

# The Enterprise

## FALMOUTH

### Confronting Domestic Violence - Letter

Jan 13, 2023

The January 6 Enterprise editorial suggests that not disclosing the names of domestic and sexual violence perpetrators in the media may endanger others in our community. On the other hand, disclosing the names of perpetrators in police reports may endanger and stigmatize victims and their families. Raising this issue does have one beneficial effect: to put the public on notice that domestic and sexual violence are serious problems in Falmouth and throughout Cape Cod that must be addressed.

Independence House, Inc., the Cape's leading nonprofit that serves domestic and sexual violence victims and their families, helps as many as 9,000 individuals annually on Cape Cod alone. The domestic and sexual violence crisis does not discriminate socially or economically, but impacts all economic, racial, ethnic and gender-based groups, and Falmouth is no exception. The problem is exacerbated by poverty, drug and alcohol addiction, lack of access to living wage jobs and affordable housing, and other pressures affecting family well-being.

Most importantly, increasing awareness of the scourge of domestic and sexual violence, and providing intervention, education and therapy services are essential to eradicating this crisis. Friends, family members and colleagues need to become more familiar with the warning signs of domestic violence and what to do to intervene in such situations. And, our community must invest much more in social services, so local residents can access the help they need. Independence House has an office on Main Street in Falmouth, where services can be accessed. Downloadable brochures are available on the Independence House website at [www.independencehouse.org](http://www.independencehouse.org), on topics including Warning Signs of Abuse, Reasons People Don't Leave, Elder Abuse and Teen Violence.

Sandra Faiman-Silva  
Davis Road  
Falmouth