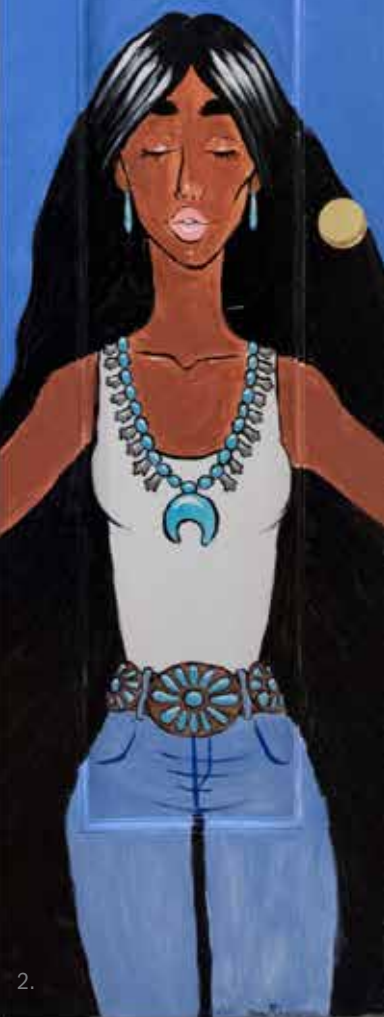




# VIOLENCE AGAINST NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN IN MASSACHUSETTS: A GUIDE TO SEEKING ASSISTANCE

This guide has been developed for the purpose of creating and expanding services and networks for Native communities and Native women in Massachusetts. It grows out of NAICOB's Circles of Support program and the 2014 convening of tribes, service providers and community members who came together to discuss violence against women in Native communities.

NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF BOSTON (NAICOB)  
DECEMBER 2017



*On behalf of the Circles of Support Program, located at the North American Indian Center of Boston, we would like to thank our sub-awardees, the Institute for New England Native American Studies of UMass Boston and the Women's Center in New Bedford, Massachusetts for their ongoing support and training.*

*The Circles of Support (COS) Women's Program began in October 2015. The program received funding through a two-year grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. It is structured to provide a bi-weekly support group in a safe environment for indigenous women who are victims or survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. Our support groups utilize the talking circle and they also focus on teaching the women Native crafts.*

*It is our hope that all domestic violence agencies throughout Massachusetts are aware of NAICOB and the various programs and services it provides, in particular, COS. It is important for agencies to know that our program is available to all Indigenous women.*

*Sincerely,*

*Sonya Isaac, Director  
Circles of Support Women's Program*

# I. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Violence against Native women is pervasive. A US Department of Justice study on violence against women concluded that 34.1 per cent of American Indian and Alaska Native women – or more than 1 in 3 – will be raped during their lifetime; the comparable figure for the USA as a whole is less than one in five. Additionally, Native women are murdered at ten times the national average (Amnesty International, 2007).

Domestic violence can happen to anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion or gender. Sexual, emotional, physical and financial abuse all involve patterns of behavior to maintain power and control over an intimate partner. Abuse is a learned behavior, sometimes abusers experienced violence in their own families. Outside influences, such as drug and alcohol addiction can sometimes escalate abuse.

## PHYSICAL ABUSE

**constitutes one or more of the following:**

- » Preventing you from calling the police or seeking medical attention
- » Harming your children
- » Forcing you to use drugs or alcohol (especially if you've had a substance abuse problem in the past)
- » Forbidding you from eating or sleeping
- » Pulling your hair, punching, slapping, kicking, biting or choking
- » Hurting you with weapons

## EMOTIONAL ABUSE

**constitutes one or more of the following:**

- » Calling you names, insulting you or criticizing you
- » Refusing to trust you and acting jealous or possessive
- » Trying to isolate you from family or friends
- » Monitoring where you go, who you call and spend time with
- » Demanding to know where you are every minute
- » Trapping you in your home or preventing you from leaving
- » Using weapons to threaten to hurt you
- » Damaging your property when they're angry (e.g.; throwing objects, punching walls, kicking doors)
- » Humiliating you in any way
- » Accusing you of cheating and being often jealous of your outside relationships
- » Serially cheating on you and then blaming you for his or her behavior

