

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

The Hanover Police Department is dedicated to the protection and service of victims of Domestic Violence and/or Sexual Assault. The State of New Hampshire has recognized the serious nature of these crimes and enacted specific statutes that direct the police and empower victims in such matters. We encourage citizens and others to contact us if we can answer questions or provide any service in these areas.

Domestic Violence

Any persons that are abused, (physically, emotionally, or otherwise pursuant to law), in connection to a domestic relationship or setting can expect prompt and professional police service. New Hampshire law mandates that abusers be arrested in the interest of protecting the victim, and to prevent future abuse. It has been determined that police intervention is critical to changing the future behavior of abusers.

The Hanover Police also offers information and assistance to victims seeking protective orders from the Lebanon Family Court, both during and after normal business hours. Steps to obtain a temporary protective order include:

- **(During normal business hours)** A victim of domestic abuse can obtain a protective order from the Lebanon Family Court, (38 Centerra Parkway, Lebanon, NH 03766). The process involves the completion of an application that identifies the offender and the abuse at issue. A Judge then reviews the application and reaches a decision as to the issuance of an order and any related conditions or terms. Directions to the court or other instructions can be received by calling the Lebanon Family Court, (603) 643-3666.

- **(After hours)** A victim of domestic violence that occurs in Hanover, NH can obtain a telephonic order of protection by contacting the Hanover Police Department. The process involves the completion of an application that identifies the offender and the abuse at issue. An on-call Judge is then reached via telephone by a member of the Hanover Police. The Judge considers the matter and reaches a decision as to the issuance of an emergency telephonic protective order. These orders have standing until the end of the next court business day. In such cases, victims are thereafter required to visit the Lebanon Family Court and complete an application for a protective order as outlined above, otherwise the order expires. Directions to the court or other instructions can be received by calling the Lebanon Family Court, (603) 643-3666.

Sexual Assault

The Hanover Police Department offers a wide range of services in connection to sexual assault matters. While we are dedicated to the investigation and prosecution of persons who commit sexual assaults, we also recognize that these are deeply personal crimes and that the wishes of the victim must be complied with. We strive to answer questions and provide information that enables victims to make informed decisions about the handling of their case. Ultimately, our handling of a sexual assault complaint is directly linked to the goal/input of the victims. In short, we do as much or as little as the victims is comfortable with.

The Hanover Police Department operates in partnership with a local Child Advocacy Center (CAC). The CAC is staffed with forensic interviewers who specialize in working with child victims. They offer many services aimed at providing children with optimum care as well as assisting in the investigation of such crimes.