

# ARCTIC SLOPE

## DV/SV RESOURCE GUIDE

SURVIVING ABUSE

PROMOTING WELLNESS

CHANGING HARMFUL BEHAVIORS



If you or someone else needs help with safety:

### EMERGENCY CONTACTS: ARCTIC WOMEN IN CRISIS (AWIC)

24-hour Crisis Number: 1-800-478-0267 or (907) 852-0261

### LAW ENFORCEMENT:

North Slope Borough Police Department: 911  
Contact your local State Trooper Post or call your community's VPSO

### REGIONAL OCS OFFICES:

Barrow: (907) 852-3397

### PROGRAM DIRECTORY:

#### Arctic Women in Crisis (AWIC)

PO Box 69, Barrow AK 99723  
24-hour Crisis: 1-800-478-0267 or (907) 852-0261  
[www.north-slope.org/departments/health](http://www.north-slope.org/departments/health)

#### Native Village of Barrow Social Services

Phone: (907) 852-4411  
[www.nvbarrow.net](http://www.nvbarrow.net)

#### North Slope Borough Health and Social Services Health Central and Integrated Behavioral Health

Phone: (907) 852-0366  
[www.north-slope.org/departments/health](http://www.north-slope.org/departments/health)

#### North Slope Borough Health and Social Services Children and Youth Services

Phone: (907) 852-0263



CALL 211 OR 1-800-478-2221  
FOR ANY SOCIAL SERVICE OR  
SAFETY RESOURCE.

### DEFINITIONS:

For detailed definitions related to domestic violence see PDF titled "Basic Definitions". For additional information on the reporting and response to domestic violence and child abuse, see PDF infographics.

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## REPORTING: FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

(See PDF called “**Basic Definitions**” and PDF called “**Infographic: What to Do if You Suspect a Child is Being Abused or Neglected**” for more information on Child Advocacy Centers, or CACs.)

At the time of this publication, there is no child advocacy center in the region. Therefore, after a report of child maltreatment or child exposure to domestic violence is made to law enforcement and/or OCS, a decision will be made about whether it will be dealt with by local OCS and/or ICWA staff or whether the child should go to a Child Advocacy Center, which are recommended especially in cases of suspected child sexual abuse or sexual assault against a teen. This would mean:

A child, along with the caregiver and, if desired, a family advocate from the Native Village of Barrow Social Services Dept., would travel to **Alaska CARES** in Anchorage, or to **Stevie’s Place** in Fairbanks, where the child can receive the following services in a child friendly environment:

- **Interviews** conducted by a trained forensic interviewer
- **Medical examinations** (when necessary) performed by a caring medical professional with specialized training
- **Well-child check-up** and basic medical care
- **Family advocates** to guide families through the CAC process and support them afterwards
- Option of an **Alaska Native advocate**
- **Information and support** to help caregivers understand the abuse and how to help the child
- **Referrals** for counseling, legal services, and any other needs
- One in-house **children’s counselor**
- **Accompaniment and support** for the child through the court process



*Photo Credit: Providence Health and Services Alaska. Alaska CARES in Anchorage provides a safe, family-friendly environment for the evaluation and investigation of children’s exposure to violence. It is a place where children can tell their story and be believed, and where children and families can get the support they need.*

For more information on Alaska CARES, see the *Anchorage regional profile*. For more information on Stevie’s Place, see the *Interior regional profile*.

## REPORTING: FOR ADULTS

(See PDF called “**Basic Definitions**” and PDF called “**Infographic: what are your options as an adult victim of DV and/or SV**” for more information about the option of reporting and about Sexual Assault Response Teams or SARTs.)

Adults are not required to make a report if they are abused by a partner or sexually assaulted by anyone, but if they choose to, here is what’s in place for victims in the region:

- If a victim (female or male) of sexual assault contacts local law enforcement or Arctic Women in Crisis (AWIC), they can receive transportation (at no cost to them) into Barrow.
- The SART in Barrow meets in a private, confidential facility.
- In the SART process, the victim can meet with a law enforcement officer, receive support from an advocate, and complete a forensic exam done by a trained medical professional.
- Partner physical violence can be reported to local law enforcement or health care providers. With the victim’s permission, they can contact victim advocates to assist with safety planning.
- Victims and concerned loved ones may also contact Arctic Women in Crisis (AWIC) to get help making a police report and/or to get information about the reporting process, and advocates at AWIC can also accompany a victim to the police department to make a report.



## REPORTING: FOR ADULTS (CONT.)

If a victim chooses not to report to Law Enforcement, they are still highly encouraged to get a medical exam for their own personal health (e.g. antibiotics and Plan B to prevent STDs and pregnancy) and to address any other medical conditions as a result of being assaulted (e.g. strangulation).

Additionally, if a victim chooses to not report or have a medical exam, they are still encouraged to speak with an advocate, who can help them talk about their experience, safety plan etc.

## SHELTER

For victims of abuse and their children needing immediate safety, the following options are available:

### Barrow:

Arctic Women in Crisis (AWIC)

**28-bed + cribs** shelter for women and their children up to age 17

Stays typically up to 6 weeks, but flexible depending on goals and options (there are no transitional housing services or homeless shelters in Barrow)

For **male victims**, the AWIC staff will find a safe place to stay and provide advocacy services.

In-shelter **support groups** and **children's groups**

**Emergency transportation** to Fairbanks is also available if this is safer for the client.

Women are welcome to store and cook **traditional foods** in the spacious kitchen.

