

# Domestic Violence Programs Help

Call the agency in your area that is identified on the front of this booklet. (If agency is not available, you may call the nearest law enforcement agency for immediate assistance). An advocate from the program may provide a number of the following:

- Safe Shelter
- Legal information
- Help in filling out protective order paperwork
- Books, and videos on domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse
- Crisis line
- Transportation to shelter
- Access to other resources like:
  - Housing
  - Social Services
  - Education
  - Counseling
  - Alcohol and drug treatment
  - Child care
  - Employment
  - Medical treatment
- Someone to go with you to court or the hospital
- Assistance filing for Violent Crimes Compensation
- Clothing and household items

## How You Can Help To Protect Yourself

- Find out about shelters and safe houses BEFORE you need them.
- Have photos taken of your injuries; you can use them later.



- Keep money, important papers, clothes, car keys and other essential items in a safe place
- Teach your children to use the telephone to contact the police in case of an emergency.
- Meet with an advocate and make a safety plan. Practice this plan with your children.

### It Is NOT Your Fault!

- You did NOT cause the abuse.
- No one has the right to abuse you.
- Know that most children raised with abuse learn to use violence as one way to control others by using power and force.
- Know that relationships based on fear, power and control are abusive.
- Know that others understand why you would want to stay and that leaving a relationship is not easy.



## INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Office of the District Attorney  
Northern Judicial Circuit  
Victim Services Program

762-338-8825 (Elbert, Oglethorpe)  
706-795-6322 (Madison, Franklin)  
706-376-3128 (Hart)

## Law Enforcement Officers Are There to Help

- If you are a victim of domestic violence, and you believe that law enforcement protection is needed for your physical safety, you have the right to request that the officer assist in providing for your safety, to include asking for an emergency protection order.
- You may also ask the officer to assist you in obtaining essential personal belongings like clothes, toiletries, or medication for you and/or your child(ren) and locating and taking you to a safe place, including a designated meeting place or a shelter, the residence of a household member or a friend, or a similar place of safety.
- If you or your child(ren) are in need of medical treatment, you may ask the officer to assist you in obtaining medical treatment.
- A domestic violence program can further the efforts of the police in providing shelter, assistance and other resources.

This project is supported by Sub-Award No. C11-8-045; awarded by the Office of Justice Programs and administered by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, or the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

## The Court Is There to Help

You also have the right to file a petition in court requesting a protective order that may include any of the following provisions:

1. Prohibit your abuser from threatening to commit or committing further acts of domestic violence.
2. Prohibit your abuser from stalking, harassing, telephoning, contacting, or otherwise communicating with you, directly or indirectly.
3. Order your abuser to stay away from your residence, school, place of employment, or any other specified place that you or another designated household member go to in order to be safe.
4. Give you temporary custody of a minor child and arrange for visitation with a minor child if the safety of the minor child and the petitioner can be protected. Your abuser can be ordered to pay support for you or a minor child in your care.
5. Require your abuser to reimburse you for your expenses caused by domestic violence, including medical bills, or for your costs in getting a protective order.

## Protective Orders

The forms you need to obtain a protective order are available from the shelter or the nearest Superior Court Clerk's Office. It is not necessary to have an attorney to obtain a protective order, but you may consult an attorney if you choose.



## Victim Compensation

The Georgia Crime Victims Compensation Program provides compensation to victims who have been physically or emotionally injured in a violent crime.

Such compensation might include medical care for your injuries, crime victim related-counseling, wages lost by you due to injuries, and more. You can find out how to apply by contacting your local Victim Services Program or see the information below:

Georgia Crime Victims Compensation Program  
104 Marietta St. Suite 440  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
800.547.0060