

HAS YOUR HEAD BEEN HURT?

Sometimes when people are abused their head gets hurt. This can cause injuries that aren't always obvious. Please answer the questions and talk with an advocate so we can help make services work best for you. We know how difficult it is to share this information – thank you for your courage. We are here to support you.



Has anyone ever put their hands around your neck, put something over your mouth, or done anything else that made you feel **choked**, strangled, suffocated, or like you couldn't breathe?

YES NO



Have you ever been **hit or hurt** in the **head**, neck or face?

YFS NO



After you were hurt, did you ever feel dazed, confused, dizzy or in a fog, see stars, spots, or have trouble seeing clearly, couldn't remember what happened, or blacked out? (Doctors call this altered consciousness.)

YES NO

Has any of the above happened recently? If yes, how long ago? _

YES NO

Has any of the above happened more than once?

YES NO



Are you currently having **trouble** with anything below? Circle all that apply:

PHYSICAL	EMOTIONS	THINKING
Headaches	Worries and fears	Remembering things
Sleeping problems	Panic attacks	Understanding things
Sensitive to light or noise	Flashbacks	Paying attention or focusing
Vision problems	Sadness	Following directions
Dizziness	Depression	Getting things started
Balance problems	Hopelessness	Figuring out what to do next
Fatigue	Anger or rage	Organizing things
Seizures	Irritable	Controlling emotions or reactions

Are you having thoughts of suicide?

NO YES

Are you struggling with alcohol or drugs?

YES NO

Are you having any other health issues you want to share with us?

YES NO



Have you or anyone else (like a friend or family member) ever thought you should see a doctor or a counselor, go to the emergency room, or get help YES for anything above?

NO



WE CAN HELP!

RESOURCES FOR HEALING



An advocate can give you a copy of JUST BREATHE and INVISIBLE INJURIES.

JUST BREATHE has self-care ideas for better sleep, calming your body, managing anger, and more!

INVISIBLE INJURIES has more information about what happens when your head has been hurt and coping with common physical, emotional, and thinking challenges.

DAILY LIFE

We want to make our services work for you. Here are some ways we might be able to help. We can also come up with other ideas.

PHYSICAL EMOTIONS THINKING

Provide ear plugs and/or sleep masks to help with sleep

Use sunglasses or adjust light as needed for light sensitivity

For balance and dizziness challenges, assignment to a ground floor room if possible and help decluttering Create a CARE plan with an advocate and use other resources in JUST **BREATHE**

Extra check-ins

Identifying and limiting triggers

Help identify supports and coping stratėgies

Creating checklists or calendars

Shorter and more frequent meetings with staff; written summaries shared if helpful

Creating a routine

Making appointments for time of day that you are most alert and clear

HEAD TRAUMA INFORMATION

Referral to:			
On	(date), I:	I have a prior history of:	

- ☐ Was choked or strangled
- Was hit on the head
- □ Experienced altered consciousness

What I noticed immediately after:

- Being choked or strangled
- ☐ Being hit on the head
- ☐ Experiencing altered consciousness

Approximate Number of Times:

Most Recent Time (date):

I am most concerned about:

ADVOCATE GUIDE FOR CHATS



CHATS helps you CONNECT with survivors, IDENTIFY and PROVIDE INFORMATION on head injuries, and ACCOMMODATE people's needs.

FIRST

Thank Them. Offer a Head Injury Card.

Ask? Would you like to share more about what happened?

Validate Feelings and Experiences.

Educate: There are things you can do on your own and things we can do together to help.



• IF RECENT

1. Identify possible dangerous symptoms.

- Review and circle warning signs on card
- Encourage medical follow-up if needed
- 2. Monitor symptoms for several days.
- Identify safe place and person to stay with
- If in shelter, schedule regular check-ins
- 3. Offer Invisible Injuries and highlight:
- Page 5 Track Symptoms
- Page 11 Tips for Anyone

• IF REPEATED

Ask? What have you noticed that is different since your head was hurt?

Educate: Repeated head trauma can cause more problems.



IDENTIFY ACCOMMODATIONS



Ask? Can you share more with me about the troubles you circled? Ask? What is currently bothering you the most?

Work together: Identify accommodations and implement them. **Educate:** Review Invisible Injuries pages 8-10, if applicable.





Suicide. Additional suicide screening. Follow agency protocol. If indicated, connect to clinical care, do not leave person alone. Discuss rest of the topics later.