### Barrow (North Slope Borough):

Children and Youth Services Shelter

**14-bed facility** for emergency placement of children

A clinician is available to provide support and help children and families with long-term services and help families work towards plans.

Available for children in OCS custody and for families needing respite (e.g. needing to leave the region for medical care, parents needing to obtain social services/get help to avoid OCS involvement)

### Villages in the region:

**Volunteer Safe Homes** in seven outlying villages (Atqasuk, Barter Island/Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Hope, Point Lay, Anaktuvuk Pass and Wainwright) supported by AWIC

Village safehouses are stocked with basic supplies (e.g. diapers, food).

Volunteers who run village safehouses receive monthly and annual training to better support victims and their families.



## SHELTER (CONT.)

For victims of abuse and their children needing immediate safety, the following options are available:



*Photo Credit (top right): Arctic Women in Crisis. The beautiful, newly-built AWIC shelter in Barrow strives to create a home-like atmosphere for women and their children, keeping families together, and providing opportunities for women to support one another.*

## ADVOCACY, SUPPORT, AND INFORMATION

Trained, compassionate, culturally-connected advocates are available at AWIC to help victims of violence, their family members and loved ones, or others who have questions about abuse. Advocates provide the following services (which are not just for people in shelter):

- **24-hour hotline** where they provide a listening ear, support, and information to victims of violence, their family members and loved ones, or others who have questions about abuse
- **Safety planning**
- **Legal advocacy** (court accompaniment, protective orders, connecting victim to a lawyer at no cost, etc.)
- **Medical advocacy** (supporting victim to get healthcare and supporting victim through the SART process)
- **One-on-one support** and information, group support and education (see section 4 of prevention)
- Help to find housing, food, clothing, job training and other **basic needs**.
- Assistance filing for money through **Victims of Violent Crimes Compensation**.
- Help to find other needed resources, such as counseling or children's programs
- Trained interpreters/language lines for languages other than English, and staff who speak other languages, such as Tagalog and Iñupiaq
- Staff trained in and sensitive to working with LGBTQ clients



## ADVOCACY, SUPPORT, AND INFORMATION (CONT.)



*The caring advocates at AWIC in Barrow are available to listen, provide support, give information, help people through the legal system and other systems, and connect people to resources via the 24 hour toll-free hotline or at the shelter.*

# PROMOTING WELLNESS :



## YOUTH MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

### Education Opportunities:

#### Barrow:

- Schools teach the “Fourth R” Healthy Relationships curriculum, with support from AWIC
- Children in the community can participate in art activities focused on peace with AWIC staff

#### Barrow and the villages in the region:

AWIC staff use evidence-based curriculum such as “Second Step,” “Steps to Respect,” and “Safe Dates” to offer presentations at all North Slope Borough Schools on issues such as:

- empathy
- healthy relationships
- bullying prevention

## TRAININGS FOR TRIBES AND PROFESSIONAL GROUPS:

#### Barrow and the villages in the region:

AWIC offers educational resources, materials, and trainings to groups such as medical providers, law enforcement, etc. on:

- domestic violence
- sexual assault
- child sexual abuse
- mandatory reporting for elders and children
- Green Dot violence prevention strategy

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## CHANGING COMMUNITY NORMS:

In Barrow, **AWIC** presents at community events and distributes information about the Violent Crimes Compensation Board application process and local resources. They welcome participation and volunteers for the events they put on, which include:

- **Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month (February)**
- **Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April)**
- **Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October)**
- **Human Rights Day**
- **Community marches**
- **Other prevention activities**

AWIC also uses local radio to host discussions on issues such as bullying, healthy relationships, the impact of domestic violence on children, and what people can do to intervene and prevent violence.



*Advocates at AWIC offer family nights with free meals, childcare and transportation, and arts-based support and education groups.*

## EMPOWERMENT, SUPPORT, AND EDUCATION GROUPS :

There are a number of different groups available to community members to help promote wellness, healthy relationships, and healthy families. These are offered through:

### Participating Organizations

- **AWIC**
- **North Slope Borough Health and Social Services**
- **Referral by Native Village of Barrow Social Services**

### Available Groups

- Parenting classes
- Emotional wellness group
- Arts-based women's support
- Women's Domestic Violence Education Program (DVEP) (see next section)
- Men's Batterer Intervention Program (see next section)

For groups held at AWIC, free meals, transportation, and childcare are available.



*Facilitators of the North Slope's Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) create a supportive environment in which men can explore, question, and begin to unlearn the beliefs and behaviors that support domestic violence, and where men can build skills for self-awareness, accountability, and healthy relationships.*

## HELP FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE HARMED OTHERS

### **Batterer Intervention Programs:**

The North Slope Borough Health and Social Services Department runs the State-approved Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) for the region. A BIP is a program that explicitly addresses the beliefs and learned behaviors that contribute to violence, and how to change them. Their program is:

- 27 weeks
- Based on the Duluth model
- Affordable
- Available for men who are court-ordered and men who come voluntarily
- Mindful of Iñupiat values and subsistence

**AWIC's Domestic Violence Education Group** provides education and one-on-one advocacy for women charged with using physical force in the context of domestic abuse and for those wishing to learn more about the dynamics of domestic violence and self-care.

### **For parents:**

For information on responses for caregivers who are involved with the Office of Children's Services (OCS) or at risk of OCS involvement, contact your local OCS office or ICWA coordinator, **The Native Village of Barrow Social Services Dept.**