

Information about domestic violence

Medical treatment and documentation of injuries

If you have been hit, kicked, bitten, pushed or suffer any other injuries by an intimate partner seek medical assistance immediately, since untreated wounds or injuries may have serious consequences for your health.

Regardless of whether you plan to take legal action or not, or plan to end your relation with the perpetrator, please note:

Even if you consider your wounds or injuries not to be serious, get them documented by a trustworthy doctor. With professional documentation you have an important proof of the injury. You can use these documentations if for instance you apply for protection according to the violence protection act (Gewaltenschutzgesetz), file a divorce or negotiate problems with the access and custody rights for children.

Documentation of medical treatment immediately after the assault may prove any statements given to the authorities, even if the statement occurs a long time after the assault, when all wounds have already healed.

- Doctors and nursing staff have a code of patient confidentiality. Without your written permission, no one has the right to obtain records of your medical treatment. It's your decision!
- The medical documentation remains in your medical records. You can request it at anytime.
- Give a detailed statement of what happened. Only then can the complete physical repercussions be recorded. Point out smaller, less painful and/or older injuries, too. It is crucial to inform your doctor if you were strangled or suffered an assault on your throat or neck.
- The hospitals listed below and some other physicians use the "S.I.G.N.A.L.- Dokumentationsbogen"-sheet for documenting the medical treatment and the diagnosis. Every injury will be noted on a body sketch and described. It is advisable to take pictures of the injuries.
- Some results of domestic violence like bruises can only be seen a few days after they have been inflicted. Don't hesitate to return to the doctor to document these injuries, too.

Where can you go to for a medical documentation?

The **following hospitals** provide the medical documentation with the "S.I.G.N.A.L.- Dokumentationsbogen bei häuslicher Gewalt". The emergency staff there is familiar with domestic violence and wishes to support you.

- Charité, Campus Benjamin Franklin, Klingsorstraße 96, Berlin-Steglitz, Tel.: 84453015
- Charité, Campus Mitte, Luisenstr. 65-66, Berlin-Mitte, Tel.: 450531000
- Charité, Campus Virchow Klinikum, Augustenburger Platz 1, Berlin-Wedding, Tel.: 450552000
- Ev. Waldkrankenhaus Spandau, Stadtrandstr. 555-561, Berlin-Spandau, Tel.: 37021740
- Sankt Gertrauden Krankenhaus, Paretzer Str. 12, Berlin-Wilmersdorf, Tel: 82722350

Addresses of doctors offering support with for example the „S.I.G.N.A.L.- Dokumentationsbogens“, sheet can be requested at the BIG-Hotline: Phone 611 03 00 (twenty-four-seven).

For more information: www.signal-intervention.de