Substance use. Explain agency policies, discuss harm reduction offer referral for substance use services.

Health issues. Ask for more information. (Consider injuries, medication, allergies, etc.)

POSSIBLE REFERRAL

Determine need for medical or mental health referral.

Discuss sharing information about history of head trauma with provider.

Fill out applicable boxes under Head Trauma Information on the back of CHATS.

For More | www.odvn.org Information, | 614-781-9651 Contact | rachelr@odvn.org

HAS YOUR HEAD BEEN HURT?

It can affect your life in many different ways. Rest and time help, but you might need additional care, especially if your head has been hurt more than once.

Has your partner.

- Hit you in the face, neck or head?
 - Tried to choke or strangle you?
- Made you fall and you hit your head?
- Shaken you severely?
- Done something that made you had trouble breathing or black out?

Are you having physical problems?

- Headaches?
- Fatigue, feeling dazed, confused, or in a fog?
- Changes in your vision?
- Ringing in your ears?
- Dizziness or balance problems?
- Seizures?
- Pain in your head, face or neck?

Are you having trouble.

- Remembering things?
- Paying attention or focusing?
- Getting things done?
- Organizing things?
- Following conversations?
- Feeling motivated?
- Controlling your emotions?



Talk to a domestic violence advocate or go to www.odvn.org



AFTER A HEAD INJURY



See a doctor and tell them you have been hurt in head or choked, especially if you have ANY symptoms that worry you or someone else.



Stay with someone safe for 24 to 72 hours to watch for the red flags listed below.

Danger Signs/Red Flags These don't happen often, but if they do it's really important to see a doctor.

- A headache that does not go away or gets worse
- 🗸 One pupil (eye) is larger than the other
- No memory of what happened
- Extreme drowsiness or having a hard time waking up
- Slurred speech, vision problems, numbness, or decreased coordination
- Repeated vomiting or nausea, or shaking or twitching
- Unusual behavior, confusion, restlessness or agitation
- You peed or pooped unintentionally
- You were knocked out, passed out, or lost consciousness

If you were choke or strangled:

It can be a terrifying experience and very dangerous. Even if you don't have any marks, serious injuries can happen under the skin, get worse over the next few days, cause long term damage and even death.

SEE YOUR DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY IF:

- YOU HAVE A HARD TIME BREATHING
- IT'S PAINFUL TO BREATHE
- YOU HAVE TROUBLE SWALLOWING
- YOUR VOICE CHANGES
- YOU HAVE PROBLEMS SPEAKING

We care about your safety.

People who put their hands around their partner's neck are very dangerous and are much more likely to seriously harm or kill you. Talk to a domestic violence advocate about safety planning.

DV NUMBER:



INVISIBLE INJURIES When Your Head is Hurt While Experiencing Domestic Violence

Your brain can be hurt even if you don't have any swelling or obvious marks, scratches, or bruises. Your brain plays a role in everything your body does. So when it gets hurt, it can change everything.

Your brain could have been hurt if your partner ever...

- Choked or strangled you, or did something that made it hard to breathe
- Hit, hurt, punched, or kicked you in the head, neck, or face
- Made you fall and you banged your head, or shook you really hard

If you ever hit your head—like in an accident, tripping, falling—that could have hurt your brain, too.

This violence can cause a head injury, which happens when there is a change in how your

brain normally works. Your brain can be affected for a few minutes, hours, or days... but sometimes it's weeks, months, years, or forever.

You could have problems right away or you might feel okay now, but have problems later.

You Are NOT ALONE

Strangulation causes a head injury and hurts your brain!
Strangulation is dangerous and deadly...

...even if you have no marks—most people don't.
...even if you don't pass out.
...even if you don't feel like it's a big deal—it is.



You can be unconscious in seconds, and die within minutes.

It's not over when it's over.

People often thought they were going to die. It's a traumatic experience that affects our body, thoughts, and feelings.

It can impact your life for a long time.

These injuries can make it more difficult for your brain to do many things it needs to for you to live your daily life, get and keep a job, and be healthy.

If you have been strangled, your partner is over 7 times more likely to kill you.

What might I notice that could be a sign my brain was hurt?

