

Direct Services Program

Day One's Direct Services Program provides early intervention services to New York City youth aged 24 and younger, assisting them to end abusive relationships. By advocating for and supporting young clients, Day One partners with youth as they build safe and healthy futures. Our team of legal and social service providers offers free and confidential counseling, case management, legal advice and representation in English and Spanish.

Day One provides the following social services:

- Individual counseling and group counseling sessions
- Case management services for clients in need of housing, shelter, public benefits or advocacy in an educational setting
- Accompaniment to police precincts to file criminal reports

Day One provides the following legal services:

- Legal representation in the New York City Family Courts and Integrated Domestic Violence Courts, helping youth obtain orders of protection, paternity, custody, visitation and child support
- Information and advocacy for survivors of dating abuse and domestic violence in Criminal Court
- Assistance filing domestic violence-based immigration petitions, such as VAWA Self-Petitions, U Visas and Battered Spouse Waivers
- Advocacy in schools to maintain a safe learning environment
- Advocacy with an employer about enforcement of an order of protection

Young people experiencing dating abuse face complicated systems and difficult decisions. Frequently, they have experienced traumatizing incidents that affect their emotional well-being. Day One's program is built on an empowerment model that helps clients reinforce their independence and strength. Social workers and attorneys inform clients of their options and provide guidance and support so that they can decide what course of action is best for them.

- Women aged 16-24 experience the highest per capita rate of intimate partner violence.
- A recent survey of young women between 15 and 24 in New York City found a high prevalence of dating relationships characterized by physical violence (22%), coercion (67%) and forced sexual experiences (37%).

In addition to the services described above, Day One provides leadership trainings and law-based preventive workshops on teen dating abuse for youth, caregivers and professionals.