## SEXUAL ABUSE

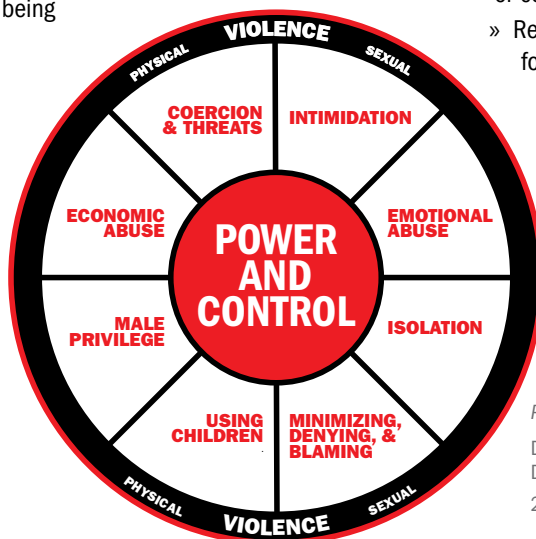
**constitutes one or more of the following:**

- » Forcing or manipulating you into to having sex or performing sexual acts
- » Holding you down during sex
- » Demanding sex when you're sick, tired or after hurting you
- » Hurting you with weapons or objects during sex
- » Involving other people in sexual activities with you against your will
- » Forcing you to watch pornography
- » Purposefully trying to pass on a sexually transmitted disease to you

## FINANCIAL ABUSE

**constitutes one or more of the following:**

- » Placing your paycheck in their bank account and denying you access to it
- » Forbidding you to work or limiting the hours that you can work
- » Maxing out credit cards in your name without permission or not paying the bills on them, which could ruin your credit score
- » Stealing money from you or your family and friends
- » Using funds from children's savings accounts without your permission
  - » Living in your home but refusing to work or contribute to the household
  - » Refusing to give you money to pay for necessities/shared expenses like food, clothing, transportation, or medical care and medicine



Power and Control Wheel courtesy of:  
DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION PROGRAMS  
Duluth, Minnesota  
218-722-2781 · [www.theduluthmodel.org](http://www.theduluthmodel.org)

## II. TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

As it pertains to Massachusetts law, crimes of domestic violence and sexual assault committed against Native women on state territory can be prosecuted under federal guidelines, regardless of the perpetrator's race. However, crimes of domestic violence committed by non-Native perpetrators against Native women in Indian Country cannot be tried in tribal court.

\*Massachusetts recognizes one tribal court:

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Court  
483 Great Neck Road, South  
Mashpee, MA 02649  
(508) 477-0208, ext. 239

## III. LEGAL AID

### The Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Boston Bar Association (VLP)

Provides free civil legal assistance to low-income residents of Greater Boston including in-court guardianship clinics with volunteer attorneys and law students helping petitioners for guardianship complete and file the guardianship petitions, and helping guardians complete care plans and annual reports.

617-423-0648 · [www.vlpnet.org](http://www.vlpnet.org)

### Greater Boston Legal Services

Provides free legal assistance and representation on civil (non-criminal) matters to needy residents of Boston.

617-371-1234 · [www.gbls.org](http://www.gbls.org)

### Health Law Advocates

30 Winter Street, Boston, MA 02108

A non-profit law firm that helps people who have legal problems concerning health insurance or medical care including MassHealth or other government health insurance programs, private health insurance plans and Health Safety Net (Free Care) eligibility.

617-338-5241 · [www.healthlawadvocates.org](http://www.healthlawadvocates.org)

### Indigenous Peoples Rights Clinic

120 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02108

The clinic offers free legal services to tribal governments and indigenous organizations located primarily in New England. Please contact Nicole Friederichs with questions or for more information.