- ◆ Felt funny or something seemed different or off
- Don't remember what happened
- ◆ Felt dazed and confused, like your head was in a fog, or worried you were losing it
- Couldn't see right or saw stars and spots
- Felt dizzy or clumsy or had problems with balance
- ◆ Had headaches, pain in your face and neck, or bruising or swelling
- Felt agitated or restless and couldn't calm down
- Had problems with sleeping—too much, too little, or bad sleep These symptoms generally get better with time, though not always.

What should I do if I was recently hurt in the head?

- ◆ Stay with someone safe for at least 3 days to watch for signs you need medical care.
- ◆ See a doctor if you can, especially if you or someone else is worried about something.

Get Medical Care if You Have:

- A headache that does not go away or gets worse
- One pupil (eye) is larger than the other
- Trouble remembering what happened
- Extreme drowsiness or difficulty waking up
- Slurred speech, numbness, or decreased coordination
- Repeated vomiting or nausea
- Been shaking or twitching
- Unusual behavior, confusion, restlessness, or agitation
- Peed or pooped unintentionally
- Lost consciousness, passed out, or were knocked out

If it's **hard** or painful to **breathe**, swallow, or talk.



Common Troubles after a Head Injury



Physical

Headaches **Sleeping Problems** Sensitive to light or noise Dizziness **Balance Problems Fatigue** Seizures

Emotions

Worries and fears Panic attacks Flashbacks Sadness Depression **Hopelessness** Anger or rage Irritable

Thinking

Remembering things Understanding things Paying attention or focus Following directions Getting things started Figuring out what to do next Organizing things Controlling your emotions or reactions

What are some strategies for dealing with common problems after a head injury?



Problem: Nightmares and flashbacks, feeling jumpy, anxious or withdrawn, racing heart. These are signs you have survived something traumatic.

- Focusing on your breath and breathing deeply
- Distract yourself
- ◆ Talk to others for support
- ◆ Learn more about trauma



Problem: Memory.

- Write down events in a calendar
- Record things in an app on your phone
- ◆ Always put items (phone, keys, wallet) in the same place
- Set up alerts or reminders in your phone
- Request additional reminders for meetings or appointments



Problem: Light or noise bothers you, or you have problems seeing right.

- Use earplugs, headphones, adjust lighting, wear sunglasses
- Get eyes checked
- ◆ Increase text size on devices



Problem: Communicating and understanding—when talking, reading, or writing.

- Ask people to talk slowly or explain information
- Re-read/review information a few times
- Ask for help when you need it



Problem: Planning, organizing or problem solving, making decisions, or getting things started.

- Break things down (or ask for help in breaking things down) into smaller steps
- Write down different ideas to solve problems and discuss them with someone you trust
- ◆ Use a timer to help you get started and work for a set period of time
- Take a break when you get frustrated and come back later



Problem: Concentrating and paying attention.

- ◆ Do one thing at a time
- Do things for a shorter period of time
- Have shorter meetings, activities and conversations
- Work where it's quiet and distraction-free

Can brain injuries heal?

You are amazing, and so is your brain. Your brain can heal, and brain injuries can get better, especially when they get identified early. There are many different ways professionals treat brain injuries, but who will help you depends on how you were affected by your head injury. If your vision is off, you will see someone different than if you are having seizures, or if you are having thinking problems such as paying attention or focusing.



What helps my brain get better after it was hurt?

Get good sleep

Don't do anything that makes you feel worse

Don't use screens for a few days, the light and stimulation can hurt your brain

Take it easy and rest your brain and body

Plan ahead

Expect things to take extra time

Take breaks

Do important things in the morning, because your brain is fresher

Try to avoid your head being hurt again

You Are STRONG

To talk with someone about domestic violence:

Call the National Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 to find your nearest program.

Your local program:

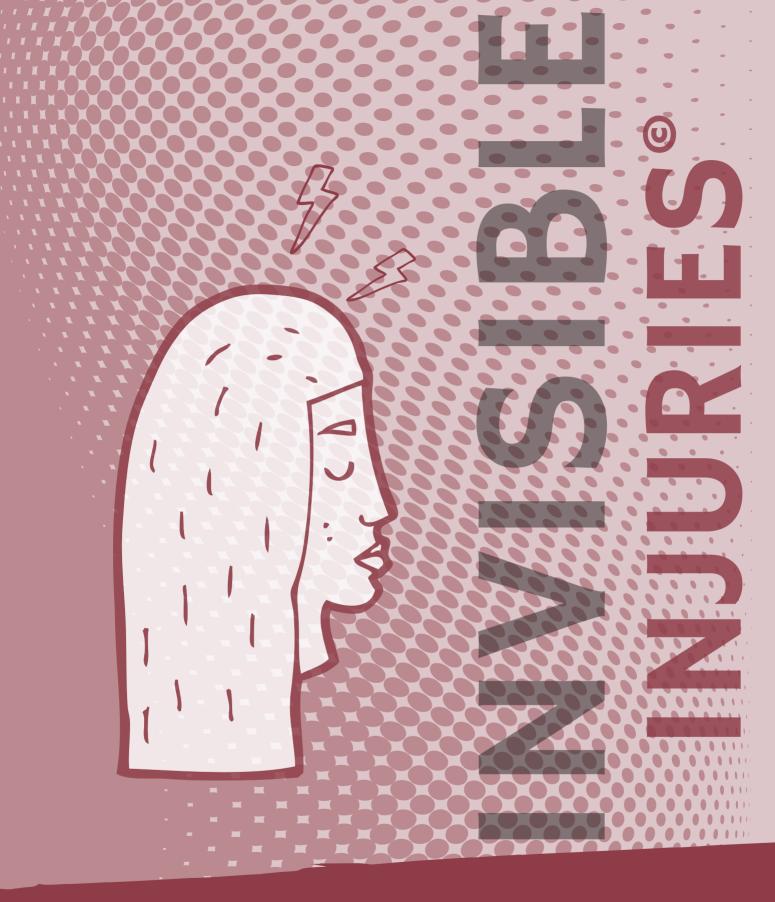
To learn more about head injuries caused by domestic violence go to

www.odvn.org/brain-injury









When Your Head is Hurt

To talk to someone please contact



Developed by





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WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOUR **HEAD GETS HURT**



What is a head injury?

A head injury is when there is a change to how your brain normally works due to a bump, blow, or jolt to your head. Or when your brain does not get the oxygen or blood it needs, like when someone chokes you or

does something that messes

the change is temporary and

sometimes it lasts longer.

with your breathing. Sometimes

You don't have to have any bruises, swelling or obvious signs of damage outside your body for your brain to be hurt!



Just like broken arms, brains need time to heal. It might feel like your brain isn't working right or that it's hard doing things you used to. This happens to all brains that have been hurt.



Sometimes the problems get better or go away. Even if they don't, you can do things that can help.

WHAT CAUSES A HEAD INJURY

How might I get a head injury?

An abuser most often targets a person's head, neck or face, more than anywhere else on the body.

YOU MIGHT GET A HEAD INJURY IF YOUR PARTNER:

- Hits you in the face or the head
- Puts their hands around your neck or tries to choke or strangle you
- Makes you fall and you hit your head
- Shakes you severely
- Has done something that made you pass out, lose consciousness, or have trouble breathing. Did your partner sit on your chest, suffocate you, or put their hand over your mouth so you can't breathe or put you in a choke hold?

You can also get a head injury from things that have nothing to do with domestic violence. Maybe you hurt your head when you were a kid. You could fall and trip, be in a car accident, or in another type of accident or situation where your head was hurt and your brain doesn't work normally.



An abuser most often targets a person's head, neck or face, more than anywhere else on the body.

RIGHT AFTER YOUR HEAD HAS BEEN HURT

After a head injury, what can I expect?

After a head injury it is common to:

- Ask yourself, "Where am I? What just happened?" or not be able to remember recent events.
- Black out (also called losing consciousness). You might not know if it happened,. A clue might be if suddenly are in a different place or position than you last remember being in.
- Feel like you are "losing it", feel dazed and confused, or as if your head is in a fog.
- Have changes in your vision, see stars or have ringing in your ears.
- Feel dizzy or have problems with balance.
- Have headaches, pain in your face or neck, or bruising or swelling.

Do I need to go to the doctor?

These symptoms generally get better with time, but not always.

- It's always a good idea to see a doctor and tell them you have been hurt in the head or strangled or choked, especially if ANYTHING worries you or someone else.
- Stay with someone safe for 24-72 hours to watch for the warning signs on the next page. If any of these happen, get medical care immediately.



















