

What are my options if I have children?

If you have children and you are petitioning for a protective order, consider the following questions and be prepared to explain to the judge...

- Have your children witnessed the abuse? If so, what have they seen?
- Even if they haven't seen the abuse occur, did they hear it, or could they have heard it?
- Has your partner ever abused your children? If so, tell what happened.

The judge may establish **temporary custody** and **temporary visitation** (if any) and include it on your **protective order**.

Can I get a Protective Order for Stalking?

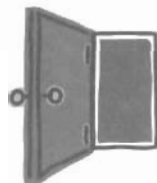
An **Emergency Protective Order** may be issued by a **magistrate** if there is probable cause that a **stalking offense** has occurred and an **arrest warrant** has been issued. The **Preliminary Protective Order** and the **Permanent Protective Order** may be pursued through the same process as that of protective orders for family abuse, described earlier in this brochure.

What if my Protective Order was issued by a court in another area?

Protective orders are given full faith and credit under federal law. This means that your protective order is valid (held true) in Loudoun County. Although it is not required, you may choose to file a copy of your protective order with local law enforcement. Remember to keep a copy with you at all times.

If you are traveling in another part of the state and require assistance from the local domestic violence program in that area, call the VA Family Violence and Sexual Assault Hotline at:
1-800-838-8238.

You Are Not Alone



THIS BROCHURE CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND PHONE NUMBERS FOR ANYONE WHO HAS EXPERIENCED ABUSE.

IF YOU ARE IN DANGER, DIAL 911.

RESPONDING OFFICER'S NAME: _____

CASE NUMBER: _____

SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR ALL LOUDOUN COUNTY CITIZENS:

Counseling, therapy, support groups, food assistance, housing, safe housing, free legal assistance, justice, protection, safety planning, transportation, shelter for animals living with abuse, parenting education and support, employment counseling, supportive programs for children & teens, substance abuse counseling, conferences and educational workshops, information and referral...

MANY SERVICES ARE OFFERED AT FREE OR REDUCED COST

Important Phone Numbers

LOUDOUN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
911 Emergency 703-777-0445 Non-Emergency

LEESBURG POLICE
911 Emergency 703-771-4500 Non-Emergency

MIDDLEBURG POLICE
911 Emergency 540-687-6633 Non-Emergency

PURCELLVILLE POLICE
911 Emergency 540-338-7422 Non-Emergency

FIRE/AMBULANCE
911 Emergency 703-777-0333 Non-Emergency

MAGISTRATE (bond/release info. & emergency protective orders) 703-0383/703-777-0384

EMERGENCY HOUSING FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE
24-Hour Hotline: 703-777-6552

FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR ABUSED WOMEN
703-771-3397

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
703-777-0353

COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
(prosecutors of criminal charges) 703-777-0242

VICTIM WITNESS OFFICE
(support & information) 703-777-0417

MENTAL HEALTH
703-777- 0320 Emergency Services
703-771-5100 Non-Emergency Services

COURT SERVICES UNIT (Family Abuse Petitions, preliminary protective orders & child support/custody)
703-777-0303

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROBATION OFFICER
703-777-0207

ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL (emergency shelter for pets from abusive homes) 703-777-0406

SOCIAL SERVICES (food, housing, employment, transportation) 703-777-0353

AMERICAN RED CROSS (basic needs and crisis assistance) 703-771-7171

FREE CRISIS COUNSELING FOR ABUSE (individual and group support for domestic and sexual abuse, parenting education & support) 703-777-6552

What is Domestic Violence/Family Abuse?

Family abuse, also called domestic violence, is a **pattern of controlling behaviors** used by one individual to **control or exert power** over another individual in the context of an intimate relationship. The **legal definition** is: any act involving **force**, or **threat**, including and forceful **detention**, which results in **physical injury or places one in reasonable apprehension of serious bodily injury** and which is committed by a person against such person's family or household member (Va. Code § 16.1-228). For example, the abuser may be a friend, relative, current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend. The abuse may be **emotional, sexual, physical or verbal**.

What is a Protective Order (Va. Code § 16.1-279.1)?

A **Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Judge** issues an **Order of Protection** to help keep a victim of family abuse safe from further acts of violence. A permanent protective order will only be issued after a full hearing before the **Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court**.

Who is eligible to seek a Protective Order?

If a family or household member is abusing you, you can seek a protective order.

A "**Family or Household Member**" is defined as: (Va. Code §16.1-228)

- 1) the person's spouse whether or not he or she resides in the same house with the person;
- 2) the person's former spouse, whether or not he or she resides in the same home with the person;