc.**

Address: 505 North 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 259-2558 24 hour crisis hotline: 1-800-816-4702

Office Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. M-F

Crisis Hours: Crisis counseling and youth shelter care services are available 24 hours, 7 days per week.

Services: Provides services for youth between the ages of 10 and 18 and their families. Offers crisis intervention, counseling, information, referral, and other services.

Cost: None.

## **School District 2 - Homelessness Education Liaison**

Billings Public Schools

Address: 1044 Cook Ave., Billings, MT 59101

Phone: 281-6719

Hours: 8am-4pm M-F

Cost: None

Services: Homeless students K-12 in School District #2 receive necessary school supplies, help with enrollment/registration, transportation and educational support as well as referrals for other needs.

## **MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES**

### **Ask-A-Nurse**

Phone: (406) 657-8778      Toll Free:1-800-762-8778

Hours: 24 hours

Services: Registered nurses provide (by phone) immediate, personalized and confidential health care information, direction to community health programs and assistance in finding a doctor, medical assessments and referrals.

Cost: None.

66

### **Billings Clinic**

Address: 2800 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Billings, MT 59107

Phone: (406) 238-2500 24 Hour Health Line/Support Group: 255-8400

Emergency: (406) 657-4150

Same Day Care Downtown: (406) 238-2677

Same Day Care West: (406) 238-2900

Same Day Care Heights: (406) 238-2575

Website: <http://www.billingsclinic.com/>

Services: Major medical facility offering a full range of medical services. Provides medical and psychiatric services, support and referrals and notifying law enforcement officials for victims of family violence.

Cost: Cost is based upon services delivered. Accepts Medicaid and private insurance.

### **Crow/Northern Cheyenne Hospital**

Address: P.O. Box #9, Crow Agency, MT 59022

Phone: (406) 638-2626 or (406) 638-3491

Fax: (406) 638-3569

### **Indian Health Board of Billings**

Address: 1127 Alderson Avenue, Billings, MT 59102

Phone: (406) 245-7318 - Walk-in Clinic and Health Program

(406) 259-3920 - Substance Abuse Program

(406) 259-3890 – Mental Health Program

Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

Services: Provides assistance to those of American Indian descent.

Provides health program with walk-in clinic, transportation to Indian Health Service facilities at Crow Agency for health purposes, substance abuse.

#### Walk-In Clinic Hours:

Monday 8:00 a.m.-Noon and 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Thursday: 8 a.m. – Noon and 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. every other week

#### Women's Clinic Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday 8 a.m. – Noon

#### Youth Group Hours:

Wednesdays 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Cost: None, third party payment (private insurance, Medicaid, and Medicare), non-Indian will be charged a minimum fee of \$10 per visit for health visits and a minimum charge for substance abuse programs for non-Indians. Group charge is according to group rules.

67

### **La Vie**

Address: 2321 Broadwater Avenue, Billings, MT 59102

Phone: (406) 652-4868 1-800-395-HELP

Services: Provides confidential pregnancy tests, counseling and information, post abortion counseling, adoption information, referrals, etc. Available referrals and help with housing, furniture and baby clothes through age one, etc.

Cost: None.

### **Maternal Child Health, Family Health Services**

Address: 123 S. 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 247-3360

Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F

Website: <http://www.ycchd.org/mch/BetterBabies.htm>

Services: Provides services to pregnant women and teens, nursing mothers and children under 5 years of age through the WIC program. Includes information and food assistance, registered nurses, social workers, dietician, developmental testing for children under 5 and referrals to other agencies.

Cost: None for those who qualify. Insurance and Medicaid are accepted.

## **Vocational Rehabilitation – State of Montana State**

Address: 2121 Rosebud Drive, Suite C, Billings, MT 59102

Phone: (406) 248-4801

Toll Free: 1-888-279-7532

Services: State rehabilitation for individuals with disabilities; Developmental Disabilities Division, Rehabilitative Services Division, Visual Services Division.

Cost: None.

