



Definition of Domestic Violence and the 30 Day Eligibility Rule for City-Funded Family Shelters and Compass Connecting Point

Domestic violence includes one or more of the following components:

- Attempting to cause or causing physical harm to another family member or household member; (this includes, but is not limited to: pushing, shoving, grabbing, punching, slapping, kicking, biting, pulling hair, threatening with a weapon, attacking with a weapon, leaving visible marks or causing bleeding).
- Making explicit threats to physically harm a family or household member (“I’m going to kill you”, “If I can’t have you nobody will”, “When I’m done with you, nobody will recognize you”, “No one will ever find your body”);
- Forcing a family or household member to involuntarily engage in sexual activity through violence, threats of violence or duress.

The eligibility requirements for Family Shelters and Compass Connecting Point state:

Families are not eligible to reside in the family shelters if they have had an incident of domestic violence in the last 30 days, are fleeing gang activity or are in an imminently dangerous situation that might cause harm to themselves and/or shelter families and staff.

For purposes of eligibility in family shelters, domestic violence is:

Between people in **intimate relationships**, such as current or former: husbands and wives; boyfriends and girlfriends; gay and lesbian partners; sex workers and their pimps/clients; as well as victims of stalking or trafficking.

For purposes of eligibility in family shelters, domestic violence between non-intimate family members is handled as follows:

Family members are still eligible for family shelter unless there is self-reported imminent danger. Violence between adult non-intimate family members must be assessed for imminent danger before shelter placement.

The following abuse categories require mandatory reporting:

- Physical and emotional abuse or neglect of a minor child must be reported to Child Protective Services.
- Physical abuse by a minor child toward a family member should be reported to the San Francisco Police Department. The SFPD would decide whether to contact CPS.
- Physical, emotional, financial abuse or neglect of an elderly person by a family member or caretaker, must be reported to Adult Protective Services.

Note: Sources for the definition are derived from the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' *Model Code on Domestic and Family Violence*, the Riley Center of San Francisco website and the Hamilton Family Center draft DV forms.

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