

# What's going to happen?

## WHY WERE CHARGES LAID ?

Québec has policies stating that spousal and family violence is not tolerated.

If police officers have reasonable grounds to believe that a criminal offence has been committed in a domestic and family context, they have the obligation to report the situation of violence to the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions, who will decide to investigate or drop the complaint regardless of the victim's wishes.

## IS IT NORMAL FOR THE VICTIM TO HAVE GIVEN THEIR VERSION OF THE FACTS TO THE POLICE, BUT NOT THE ACCUSED ?

The accused person has the right to silence and to solicit the advice of a lawyer. The latter will gather the accused's version of facts and may suggest certain measures to follow.

## FOLLOWING THE ARREST, AN AGENT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF YOUTH PROTECTION CONTACTED US. WHY ?

Police officers have an obligation to file a report with the Youth Protection Services if they believe that children may be exposed to violence or be victims of violence.

## A BAN ON COMMUNICATING WITH THE VICTIM WAS ISSUED. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN ?

This condition issued by a police officer or the court limits or prohibits communication of the accused with the victim or the persons named in the order. Failure to comply with this condition may lead to a charge of non-compliance, even if the victim was willing to be in contact with the accused.

## WHO INFORMS THE VICTIMS OF THE CONDITIONS THE ACCUSED MUST RESPECT ?

Victims are contacted by a police investigator or by a social worker from Côté cour Service, if the accused is still detained when they appear in court.

# Whom should I speak to? Where can we get help?

## SOS Violence conjugale

Information, support and orientation services for victims and people affected by domestic violence. Free, confidential and bilingual services available all day, every day.  
1-800-363-9010

## Côté Cour Service

The Côté cour service offers help and support to victims of domestic violence who must go to court, at all stages of the court process.

Montreal Courthouse: 514-868-9577

Montreal Municipal Court: 514-861-0141

## Crime Victims Assistance Centre (CVAC)

Upon request, CVAC can offer victims of a crime free consultations with professionals who can help them regain a sense of control over their lives.

1-866-532-2822

## Legal Aid of Montreal

Offers legal services to financially eligible persons (representation by a lawyer). Free services or with contribution based on income.

Criminal and penal law: 514-842-2233

Immigration law: 514-849-3671

## Centre de ressources pour hommes de Montréal

Provides mutual support to men through discussion and sharing of information and experiences.

514-355-8300 / [www.crhmontreal.ca](http://www.crhmontreal.ca)

## Centre social d'aide aux immigrants

Assistance, intake and socio-professional integration services for immigrants and refugees.

514-932-2953

# COUPLE CONFLICT ? DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ?

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## OPTION

### UNE ALTERNATIVE À LA VIOLENCE CONJUGALE ET FAMILIALE

Group therapy for people with violent behavior in the couple and family

Services offered in French

In collaboration with Côté cour Service, CIUSSS Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal

[www.optionalalternative.org](http://www.optionalalternative.org)  
[option@cooptel.qc.ca](mailto:option@cooptel.qc.ca)  
514-527-1657

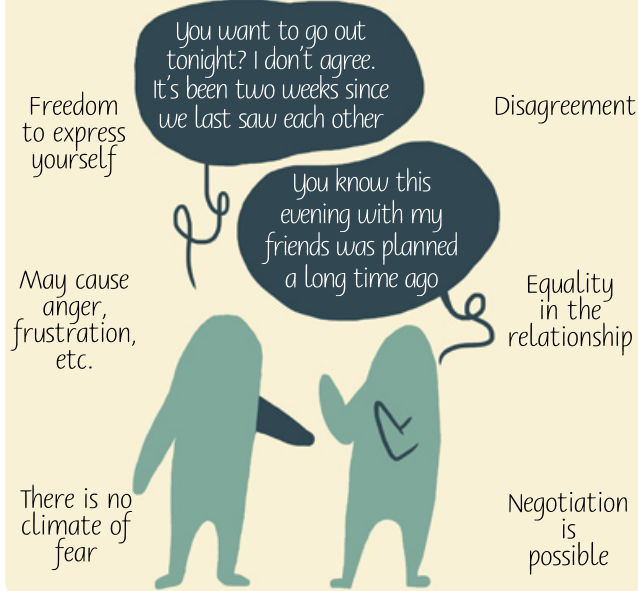
Pamphlet design:  
[painchaudjeanne@gmail.com](mailto:painchaudjeanne@gmail.com)

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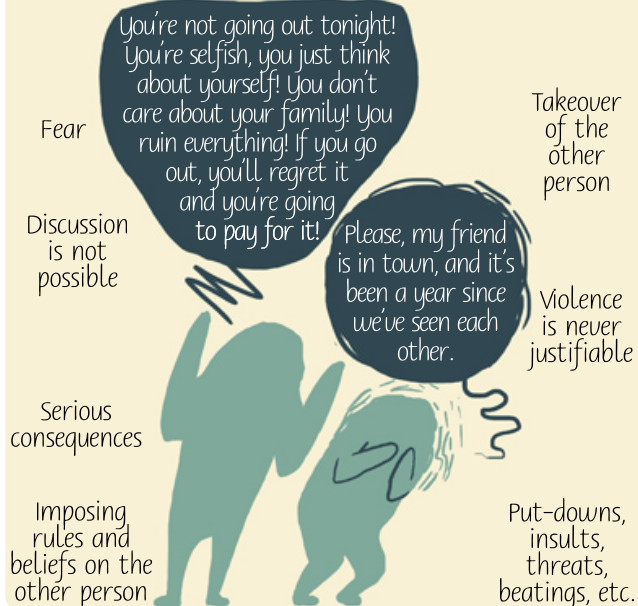
Québec

# What is happening to us?

## COUPLE CONFLICT



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



# What are the consequences of domestic violence on children?

Children exposed to domestic violence may « witness scenes of domestic violence; hear shouts and screams; see marks of beatings; perceive the distress of the abused parent and live in a cyclical climate of tension, friction and fear. »  
(Cr  er pour grandir en confiance, 2008, p. 52)

## FEELING THAT THEY HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THEIR PARENTS



« My parent is my hero, but I blame him (her) so much when he (she) hits and shouts. Why does my other parent let it go on and do not try to stop it? »

## LIVING WITH FEAR AND TERROR



« I shut my ears, I tremble, I'm afraid. How will this end? Am I next? »

## REPRODUCING VIOLENT BEHAVIOR IN RELATIONSHIPS



« Yesterday, I pushed Lee in the school yard. I was boiling inside and I didn't know what else to do. »

## FEELING ALONE WITH A SECRET



« I want the blows, the shouting and the screaming at home to stop. I would like to talk about it, but I don't want to hurt my parents. »

# What's going to happen?

In the eyes of the law, the fact that charges are laid within a conjugal context is an aggravating factor that may influence a possible sentence.

## WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE CHARGES

### Threat

Telling a person that we are going to kill them, hitting them, damaging their car or their belongings, for example, even if we don't intend to do so.

### Assault

Using, attempting or threatening to use force against a person without their consent.

### Harassment

Having recurring or non-recurring threatening behavior, which would cause a person to fear for their own safety or that of their acquaintances.

### Sequestration

Holding a person against their will by use of threat, violence or force.

### Intimidation

Forcing or trying to force a person to do or not to do something.

### Mischief

Destroying, breaking, rendering unusable or preventing the use of goods or computer data belonging to a person.

### Sexual assault

Having sexual behaviours, with or without physical contact, without the consent of a person.

While certain violent behaviours such as insulting, belittling, yelling, blackmailing, etc. are not criminal acts in the eyes of the law, they may significantly affect others.