

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HANDBOOK**



**ST. LOUIS COUNTY
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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“The St. Louis County Police Department’s Domestic Violence Unit is committed to protecting the citizens of St. Louis County. Our goal is to provide each citizen with the necessary information and support to help themselves end domestic violence.”

**Colonel Kenneth L. Gregory
Chief of Police**

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Headquarters

St. Louis County Police (636) 529-8210
7900 Forsyth Boulevard
Clayton, Missouri 63105

Division of Criminal Investigation

Information (314) 615-5400
Domestic Violence Unit (314) 615-8624

Precinct Stations

North County (1st) (314) 438-4600
Central County (2nd) (314) 615-0111
Affton Southwest (3rd) (314) 615-4266
South County (4th) (314) 615-0162
Fenton (5th) (636) 349-8120
Wildwood (6th) (636) 458-9194
West County (7th) (314) 225-0425
Jennings (8th) (314) 385-4672

Resources

General Information (636) 529-8210
TTY Hearing Impaired (636) 529-8220
Bureau of Professional Standards (314) 615-5340
Police Record Room (314) 615-5317
Government Center Information (314) 615-5000

FORMS OF ABUSE

The dynamics of abuse run in cycles which often progressively escalate. Abusive relationships often begin with controlling and isolating behavior that evolves into emotional and mental abuse. Over time the abuse can increase, turning into damaging sexual and physical violence. These abusive cycles often include “honeymoon phases,” during which the abusive partner is loving, remorseful, and full of promises of change. When this happens the abused partner often changes his/her mind about leaving the relationship. **ONCE YOU ARE PHYSICALLY ASSAULTED IT WILL MOST LIKELY HAPPEN AGAIN.**

CONTROL AND ISOLATION

- Jealousy and possessiveness
- Physical and social isolation
- Controlling the finances
- Stalking and following

PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE

- Threats of harm to you and/or your children
- Degradation and humiliation
- Intimidating looks, actions, or gestures
- Criticizing you and calling you sexually degrading names

SEXUAL ABUSE

- Forcible sexual activity when you are not fully conscious, unable, unwilling, or afraid of resisting

PHYSICAL ABUSE

- Punching, pulling hair, shoving, slapping, tripping, kicking, or attempting to strangle or choke
- Assault with guns, knives, or other weapons

Abused partners do not want to be beaten. Sometimes, the battered person asks their partner to stop the abuse, asks for help, and tries to leave. Other times, they are silent and simply hope the abuse will end.

RIGHTS OF AN ABUSED PARTNER

- 1) Not to be pushed, shoved, punched, slapped, bruised, kicked, or strangled.
- 2) Not to be verbally attacked or accused.
- 3) Not to have possessions damaged.
- 4) Not to be interfered with in coming and goings.
- 5) Not to be followed, harassed, or spied on.
- 6) Not to be ridiculed, put down, made fun of or belittled, alone or in front of others.
- 7) Not to be emotionally starved.
- 8) Not to be isolated.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE RIGHT TO:

- 1) Be treated with respect
- 2) Be heard
- 3) Say NO

- COERCION** Compelling a person by force, or threat of force, to engage in conduct from which the person has a right to abstain or to abstain from conduct in which the person has a right to engage.
- HARASSMENT:** Engaging in a purposeful or knowing course of conduct involving more than one incident that alarms or causes distress to another person and serves no legitimate purpose. The course of conduct must be such as would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress and must actually cause substantial emotional distress to the petitioner. Such conduct may include following another about in a public place or peering in the window or lingering outside the residence of another.
- SEXUAL ASSAULT:** Causing or attempting to cause another to engage involuntarily in any sexual act by force, threat of force or duress.
- UNLAWFUL IMPRISONMENT:** Holding, confining, detaining or abducting another person against that person's will.
- STALKING:** When a person purposely and repeatedly harasses or follows with the intent of harassing another person. "Harasses" means to engage in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that serves no legitimate purpose, that would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress. "Course of Conduct" means a pattern of behavior composed of a series of acts over a period of time, however short, showing a continuity or pattern.

**WHERE TO FILE AN ADULT
ABUSE OR STALKING ACTION**

You may file an action:

- 1) In the County where you live; or
- 2) In the County where you were abused, stalked, or threatened; or
- 3) In the County where the person you are requesting protection from may be found.

**WHERE YOU CAN FILE A PETITION
IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY:**

Adult Abuse

105 South Central Ave.
Street level
Clayton, MO 63105
(314) 615-4725

PROCEDURE FOR FILING AN ACTION:

1) PETITION:

You must fill out, in detail, a “petition” (you become the **petitioner** and the person you are filing against becomes the **respondent**). The petition tells the judge why you believe you are entitled to legal relief and what relief you desire.