WARNING SIGNS

- A headache that does not go away or gets worse
- One pupil (eye) is larger than the other
- You can't remember what happened
- Extreme drowsiness or difficulty waking up
- Slurred speech, numbness, or decreased coordination
- Repeated vomiting or nausea
- Shaking or twitching
- Unusual behavior, confusion, restlessness, or agitation
- You peed or pooped unintentionally
- Loss of consciousness, passed out or knocked out

IF YOU HAVE BEEN CHOKED OR STRANGLED:

- It becomes more difficult or painful to breathe
- You have trouble swallowing
- Your voice changes
- You have problems speaking





COMMON SIGNS OF A HEAD INJURY

Sensi or no Dizzir	ing problems tive to light ise ness ce problems	EMOTIO Worries Panic as Flashba Sadness Depress Hopeles Anger o	and fears ttacks cks ion ssness r Rage	☐ Understa☐ Paying a☐ Followin☐ Getting t☐ Figuring☐ Organizi	ering things Inding things Ittention or focusing Ig directions Ithings started Out what to do next Ing things Ing your emotions or
sympt	this out will he oms aren't get	Ip you see i ting better and telling	within 2 or 3	s getting be weeks, cons	tter or not. If sider sharing this n hurt in your head. Notes
	NOTE: If brain has h	your head	gets hurt a an mean thi	gain before	e byour s might be

more severe, last longer, or become permanent.

STRANGULATION IS A HEAD INJURY & HURTS YOUR BRAIN.

Strangulation is dangerous and deadly.

- Even if you have no marks--most people don't.
- Even if you didn't pass out.
- Even if you don't feel like it's a big deal, it is.



YOU CAN BE UNCONSCIOUS IN SECONDS AND CAN DIE WITHIN MINUTES--OR IT CAN KILL YOU DAYS AFTER IT HAPPENED.



Even with no marks.

You can't see the most dangerous injuries because they happen under the skin. They can get worse over a few days and can cause permanent brain damage and even death.

It usually stays with you after its over

Many victims have been choked over and over and they thought they were going to die when it happened. This trauma can affect our body, our thoughts, and feelings. Sometimes these changes go away and sometimes they stay for a while.



IT HAPPENS A LOT TO VICTIMS & CAN BE TERRIFYING AND PAINFUL.

7AVE BEEN STRAN

IF YOU HAVE BEEN STRANGLED, YOUR PARTNER IS 7 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO KILL YOU.

Most people who have been strangled and are murdered are killed by guns.

If you've been choked by your partner and they can get a gun, this is even more dangerous and could be lethal. Reach out to your domestic violence program and talk with an advocate about safety planning.

IMPORTANT SAFETY PLANNING

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

IN IMMEDIATE DANGER: CML 9-1-1	DV PROGRAM #:
TRUSTED PERSON #:	MY DOCTOR #:
where I feel safest when I'm at home:	where I feel safest outside my home:
	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
some things I can do to protect my head:	what I can do to keep my kids safe:
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Notes:

COMMON PROBLEMS AFTER A HEAD INJURY

what you can do to help!

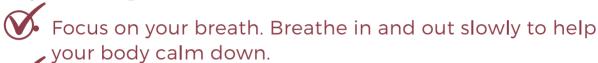


PROBLEM:

Nightmares or flashbacks; feeling jumpy, anxious or withdrawn; tense muscles or a racing heart.

These are responses to really scary things (called trauma responses) and most domestic violence survivors experience them. They are NORMAL reactions and usually resolve themselves over time as you begin to feel safe again.

ways to help:



Distract yourself by doing something you enjoy, like listening to music, going for a walk or doing an art project.

Talk to others for support, like a trusted friend or family member, a domestic violence advocate, or a therapist or other professional.

Learn more about common reactions to trauma.



PROBLEM:

You have trouble remembering things.

ways to help:

Use a memory/organizational book or an app on your phone to keep important information including to do lists, calendars and phone directories. Look for the monthly and daily planner later on in this booklet.

Set a central location where you always put important things, such as keys, glasses, or your wallet.

Come up with strategies like developing associations (always take medication with breakfast), following a routine, and changing your environment so that you rely less on your memory.

COMMON PROBLEMS AFTER A HEAD INJURY





PROBLEM:

Noise, light, or sound bothers you or your vision is off.

ways to help:



Use earplugs, headphones, sunglasses, or adjust lighting if necessary.



If vision problems don't get better, consider going to an eye doctor to get an exam and see if you need new glasses.