68

## **Planned Parenthood of Billings**

Services: Education information, medical services, supplies and supervision for medically approved birth control methods. Abortion services. pelvic exams, paps, and pregnancy tests, breast exams, blood pressure checks, STD, HIV, AIDS testing and counseling. Infertility, tubal ligation and referral. Related services are available to men such as vasectomy counseling and referral.

Cost: Sliding fee scale based on the annual gross income of the household and the number of family members. Medicaid patients accepted as well as insurance.

### Downtown

Address: 2525 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Suite 201, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 245-6075

Hours: 8a.m.-5p.m. M-F

### Westend

Address: 1844 Broadwater Avenue, Billings, MT 59102

Phone: (406) 656-9980

Hours: 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. M, W, Th, F

### Heights

Address: 100 West Wicks Lane, Billings, MT 59105

Phone: 869-5040

Hours: Monday 8 a.m. – Noon  
Tuesday 12:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday 8 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Thursday – Closed  
Friday 12:30 – 5:30

### **Riverstone Health**

Address: 123 South 27 Street, Ste. A, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 247-3350

Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F; Immunizations 12-4:30 p.m. M&F; 12-7p.m. Wed.

Services: Provides general family medical, dental, and prenatal care; education, support and referrals; immunizations; confidential STD testing and counseling; Nursing, nutrition, and social services; Well-Baby Clinic and immunizations;

Cost: Sliding fee scale for low-income patients with proof of income, accepts Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance.

69

### **Ronald McDonald Care Mobile**

Address: 1233 N. 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Billings, MT 59101-0127

Phone: (406) 238-6008 for appointments

Services: Basic health care for children 18 and younger who do not have health insurance and do not have a physician or dentist.

Cost: None.

### **Ronald McDonald House**

Address: 1144 North 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Billings, MT 59101-0124

Phone: (406) 256-8006 (8a.m.-9p.m. daily for room requests).

Hours: Open 24 hours, holidays and weekends.

Services: Provides a house for parents who have children as patients in a Billings hospital or medical center, giving a homey environment.

Cost: Overnight guests are asked to make a \$10 donation. No one is turned away for inability to pay.

### **Saint Vincent Health Care**

Address: 1233 N. 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 657-7000 Ask-a-Nurse Line: (406) 657-8778

Website: [www.svhhc.org](http://www.svhhc.org)

Services: Major medical facility. Provides complete range of medical, surgical and outpatient services.

Cost: Varies according to service provided.

## **MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES**

### **Billings Clinic Behavioral Health Clinic**

Address: 1020 N. 27 St.

Phone: (406) 255-8550

Services: Provides mental health assessment and psychiatric services on an outpatient basis.

Cost: Fee per service.

70

### **Counseling and Therapy - Professional**

Address: Check your local telephone directory yellow pages under "Counselors"; "Physicians (Psychiatry)".

Addiction and Abuse 24-hour Hot Line 1-800-777-2721

Alcohol/Drug Abuse Hotline 1-800-662-4357

Also, see page 38 - Choosing a Therapist.

### **Indian Health Service Behavior Health**

Address: P.O. Box 327, Lame Deer, MT 59043-0327

Phone: (406) 477-4400

### **Mental Health Center**

Address: 1245 North 29<sup>th</sup> Street, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 252-5658      Emergency: 1-800-266-7198

Website: [www.mncbillings.org](http://www.mncbillings.org)

Hours: 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. M-F

Services: Provides outpatient assessment and treatment for victims of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. Individual anger management counseling and anger management groups for males is available. Psychiatric and emergency services are also available, as well as psychological evaluations. Chemical dependency program with certified drug and alcohol counselors is available. Other services available as well. Services are for persons age 18 and older.

Cost: According to services, most services covered by health insurance plans. Other financial arrangements based upon income can be made through the business office.

### **St. Vincent Behavioral Health Associates**

Address: 1101 N. 27 St.

Phone: (406) 237-3585

Services: Provides mental health assessment and therapy on an outpatient basis.

Cost: Fee per service.

## **SENIOR/ELDERLY SERVICES**

### **Big Sky Senior Services, Prevention of Elder Abuse Programs**

Address: 3 ½ North 35<sup>th</sup> Street,

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1153, Billings, MT 59103

Phone: (406) 259-3111 Case Manager: (406) 896-9696

Hours: 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. M-F.

