

Domestic Abuse Response Team (D.A.R.T)

The D.A.R.T. team is a multidisciplinary crisis response team that pairs domestic violence victim advocates with specially trained Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) D.A.R.T. Officers to respond to the scene of domestic violence incidents after the scene has been rendered safe by the primary patrol unit. Each of our 21 geographic Areas (Community Police Stations) deploys a Domestic Abuse Response Team (D.A.R.T.) from Thursday through Sunday. D.A.R.T. Advocates are also available at our Community Police Stations [during business hours] from Monday through Thursday.

In response to a 911 call reporting a domestic violence incident, a primary patrol unit, with the assistance of the D.A.R.T. Officers, conducts a preliminary investigation that may include the detention and/or arrest of the perpetrator, securing the scene for safety, completing police reports and collecting evidence. Once the scene is safe and secure, the patrol unit or D.A.R.T. Officers will ask the victim if she/he will consent to speak privately with D.A.R.T. victim advocates.

While at scene or at the police station, with victim consent, the D.A.R.T. victim advocates provide support and information and connect victims of domestic violence to domestic violence service providers that are prepared to offer an array of crisis intervention efforts for victims and their family members including: counseling, educational information, emergency shelter, safety planning, legal assistance and other support that is needed to assist victims and their families to be safe from abuse. These advocates, who are not police officers and are not employed by LAPD are there solely to assist domestic violence victims, they are not part of the investigation or prosecution of the case.

LAPD recognizes that the needs of domestic violence victims and their families go beyond a police response. By creating a team of specially trained officers and domestic violence victim advocates, we are able to provide immediate assistance and long term support.