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OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Domestic violence thrives when we are silent; but if we take a stand and work together, we can combat domestic violence. The Sioux County Sheriff's Office encourages everyone to be aware and intolerant of domestic violence. Throughout the month of October, please help to raise awareness about domestic violence and join in our efforts to end violence.

This month provides an opportunity each year to remind and educate the community on the pattern of abusive behaviors that alter the lives of too many of our neighbors, friends and families. It is also a time to remember those who have lost their lives at the hands of their abusers and to celebrate all survivors of intimate partner violence.

More than 6,430 Iowans were a victim of domestic violence in 2016. Over the past seven years, more than 58,700 domestic abuse charges were filed in Iowa. Three Iowans have been murdered in domestic violence crimes so far in 2017, according to an Iowa Attorney General's Office report. Since 1995, when the Attorney General's office first began keeping the information, 291 people have been killed in domestic violence incidents. The database includes domestic abuse homicides that occurred between 1995 and March 31, 2017. These numbers are far too many and we must work together to recognize and act against these crimes. On average, it takes domestic abuse victims seven attempts at leaving before they make a successful exit from a relationship, according to The National Domestic Violence Hotline.

If you are in immediate danger, please call 911. The Family Crisis Center can also be a great resource at www.familycrisiscenters.org or by calling 712-722-4404 or 1-800-362-5603. The National Domestic Violence Hotline is an additional resource that can be reached at 1-800-799-7233 or TTY 1-800-787-3224.



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