Websites: [www.bigskyseniorservices.org](http://www.bigskyseniorservices.org)

[www.mtelderabuseprevention.org](http://www.mtelderabuseprevention.org)

Services: Investigates elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation.

Provides case management and financial payee services for elders and disabled adults who have been or are at risk of abuse. Sponsors presentations on abuse and financial exploitation for community groups. Trains Gatekeepers, who are community volunteers that watch for and report possible elder abuse.

Cost: Monthly fee for financial payee services. All other services are free, but donations are appreciated.

### **Billings Community Center/Senior Citizens Center**

Address: 360 North 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 657-3050

Services: Provides social and educational programs and companionship for people over 60 attending the Center. Provides classes on estate planning, nutritional information, health assessments, social security benefits and other recreational/educational programs. Also provides meals and referrals to outside agencies.

Cost: Minimal charge for meals.

### **Adult Protective Services**

#### **Department of Public Health and Human Services**

Address: 2121 Rosebud Drive, Suite D, Billings, MT 59102

Phone: (406) 655-7640

Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F (closed during the noon hour)

Services: Provides adult protective services, including investigations and services to abused elders or disabled adults. Anyone may call to report.

Cost: None

**Adult Resource Alliance of Yellowstone** (formerly Yellowstone County Council on Aging)

Address: 1505 Ave. D, Billings, MT 59102

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 20895, Billings MT 59104

Phone: (406) 259-9666

Hours: 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. M-F

Website: [www.yccoa.org](http://www.yccoa.org)

Services: Provides "meals-on-wheels" for homebound elderly, home repair services, nutritional meals at five sites in Billings and four other area communities in Laurel, Huntley, Worden and Custer. Provides the publication "Senior News" which is a list of menus, activities, special programs, services and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).

Cost: None

## TREATMENT AND RECOVERY SERVICES

**Alcoholics Anonymous (Al-Anon, and Alateen)**

Phone: Answering Service - (406) 657-0776

24 hour access help and treatment: 1-800-410-2560

Services: Support group for recovering alcoholics and families of alcoholics. Provides group meetings, 24 hour "hot-line" and individual support through sponsors.

Cost: None

**Rimrock Foundation**

Address: 1231 North 29<sup>th</sup> Street, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 248-3175; 24 Hour: 1-800-227-3953

Website: [www.rimrock.org](http://www.rimrock.org)

Services: Provides comprehensive residential and outpatient services for all types of addictions for adults, adolescents and their families.

Cost: Sliding fee scale available for detox and outpatient, limited assistance for other services available.

## VETERAN AND MILITARY FAMILY RESOURCES

### **Billings Vet Center**

Address: 2795 Enterprise Avenue, Suite 1, Billings, MT 59102

Phone: (406) 657-6071

Hours: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. M-F

Services: Provides counseling and referrals for veterans and families in making post-military adjustments to civilian life. (Must be Vietnam Era Veteran on active duty between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975) or participated in the following areas of armed hostilities: Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Persian Gulf, Somalia. Eligibility has been extended to include WWII and Korean War veterans and counseling is also provided for men and women who were victims of sexual trauma or harassment while in the military.

Cost: None.

### **Eastern Montana Veterans Home**

Address: 2000 Montana Avenue, Glendive, MT 59330

Phone: (406) 345-8855 Toll Free: 1-800-660-4325

Services: Veterans and/or spouses nursing home.

Cost: Contact for more information.

### **Family Assistance Centers (Veterans)**

Billings: 2915 Gabel Road, 59102, Phone: (406) 655-6200 ext. 5450

Fort Harrison: Phone: (406) 324-3232 Toll Free: 1-877-706-7598

### **Independence Hall – Volunteers of America, Northern Rockies**

Address: Due to privacy concerns address not provided.