617-573-8100 · [www.suffolk.edu](http://www.suffolk.edu)

## IV. NATIVE RESOURCES, TRIBES AND NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS IN MA

### North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICOB)

105 South Huntington Avenue, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Providing a cultural base and a wide range of social services to support American Indian families and individuals in Greater Boston.

617-323-0343 · [www.NAICOB.org](http://www.NAICOB.org)

### Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness

Provides support for basic needs, college related expenses, and cultural and spiritual enrichment to American Indians who are residents of Massachusetts. Website contains a comprehensive list of powwows and American Indian social and spiritual events.

617-642-1683 · [www.mcnaa.org](http://www.mcnaa.org)



## **Massachusetts Commission on Indian Affairs**

100 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114

As a liaison to city, state and federal agencies, the Commission assists tribal councils, American Indian organizations, and American Indian individuals in the areas of social services, education, employment opportunities, health, housing, civil rights, legal aid, treaties, legislation, and any other rights or services concerning American Indian residents of the state. The Commission is also responsible for the distribution of Tuition Waivers to American Indian students who are Massachusetts residents attending a state college or university.

617-573-1292

[www.mass.gov/hed/economic/eohed/dhcd/indian-affairs.html](http://www.mass.gov/hed/economic/eohed/dhcd/indian-affairs.html)

## **Native American LifeLines**

2077 Centre St, West Roxbury, MA 02132

Native American LifeLines of Boston is dedicated to providing Substance Abuse, HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis prevention and treatment services to the American Indian community through a comprehensive continuum of care that is patient centered, culturally sensitive and optimal for personal growth. Programs and services include:

- » Outreach and Referral
- » Case Management
- » Cultural Activities
- » Elders Program
- » Health Promotion/Disease Prevention
- » Little Mocs Birthday Program
- » Prison Outreach
- » Wellbriety Groups
- » Wellness Partnerships
- » Youth Christmas Program

857-203-9680 · [info@nativelifelines.org](mailto:info@nativelifelines.org)

## **Assonet Band of the Wampanoag Nation**

Chief: Kenny Alves

## **Chaubunagungamaug Band of Nipmuck Indians**

Chairman: Kenneth White

<http://generations-gifts.com/nipmuckcouncil/index.htm>

## **Chappaquiddick Band of Wampanoag**

Sonksq/President: Alma Gordon

[www.chappaquiddick-wampanoag.org/](http://www.chappaquiddick-wampanoag.org/)

## **Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe**

Chairlady/President: Melissa (Harding) Ferretti

[www.herringpondtribe.com/home.html](http://www.herringpondtribe.com/home.html)

## **Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Tribe**

Chairman: Cedric Cromwell

[www.mashpeewampanoagtribe-nsn.gov/](http://www.mashpeewampanoagtribe-nsn.gov/)

## **Massachusetts-Ponkapoag Tribal Council**

Sachem: Gil Solomon

## **Natick Nipmuc Tribe**

Sachem: Mary Anne Hendricks; Tribal Historian: Pam Ellis

Programs and Outreach: Kristen Wyman

## **Nipmuc Nation**

Sachem: Cheryl Holley

[www.nipmucnation.org/](http://www.nipmucnation.org/)