2) SERVICE:

Finding and serving the respondent with the Order of Protection is often the most difficult part of obtaining an Order of Protection.

If possible, bring photographs and provide any information that will help the Sheriff locate the respondent. The respondent must be served with a copy of the petition and Ex Parte Order of Protection at least 3 days before the hearing date. If the respondent has not been served, you may ask the judge to schedule another hearing date so that the order may be served. Whether the respondent has been served or not, **YOU MUST APPEAR**. If you fail to appear, the case will be dismissed.

RELIEF YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO:

This Law allows the Court under some circumstances to order the following:

- 1) Temporarily restrain the respondent from abuse, threat to abuse, molest, stalk, or disturb the peace wherever you may be.

- 2) Temporarily restrain the respondent from entering the premises that you and the respondent jointly own, rent or lease, or jointly occupy, or that you individually own, lease, or rent.
- 3) Child custody, support, or visitation.
- 4) Maintenance or alimony if the parties are married.
- 5) Respondent to make mortgage or rent payments.
- 6) That you be given temporary possession of a specific item of personal property.
- 7) Prohibit the respondent from disposing of mutually owned property.
- 8) Court approved counseling program designed for batterers intervention programs and/or substance abuse.
- 9) Respondent to pay reasonable fees for housing or other services if you are obtaining services from a shelter for victims of domestic violence.
- 10) Respondent to pay court costs.

To obtain any of these orders, **YOU MUST ASK FOR THEM** by marking the proper box in your petition or by including them in your petition. The judge will then decide if you are entitled to the orders you have requested.

PROCEDURE TO OBTAIN AN ORDER:

1. EX PARTE ORDER:

Once you have filled out your petition and other required documents, the paperwork is taken to a judge for review. If the judge believes you are in danger of immediate abuse or a victim of stalking, the judge may issue an “Ex Parte Order of Protection” and schedule a court hearing with you and the respondent present. **YOU MUST** appear on the date of the hearing, or the judge will dismiss your case and you may be sent a bill for court cost.

2. HEARING:

There must be a hearing at which all parties may be present within 15 days after a judge has signed an Ex-Parte Order of Protection. Bring witnesses, hospital bills, pictures or any other evidence to help the judge decide if a Full Order of Protection should be issued. The judge will also listen to any testimony or other evidence that the respondent presents and will decide if the petitioner is entitled to any or all of the relief sought.

Before you go to the full hearing, prepare your testimony carefully. Be prepared to give your version of the incidents of abuse or stalking. You may bring witnesses who have seen the respondent abuse or stalk you or who have seen your injuries.

Be prepared to tell the judge which orders you want granted, as specified on the petition, and why these orders are essential for your protection and livelihood.

3. FULL ORDER OF PROTECTION:

If you prove that you have been subjected to abuse, or are a victim of stalking, a Full Order of Protection may be issued for up to one year or more depending on circumstance and may be renewed. However, you need to request each renewal at least two weeks prior to the expiration date of the current order. If for good cause a hearing cannot be held on the “Motion to Renew”, the Full Order of Protection may be extended until a hearing is held on the motion.

You will be given a copy of the order granted by the judge. Always keep a copy with you. If you are threatened with abuse or stalking, call your local police department, and tell them you have a Court order granted under the ADULT ABUSE LAW. When the police arrive, they will take the appropriate actions as stated by law. You will also have the option to file indirect criminal contempt with the court if a full order of protection is violated. The service is free to file.

TERMINATION OF PROCEEDINGS:

An “Ex Parte Order” will terminate on the date set for a full hearing. A “Full Order of Protection” will terminate on the expiration date stated in the order. The order will expire if you file a written termination with the court (signed by you and by the respondent). The order can be automatically renewed upon request.

A finding by the Court of a subsequent act of abuse or stalking is not required for a renewal of an Order of Protection

Counseling

Alive – (314) 993-2777

Crime Victim Center- (314) 652-3623

Safe Connections – (314) 531-2003

YWCA Women’s Resource Center – (314) 531-7273

Housing

United Way Helpline – 211

Housing and Urban Development – (314) 593-6583

St. Louis County Housing Authority (314) 428-3200

Beyond Housing – (314) 533-0600

**YMCA Rapid Re-Housing Program for Survivors– (314)
726-6665**

Shelters:

St. Louis County

St. Martha's – (314) 533-1313

Women's Safe House – (314) 772-4535

Kathy J. Weinman Center – (314) 423-1117

ALIVE (24-hour crisis line) – (314) 993-2777

Jefferson County

A Safe Place – COMTREA – (636) 232-2301

St. Charles County

Bridgeway Women's Center – (636) 224-1800

Lincoln County

Robertson Center- (636)224-1850 Ext. 1

Warren County

Turning Point- (636) 456-1186 or

(888) 873-7233

Illinois

Oasis Women's Center-Alton – (618) 465-1978

Violence Prevention Center:

Belleville – (618) 235-0892 or

Granite City – (800) 924-0096

Legal Assistance

Crime Victim Center for Civil Help Line – (314) 664-6699

Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry – (314) 977-3993

Legal Services of Eastern Missouri- (314)-534-4200

Saint Louis Survivors Legal Support – (314) 699-7868

IF ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED

Victims of domestic violence are encouraged to contact a victim advocate for additional information and resources to help them address their needs.

Victim advocates are available through the St. Louis County Police Department's Domestic Violence Unit and can be reached at (314) 615-8665

The advocate can assist in:

- Obtaining an Order of Protection
- Safety Planning
- Crisis Intervention
- Legal Advocacy
- Education, Support and Referrals

Additional Resources

Crime Victim's Compensation (800) 347-6881

Sexual Assault Hotline (800) 656-4673

Elderly Abuse Hotline (800) 392-0210

Children's Advocacy Center (314) 516-4080

Hunger Hotline (314) 726-5355

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline 988

American Red Cross (314) 516-2800

United Way (314) 421-0700 or 211

St. Martha's Drop-in Center (314) 487-2062

YWCA Crisis Intervention Advocacy Service

(314) 531-1115

Crime Victim Center - Legal Assistance

(314) 664-6699

Mental Health Crisis Intervention (800) 811-4760

Veterans Crisis Hotline (800) 273-8255 or 988

Behavioral Health Response (314) 469-3638

Intimate Partner Violence Resources

Crime Victim Center Counseling – Provides individual trauma focused counseling for victims, witnesses, and family members of crime. Individual and family counseling.

Available for children over the age of twelve and adults with no session limits, (314) 652-3623.

ALIVE – Individual and group counseling is provided for adults, regardless of gender, as well as for children effected by abuse in the home, (314) 993-2777

Safe Connections – Provides free counseling and provides resources and information to women and teens, (314) 531-2003

YWCA Woman’s Resource Center Crisis

Intervention – Provides immediate and ongoing support for women who have experienced emotional, physical, or sexual abuse, (314) 645-4848

Diamond Diva Empowerment Foundation – Provides supplies and resources to survivors of domestic abuse, (314) 328-4348

24-Hour Crisis Hotlines:

ALIVE – Provides access to emergency sanctuary, plus offers support, information, and safety planning, (314) 993-2777

YWCA’s Women’s Resources Center Crisis line-

Provides support and advocacy to victims of sexual assault and abuse within the St. Louis metro area, (314) 531-7273

Safe Connections – Counseling and 24-hour Crisis Helpline provide resources and information to women and teens, (314) 531-2003

Local Confidential Shelters for Victims of Intimate Partner Violence and their Children:

Kathy J. Weinman Shelter – (314) 423-1117

Women’s Safe House – (314) 772-4535

Saint Martha’s – (314) 533-1313

Bridgeway Women’s Shelter – (636) 224-1800
(Located in St. Charles)

Legal Assistance:

Crime Victim Center Civil Legal Helpline – Provides crisis intervention, safety planning and legal information to callers regardless of geographic location. Also conducts intakes for those seeking free legal representation for Orders of Protections and other family law issues, (314) 664-6699.

Legal Services of Eastern Missouri (LSEM) – crisis intervention, legal advocacy, and representation for orders of protection, family matters, housing, immigration, (314) 534-4200.

Catholic Legal Assistance Ministries – legal aid, mental health counseling, youth programs, housing advocacy, health services and assistance with basic needs: (314) 977-3993

Order of Protection Filing Assistance:

Crime Victim Center Court Order of Protection Assistance (COPA) Programs –Information and support to survivors of intimate partner violence seeking Order of Protections. Also provides safety planning, court advocate, information and referrals and crisis intervention. Saint Louis County: (314) 615-3210, Saint Louis City: (314) 621-4402.

Office of the Prosecuting Attorney

Victim Services Division:

100 South Central Avenue

Clayton Missouri, 63105

(314) 615-4872

Provides:

- Information and referrals
- Emotional Support
- Emergency Assistance
- Victim Compensation Information Advocacy
- Community Education
- Volunteer training program.



Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency Communication Center:

(636) 529-8210

Domestic Violence Unit: (314) 615-8624

St. Louis County Police Department



An internationally accredited agency

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