

Please join Esperanza Shelter in recognizing  
and honoring March as 'Developmental  
Disabilities Awareness Month'



People with developmental disabilities can be victimized by their intimate partners, care givers, family members, community acquaintances and in some instances, strangers.

The following signs of abuse may be present if a person with a developmental disability is in an abusive relationship or situation:

- finances and personal documents are being misused, forged and/or exploited
- any environmental accommodation within a domestic setting and/or out in the community are denied or withheld
- physically assistive devices such as wheelchairs, walkers, glasses or hearing aides are denied or withheld
- assistive communication devices such as an iPad or an ITouch or medications are denied or withheld
- physical harm is inflicted on a service animal and/or that animal is taken away from the individual it is intended to support and assist
- any visible evidence of neglect, physical and/or sexual abuse
- verbal expressions and/or body language that may indicate that abusive tactics such as isolation, intimidation, threats and manipulation are taking place - it is important to note that not all people with developmental disabilities verbally communicate signs of trauma and do so in other ways.

If you, or someone who you know with a disability is experiencing any form of domestic abuse please reach out to us for help when it is safe for you to do so. Esperanza Shelter offers domestic violence support services to all victims of domestic abuse regardless of disability, race, ethnicity, immigration status, gender, sexual orientation or religion.

24/7 Crisis Hotline  
505.473.5200 or toll free 800.473.5220

Support Center  
Monday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm  
505.474.5536