## **Troy/Fall River Band of Wampanoag Indians**

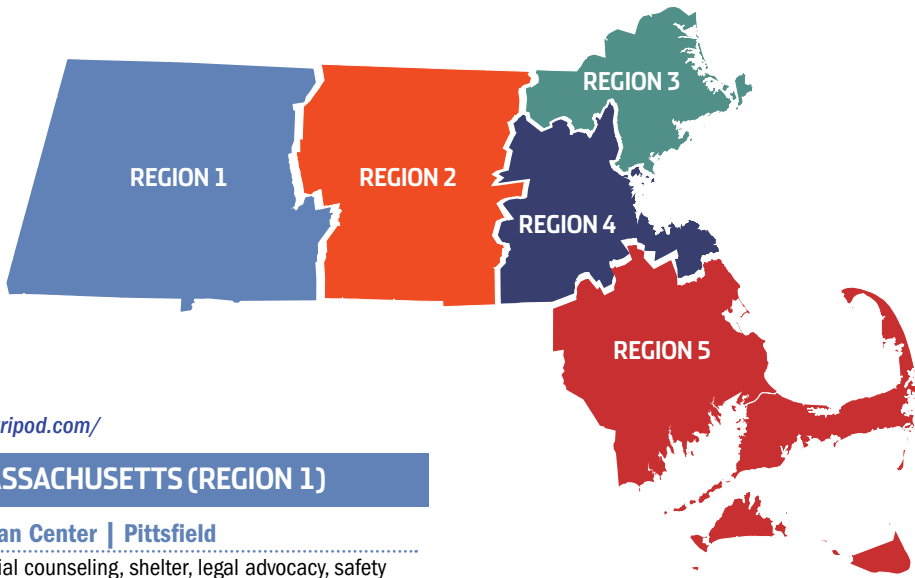
## **Seaconke Wampanoag Tribe**

Chief: George Jennings



## V. SERVICE AGENCIES BY REGION

The range of services agencies listed by region below provide support and services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.



<http://kalel1461.tripod.com/>

### WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS (REGION 1)

#### Elizabeth Freeman Center | Pittsfield

Free and confidential counseling, shelter, legal advocacy, safety planning, teen dating violence prevention education, a 24/7 hotline, and much more.

(866) 401-2425 (Hotline/Office)

#### Safe Passage | Northampton

24/7 hour hotline, every day of the year. Hotline counselors help people in crisis, as well as those seeking support or information about domestic violence.

413-586-5066

#### N.E.L.C.W.I.T. | Greenfield

Counseling and advocacy, crisis intervention, economic empowerment and prevention and outreach

413-772-0806 (Hotline/Office)

#### Womanshelter/Companeras | Holyoke

Emergency shelter, Individual Counseling, Support groups in English/Spanish, Medical, financial & housing advocacy  
In-court legal advocates

24-Hour hotline 1-877-536-1628; 413-536-1628

#### YWCA – Arch | Springfield

Advocacy, Counseling. Referral, food, some clothing.

1-800-796-8711 (Hotline/Office)

#### YWCA - New Beginnings | Westfield

Residential Programs Survivor Outreach and Advocacy Services  
Parent and Youth Support Programs Workforce Development.

1-800-479-6245 (Hotline/Office)

### CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS (REGION 2)

#### Daybreak YWCA | Worcester

Court advocacy, counseling, support groups, emergency shelter.

508-755-9030

#### Voices Against Violence | Framingham

Information and support regarding all aspects of domestic & sexual violence or stalking are available for victims, survivors. All of the services provided by Voices Against Violence are free

of charge. 24 Hour Hotline (536-1659 or 1-877-221-6176), Court Advocacy, Police Accompaniment. Advocacy when making a report or participating in an interview with law enforcement, and assistance in understanding the criminal justice system.

1-800-593-1125 (Hotline)

### NORTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS (REGION 3)

#### Alternative House | Lowell

Permanent housing searches, GED training, specialized job certification programs, and additional time to save money and gain life/employment skills to enter the job market and live independently of government assistance.

978-454-1436 (Hotline)/Office

#### Help for Abused Women and their Children (HAWC) Salem/Lynn

Offers a wide variety of comprehensive services to the community. Whether a client is interested in leaving an unhealthy relationship, or is simply seeking more information about domestic violence and what it means, our programs are designed to meet the individual needs of each person who is looking for help.