Phone: (406) 259-5368

Services: \_

**Housing:** Provides housing for 20 male veterans for up to 2 years. Residents are required to look for a job.

#### **Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program:**

Also provided at Independence Hall, this program provides supportive services to assist homeless veterans in returning to gainful employment and to more normal routines of life. Participants are required to look for work and report to staff on their efforts to find a job. Clothing, fuel needed for job search travel, and tools for job obtained, and other services.

Cost: Residents pay 30% of their income toward rent.

### **Job Service – State of Montana**

Address:

Phone: (406) 652-3080

Web: [www.employbillings.com](http://www.employbillings.com)

Services: Provides job search assistance including help with resumes, interviews, skills assessments and online applications. Computers available with internet access, copy machine and fax for employment related purposes. Website features current job openings.

Hours: M-F 8-5

### **Website Links to Veteran Services and Resources:**

**24/7 Outreach Center** Toll Free: 866-966-1020

e-mail: [resources@dcoeoutreach.org](mailto:resources@dcoeoutreach.org)

[www.dcoe.helath.mil/24-7help.aspx](http://www.dcoe.helath.mil/24-7help.aspx) link to live chat available

### **Montana Veterans Affairs:**

<http://montanaadma.org/montana-veterans-affairs>

### **American Legion – Montana:**

[www.mtleion.org](http://www.mtleion.org)

### **VFW - Veterans of Foreign Wars –**

[vfw.org](http://vfw.org)

### **VA Montana Health Care System**

#### **VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic**

1775 Spring Creek Lane

Billings, MT 59102

and

2345 King Avenue West

Billings, MT 59102

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Fax: 406-373-3520

Services: Provide mental health, OEF/OIF, and the Disabled American Veteran (DAV) Transportation Network.

### **Veterans Upward Bound:**

Montana State University-Billings campus

Cisel Hall Room 109

1500 University Drive

Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 657-2063 or Toll Free 1-877-356-8387(VETS)

[www.vubmt.com/links.php](http://www.vubmt.com/links.php)

## **VICTIM ASSISTANCE**

### **Crow Rural Domestic Violence Responders at Crow Police Station**

Phone: (406) 638-2490

Services: Travel with police, make referrals, assist clients, transport clients as needed.

**County Attorney's**, see page 81    **City Attorneys**, see page 79-80

### **Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (DSVS)**

Street Address: 506 North Broadway

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 314, Red Lodge, MT 59068

Phone: (406) 446-2296

24 Hour Helpline: (406) 425-2222

Services: Direct services include hospital, police and court accompaniment, transport, emergency short-term shelter, food and other support, assistance in applying for orders of protection and for crime victim compensation, support groups, one-on-one crisis counseling, support and education for survivors, transitional housing and related services, financial literacy classes. Also engages in intensive, school-based primary prevention programming focused on healthy relationships, teen dating violence, sexual assault, bullying, cyber-violence and the impact of the media on violence with k-12 students, teachers, administrators and parents. Provide professional in-service training for law enforcement and other members of the criminal justice system, medical providers, educators, social workers, clergy, therapists, and the business community. Also provide education and outreach to civic organizations, communities of faith and the public.

To volunteer: Those interested in volunteering with direct service or education programs, call the number listed above for more information and a volunteer application.

Cost: All client services are at no cost to the client. Call for training or speaker costs.

76

### **Gateway House - YWCA**

Address: 909 Wyoming Avenue, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 245-4472; Crisis Line: (406) 259-8100

Website: [www.ywcabillings.org/dvvs-services.html](http://www.ywcabillings.org/dvvs-services.html)

Services: Provides up to 12 weeks of temporary shelter care for battered women and their children, 24-hour crisis line, support groups, referrals, community education and advocacy.

Cost: None

### **Healing Hearts Program of Lame Deer**

Address: PO Box 8, Lame Deer, MT 59043

Phone: (406) 477-6412

## Law Enforcement Agencies (see page 82-85)

### **Office of Consumer Protection and Victim Services - Montana Department of Justice**

Address: 225 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. North, Helena, MT

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 201410, Helena, MT 59620-1410

Phone: (406) 444-1907

### **SAVES, INC**

Address: 616 1<sup>st</sup> West, Roundup, MT 59073

Phone: (406) 323-2602; 1-800-535-2303

Services: Advocacy, shelter, emergency services, DOP assistance, referrals for Musselshell, Wheatland, and Golden Valley Counties

Cost: None for eligible clients.