Make text bigger on your computer or your phone so you can see better.



PROBLEM:

You have a hard time understanding information.

Often information doesn't seem to make sense and it feels like everything is slow. Your brain has to work harder to understand the same information because it is injured.

ways to help:



Ask people to talk more slowly.



Re-read or review information multiple times.



Have shorter meetings, activities or conversations with people.

COMMON PROBLEMS AFTER A HEAD INJURY

& what you can do to help!



PROBLEM:

Difficulty planning, organizing, or problem solving. It's hard to start new things or finish things.

ways to help:



When problem solving, write down several ideas for solving the problem, and talk them over with someone you trust.



Work on breaking down large tasks into smaller steps.
Use a timer or an alarm to help yourself get started and



work on something for a set period of time. Take a break when you get frustrated and go do



something else. Come back to it later.



PROBLEM:

It's hard to concentrate or pay attention.

ways to help:

- Do only one thing at a time.
- Take frequent breaks when trying to do something.
- Work where it is quiet and you don't have too many distractions.

tips for anyone with a head injury

GET GOOD SLEEP

Try to get good sleep and re-establish sleep patterns. Identify what helps you sleep (a dark room or sleeping with a fan).

MOVE YOUR BODY

Get exercise daily. Exercise improves your ability to think.

LESS SCREEN TIME

Avoid screens (television, tablets, phones) for a few days after the injury.

TAKE IT EASY

Try to stay away from things that are really demanding for a while. You are more vulnerable to pain, stress and fatigue after a head injury.

PLAN AHEAD

Plan ahead and schedule additional time to do things so you feel less frustrated.

TAKE BREAKS

Take frequent breaks and rest throughout the day.

MORNING BRAIN POWER

If you are going to do something stressful or hard, do it in the morning, when your brain is more rested.

START SLOW

Ease back into activities, jobs, or life obligations. Begin doing things for a short period of time. Gradually do things for a longer time so your brain and your body can adjust.

STAY SAFE

Problems last longer when your brain is hurt again and again without time for it to heal. Try to protect your head whenever possible.



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MONTH:	
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MONTHLY PLANNER

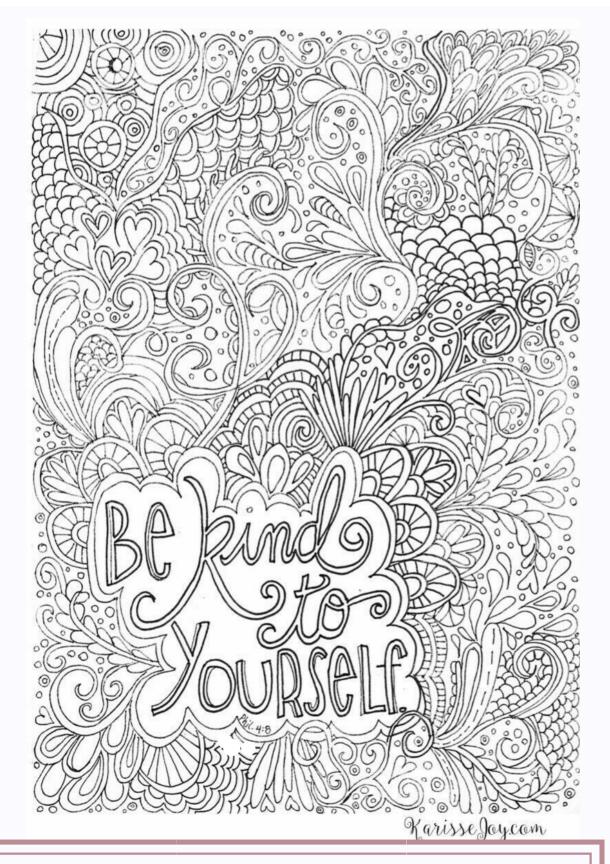
MONTHLY GOALS	DATES TO REMEMBER
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<u> </u>	
NOTES	I M P O R T A N T C O N T A C T S
	Doctor:
	Advocate:
	Crisis hoHine:

My Daily Planner

DATE	DAY
TO DO:	DON'T FORGET:

SELF-CARE GOALS

go to bed early, take walk, less screen-time, do art



My domestic violence program's:

Name:	· ·
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phone #:....



TO FIND YOUR NEAREST PROGRAM PLEASE CALL THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE AT I-800-799-7233