Salem: 978-744-6841 (Hotline); 978-744-8552 (Office)  
Lynn: 781-592-9900 (Office)

#### Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center | Newburyport

24-Hour Crisis Hotline, Crisis Intervention Counseling, Advocacy & Support, Support Group, Wellness Workshops

Childcare, Rapid Response Teams, District Court Advocacy, Transitional Housing, Legal Information and Assistance Legal Representation & Consultation

978-388-1888 (Hotline);  
978-834-9710 (Office)

#### YWCA Haverhill | Haverhill/ Lawrence

Programs and services for clients and family members who are or have been a victim of domestic violence.

978-373-4041 (Office)

## METRO BOSTON (REGION 4)

### **Casa Myrna Vazquez | Boston**

Services for survivors of domestic violence.

617-521-0100 (Office); 1-877-785-2020 (Hotline)

### **Elizabeth Stone House | Jamaica Plain**

Emergency housing, counseling and support groups.

617-427-9801 (Office)

### **FINEX House | Jamaica Plain**

Provides attorneys to go to court with battered women, housing advocacy, help with moving, crisis intervention, emergency response, trauma support and counseling.

617-288-1054 (Hotline); 617-436-2002 (Office)

### **HarborCov | Chelsea**

Support and services for survivors of domestic violence.

617-884-9909 (Hotline); 617-884-9799 (Office)

### **REACH | Waltham**

Support and services for survivors of domestic violence.

1-800-899-4000 (Hotline); 781.891.0724 (Office)

### **Renewal House | Boston**

- » 24-hour confidential hotline
- » Emergency shelter for up to three months
- » Safety planning
- » In-house support groups (Self-Esteem and Wellness, Domestic Violence Support Group and Parenting Group)
- » Bilingual Spanish/English advocacy
- » English as a Learning Language (ELL) classes
- » Health care advocacy
- » Pastoral counseling

617-566-6881 (Hotline); 617-277-4194 (Office)

### **RESPOND | Somerville**

Community services/supports and emergency shelter.

617-623-5900 (Hotline)/Office

### **Transition House | Cambridge**

Works on breaking the cycle of violence is an ongoing priority and where anyone affected by domestic violence can live in safety, access housing, resources and the holistic support they need to thrive.

617-661-7203 (Hotline) | 617-868-1650 (Office)



## SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS (REGION 5)

### **A Safe Place | Nantucket**

Services for sexual assault and domestic violence survivors.

508-228-2111 (Hotline); 508-228-0561 (Office)

### **Brockton Family and Community Resources | Brockton**

- » 24-Hour Crisis Line
- » Safety Planning, Assistance with Shelter & Safe Home Placement
- » Case Management & Referrals
- » Address Confidentiality Program
- » Individual & Group Support

508-583-6498 (Office); 800-281-6498 (Hotline)

### **Cape Cod Center for Women | North Falmouth**

Emergency shelter and other services and support for survivors.

774-763-2222 (Office); 877-785-2020 (Hotline)

### **DOVE | South Shore**

Emergency shelter and advocacy services.

617-471-1234 (Hotline); 617-770-4065

### **Independence House | Hyannis**

Emergency shelter, legal advocacy, and counseling.

1-800-439-6507 (Hotline) (Office)

### **New Hope | Attleboro**

Services for sexual assault and domestic violence survivors.

1-800-323-4673 (Hotline); (508) 226-4015 (Office)

### **Our Sister's Place/Women's Center | Fall River/New Bedford**

Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing, Relocation Assistance, 24/7 Crisis Line, Weekly support groups for victims/at risk of domestic abuse, Individual advocacy and support for victims/at risk of domestic abuse, Legal advocacy through assistance in filing restraining orders and for court appearances.

508-996-3343 (Office); 508-999-6636 (Hotline)

### **South Shore Women's Center | Plymouth**

Support and services for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.