### **Sexual Violence Victim Services – YWCA Gateway**

Address: 909 Wyoming Avenue, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 245-4472 Crisis Line: (406) 259-8100

Services: Provides support, information, education and referral services to victims of sexual assault, their families and friends. Also offers 24-hour accompaniment to the hospital for forensic evidence collection exams

Cost: None.

77

### **Victim Witness Assistance Programs**

Contact local county attorney's office. See page 76 and 81.

Some communities with local Police Departments with City/Municipal Courts also have Victim Witness Assistance Programs. See City Attorney Offices list beginning on page 79.

Services: Provides Victim/Witness Coordinator; help for people in domestic violence situations and bodily injury crimes; assists victims and witnesses through court process; assists in obtaining orders of protection.

For more information about services for crime victims in Montana, contact:

### **Volunteers for Justice Program**

Address: Yellowstone County Attorney's Office

Yellowstone County Courthouse, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor

Phone: 208-1934

Email: [volunteersforjustice@co.yellowstone.mt.gov](mailto:volunteersforjustice@co.yellowstone.mt.gov)

Services: Volunteers assist with providing victims & witnesses of crime a support system as their cases move through the justice system. This is accomplished by providing information concerning court proceedings, attending court proceedings with victims and witnesses, assisting with Order of Protection, helping to complete paperwork to seek restitution and reimbursement expenses, as well as working directly with attorneys and victim witness coordinators on trial preparation.

Cost: None

78

## **City, County, State Government Resources**

Following are lists of government offices in the Billings region of the state. For additional government listings go to the Montana Board of Crime Control website: [www.mbcc.mt.gov/Resources/directory/cityindex.asp](http://www.mbcc.mt.gov/Resources/directory/cityindex.asp)

### **City Attorney Offices in the Billings Region**

#### **Billings**

Brent Brooks

P.O. Box 1178, Billings, MT 59103-1178

Phone: (406) 657-8205

#### **Big Timber**

William Frazier

P.O. Box 416, Big Timber, MT 59011

Phone: (406) 932-5453

#### **Columbus**

Douglas Howard  
P.O. Box 549, Columbus, MT 59019  
Phone: (406) 322-4429

**Colstrip**

Gary Ryder  
P.O. Box 1902, Colstrip, MT 59323  
Phone: (406) 748-2300

**Forsyth**

Gary Ryder  
P.O. Box 226, Forsyth, MT 59327  
Phone: (406) 356-2521

**Fromberg**

Kent Young  
P.O. Box 236, Fromberg, MT 59029  
Phone: (406) 668-7383

79

**Hardin**

Robert Snively  
406 North Cheyenne Avenue, Hardin, MT 59034  
Phone: (406) 665-9275

**Hysham**

Gary Ryder  
P.O. Box 72, Hysham, MT 59038  
Phone: (406) 342-5546

**Joliet**

Kent Young  
P.O. Box 210, Joliet, MT 59041  
Phone: (406) 962-3567

**Laurel**

Nancy Rohde  
P.O. Box 10, Laurel, MT 59044  
Phone: (406) 628-7431

**Lewistown**

Monte J. Boettger  
712 West Main Street, Lewistown, MT 59457  
Phone: (406) 535-9691

**Red Lodge**

Kent Young

P.O. Box 9, Red Lodge, MT 59068

Phone: (406) 446-3331

**Roundup**

Lance Lundvall

P.O. Box 660, Roundup, MT 59072

Phone: (406) 323-2804

**Ryegate**

Hon. Douglas Miller

P.O. Box 10, Ryegate, MT 59074

Phone: (406) 568-2102

## **County Attorneys in the Billings Region**

### **Big Horn County Attorney**

Address: Big Horn County Courthouse, 121 W. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Rm 224, Hardin, MT  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 908, Hardin, MT 59034  
Phone: (406) 665-9720

### **Carbon County Attorney**

Address: Law & Justice Bldg, 102 N. Broadway, Red Lodge, MT  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 810, Red Lodge, MT 59068  
Phone: (406) 446-3300

### **Golden Valley County Attorney**

Address: 107 Kemp St, Ryegate, MT 59074  
Phone: (406) 568-2272

### **Musselshell County Attorney**

Address: 506 Main, Roundup, MT  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 248, Roundup, MT 59072  
Phone: (406) 323-2230

### **Rosebud County Attorney**

Address: 1200 Main St., Forsyth, MT  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 69, Forsyth, MT 59327  
Phone: (406) 346-2236

### **Stillwater County Attorney**

Address: 38 North 4<sup>th</sup>, Columbus, MT  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 179, Columbus, MT 59019  
Phone: (406) 322-4333

### **Sweet Grass County Attorney**

Address: P.O. Box 1188, Big Timber, MT 59011  
Phone: (406) 932-4376

### **Treasure County Attorney**

Address: P.O. Box 72, Hysham, MT 59038  
Phone: (406) 342-5546

### **Yellowstone County Attorney**

Address: Yellowstone County Courthouse, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Billings, MT  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 35025, Billings, MT 59107  
Phone: (406) 256-2870

## **ALPHABETICAL BY COUNTY**

**(Emergency: Dial 9-1-1 in most areas)**

### **Big Horn County**

#### **Big Horn County Sheriff's Office**

Address: P.O. Box 905, 121 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Hardin, MT 59034

Phone: Emergency/Non-emergency: (406) 665-9780

Services: Provides law enforcement for residents of Big Horn County with primary responsibility to citizens excluding the Crow and Cheyenne Indian Reservations.

#### **Bureau of Indian Affairs**

##### **Rocky Mountain Regional Office**

Address: 316 N. 26<sup>th</sup> St., Billings, MT 59101

Phone: 247-7943

#### **Crow Agency BIA Office**

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 69, Crow Agency, MT 59022

Address: Weaver Drive, BIA Bldg #2, Crow Agency

Phone: (406) 638-2672 Emergency: **9-1-1**

### **Carbon County**

#### **Bridger Police Department**

Address: 108 South D Street, Bridger, MT

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 368, Bridger, MT 59014

Phone: (406) 662-3116 Emergency: **9-1-1**

Services: Provides law enforcement for primarily Bridger city residents.

#### **Fromberg Police Department**

Address: 118 W. River Dr., Fromberg, MT

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 236, Fromberg, MT 59029

Phone: (406) 668-7383 Emergency: **9-1-1**

Services: Provides law enforcement for primarily Fromberg city residents.

#### **Joliet Police Department**

Address: 116 S. Main St., Joliet, MT

Mailing Address: P.O. Box H, Joliet, MT 59041

Phone: (406) 962-3133 Emergency: **9-1-1**

Services: Provides law enforcement for primarily Joliet city residents.

82

#### **Red Lodge Police Department**

Address: 100 N. Broadway Ave

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9, Red Lodge, MT 59068

Phone: (406) 446-1313 Emergency: **9-1-1**

Services: Provides law enforcement for primarily Red Lodge city residents.

**Carbon County Sheriff's Office**

Address: 102 N. Broadway, Red Lodge, MT

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 230, Red Lodge, MT 59068

Phone: (406) 446-1234 Emergency: **9-1-1**

Services: Provides law enforcement for residents of Carbon County with primary responsibility to citizens living outside incorporated cities of Fromberg and Joliet.

**Golden Valley County**

**Golden Valley County Sheriff's Office**

Address: 107 Kemp

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 10, Ryegate, MT 59074

Phone: (406) 568-2321 Emergency: **9-1-1**

Services: Provides law enforcement for residents of Golden Valley County.

**Musselshell County**

**Musselshell County Sheriff's Office**

Address: 820 Main Street, Roundup, MT 59072

Phone: (406) 323-1402 Emergency: **9-1-1**

Services: Provides law enforcement for residents of Musselshell County.