(508) 746-2664 (Hotline)

### **Stanley Street Women's Center (SSTR) | Fall River**

Provides a wide range of mental health and substance abuse treatment services to people throughout the communities of Southeastern Massachusetts. All of our substance abuse and mental health programs are licensed by the Mass. Dept. of Public Health and the Dept. of Mental Health.

508-675-0087 (Office)

### **New Day | Brockton**

Advocacy, group counseling, emergency shelter.

508-588-2041 (Hotline) · 508-894-2869 (Office)

### **Wampanoag Women's Center | Aquinnah**

A Harbor for the Women of the First Light

Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah

Domestic Violence Coordinator: Jennifer Randolph

508-955-9023 (Office) · 508-955-9164 (24 Hour Hotline)

### **Women's Support Services | Vineyard Haven**

Legal, social and medical advocacy, family advocacy and emergency shelter.

508-696-7233 (Hotline) · 508-693-7900 (Office)

# NAICOB Programs and Services

## Circles of Support Women's Program

Circles of Support is a women's support group for those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault initially established through a partnership with the University of Massachusetts Boston. This program provides a safe place for women to heal in culturally relevant ways. Beginning in 2016, funding from the U.S. Department of Justice has allowed NAICOB to create a resource guide for Indigenous women who are experiencing or have experienced domestic violence and/or sexual assault. No tribal documentation is required to participate in Circles of Support.

For more information on Circles of Support and meeting times, please contact Sonya Isaac-Surette at [sisaac@naicob.org](mailto:sisaac@naicob.org)

## Department of Employment & Training

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funded by the U.S. Department of Labor provides occupational training, educational support, GED assistance, resumé writing and interview training, work experience program, college and higher education counseling, and job search assistance for eligible American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian/First Nation individuals eligible under the Jay Treaty who are 14 years of age and older. To be eligible for the Employment and Training Department services, you must be able to provide the following:

- » Picture ID (passport, tribal ID, state ID, high school or college ID)
- » Proof of residency within service area
- » Tribal Card or proof of enrolled family member with your birth certificate
- » Native Hawaiians provide a birth certificate
- » Income Verification
- » Selective Service Registration if applicable

(617) 277-4804

## NAICOB Resource Guide: Supporting Caregiver Grandparents Program

Through the generous support of the Administration for Native Americans, NAICOB produced a resources guide for elders who are caretakers. The goal of the NAICOB Supporting Caregiver Grandparents program was to provide on-going sustainable support services and resources to grandparents in the Greater Boston Native American community who are the sole caregivers of their grandchildren. The program focused on empowering grand-parenting elders to meet the housing, education, healthcare, legal and cultural needs of their grandchildren while strengthening intergenerational ties.

The North American Indian Center of Boston has provided cultural, social, educational, and professional related services to the New England Native American community for over 45 years. As the oldest urban Indian center in Massachusetts, its mission is to empower the Native American community with the goal of improving the quality of life of Indigenous peoples.

NAICOB was originally established in 1969 as the Boston Indian Council when it served as the hub of social and civil rights activities for the American Indian community in Boston. In 1991, the center was established as the North American Indian Center of Boston, a non-profit organization. Since then, the center has served the Native community, by providing a place for community, health services, wellness groups, job training, programs for children and elders, and much more.

Circles of Support Women's Program

The North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICOB)

105 South Huntington Avenue

Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

617-323-0343 | [www.NAICOB.org](http://www.NAICOB.org)

Many thanks to the NAICOB community members who donated their artwork to appear in these pages. The paintings were part of NAICOB's Door Project, a fundraising and educational effort that engaged community members in creating images on doors related to violence against Native women and the doorway to healing.

Image credits:

1. Bree Herne (Mohawk)
2. Olivia Maliszewski (Rappahannock)
3. Sienna and Elle Barney (Navajo)
4. Geraldine Barney (Navajo)
5. Circles of Support participants
6. Gloria Colon (Mi'kmaw)

For an online version of this guide: [www.naicobfamilyresources.org](http://www.naicobfamilyresources.org)