**Rosebud County**

**Bureau of Indian Affairs**

Address: 101 Cheyenne Ave., Lame Deer, MT 59043

Phone: (406) 477-8243 Emergency: **9-1-1**

**Northern Cheyenne Tribal Police**

Phone: (406) 477-8448

Services: Provide law enforcement in Northern Cheyenne Reservation. Provide referrals for victims of domestic violence to services such as Healing Hearts and safe houses.

**Rosebud County Sheriff's Office**

Address: 180 13th Ave S, Forsyth, MT 59327

Phone: (406) 356-2715 Emergency: **9-1-1**

Services: Provides law enforcement for residents of Rosebud County.

## **Stillwater County**

### **Columbus Police Department**

Address: P.O. Box 549, Columbus, MT 59019

Phone: (406) 322-5313 Emergency: **9-1-1**

Services: Provides law enforcement for primarily Columbus city residents.

### **Stillwater County Sheriff's Office**

Address: 400 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. North, Columbus

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 729, Columbus, MT 59019

Phone: (406) 322-5328 Emergency: **9-1-1**

Services: Provides law enforcement for residents of Stillwater County.

## **Sweet Grass County**

### **Sweet Grass County Sheriff's Office**

Address: P.O. Box 567, 200 West 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Big Timber, MT 59011

Phone: (406) 932-5143 Emergency: **9-1-1**

Services: Provides law enforcement for residents of Sweet Grass County.

## **Treasure County**

### **Treasure County Sheriff's Office**

Address: P.O. Box 511, Hysham, MT 59038

Phone: (406) 342-5211 Emergency: **9-1-1**

Services: Provides law enforcement for residents of Treasure County.

84

## **Yellowstone County**

### **Billings Police Department**

Address: 210 North 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 657-8200 Emergency: **9-1-1**

Website: <http://ci.billings.mt.us>

Services: Provides law enforcement for primarily Billings city residents.

### **Billings Police Department Crime Prevention Center**

2910 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. No., Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 247-8594

Services: Provides crime prevention services for primarily Billings city residents. Most activities are conducted by trained volunteers with oversight from the Volunteer Coordinator and the Crime Prevention Officer.

**Bureau of Indian Affairs**

Address: 316 North 26<sup>th</sup>, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 247-9343 Emergency: **9-1-1**

Services: Provides law enforcement for residents of the Crow Indian Reservation in Yellowstone County.

**Laurel Police Department**

Address: 215 West 1<sup>st</sup>, Laurel, MT 59044

Phone: (406) 628-2185 Emergency: **9-1-1**

Services: Provides law enforcement for primarily Laurel city residents.

**Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)**

Address: 2929 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North, Suite 205, Billings, MT 59101

Phone: (406) 248-8487 or (801) 355-7521

Services: Investigations of Federal violations that are not handled through the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

**Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office**

Address: 219 N. 26th Street, Billings, MT 59107

Phone: (406) 256-2929 256-2954 Emergency: **9-1-1**

Services: Provides law enforcement for residents of Yellowstone County with primary responsibility to citizens living outside incorporated cities of Laurel and Billings and excluding the Crow Indian Reservation.

## Yes, I can make a difference!

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send me more information.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in becoming a member.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution.  
Enclosed is my check for: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to:  
Billings Area Family Violence Task Force.**

\_\_\_\_\_ My organization \_\_\_\_\_ is  
interested in having someone from the Family Violence Task  
Force provide a presentation for us.

\_\_\_\_\_ My organization \_\_\_\_\_ is  
has information to present to the Family Violence Task Force.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like information on the McGuire Memorial Conference on Family Violence.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

**EVERYONE CAN SPREAD THE WORD.**

Please, tell others about the Family Violence Task Force.

Please mail this form to: **Billings Area Family Violence Task Force**  
**P.O. BOX 484**  
**BILLINGS, MT 59103-0484**

You may also contact the Task Force electronically by going to the  
**Website: [bafvtf.org](http://bafvtf.org)**

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

**To obtain copies of this handbook contact the  
Billings Area Family Violence Task Force at  
[www.bafvtf.org](http://www.bafvtf.org)**