



Family Violence Get Safe and Get Help



What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence occurs when a partner, spouse, boyfriend, girlfriend, or other household or family member harms another. Domestic violence includes hitting, hurting, threatening, and stalking.



You and your family deserve free and confidential help.

If you or your family are dealing with domestic violence, help is available for free. You can receive help with:

1. Crisis counseling
2. Safety planning
3. Finding a shelter
4. Finding a support group
5. Advocating with law enforcement
6. Referrals to other helpful services, such as legal services

Every Ohio county supplies help through domestic violence shelters. The Ohio Domestic Violence network has a list of each county's domestic violence shelter on its website:

<https://www.odvn.org/find-help/> .

**If you need to contact an advocate immediately, contact the 24-hour
National Domestic Violence Hotline**

Phone: (800) 799-7233

Text: text "START" to 88788

Chat on their website: <https://www.thehotline.org/>

IF YOU ARE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER CALL 9-1-1 RIGHT AWAY



How is domestic violence different from other types of abuse?

Domestic violence has two definitions: the common use of the term and the legal definition. In its common use, domestic violence means physical, emotional, economic, and mental abuse, as well as threatening statements and actions.

Domestic violence, as a legal term, is limited to physical abuse, threats of physical harm, and stalking behaviors committed by a current partner, former partner, family member, or household member.

While other behaviors like mental and emotional abuse can be just as harmful as physical abuse,

these behaviors may not meet the legal definition of domestic abuse. If you are not sure if an act is domestic violence, you should call your local law enforcement agency or domestic violence shelter.



What can the law do about domestic violence?

Domestic violence is a crime. Reporting domestic violence to a police officer can trigger a series of steps that result in your abuser facing criminal prosecution and provide you help. You can also receive help from different organizations if you ask for it. Different organizations can help with:

- **Temporary Protection Order:** In a criminal case, a domestic violence survivor can ask for a “Temporary Protection Order” from the Court through their own motion, the prosecutor, or victim’s advocate. This orders the abuser to stay away from you during the criminal case.
- **Civil Protection Order:** Legal Aid firms, domestic violence shelters, and victim assistance programs can help you obtain a “Civil Protection Order.” This requires your abuser to stay away from you for up to five years. You can receive a Civil Protection Order even if your abuser has an ongoing criminal case. As a part of a Civil Protection Order, you may also receive sole possession of a house and/or vehicle; temporary custody of a shared child; an order for the abuser to stay away from places you go, such as work and school; and temporary monetary support. You can also file for a Civil Protection Order on your own without help of these agencies.
- **Child Support:** If you tell your caseworker at the Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) about the domestic violence in your relationship, you can ask to keep your address secret. Also, if you receive Ohio Works First (OWF) cash assistance, you can ask for a waiver or hardship, so you do not have to cooperate with CSEA in finding the person who owes child support.
- **Cash Assistance/Ohio Works First:** If you tell your caseworker at Job and Family Services about the domestic violence in your relationship, you may ask for a waiver or hardship so you do not have to work to receive cash assistance. Also, the agency may allow you to collect benefits longer than normal.
- **Housing:** If you receive subsidized housing benefits (including a housing voucher, public housing, or tax-credit housing), your landlord cannot evict you for being a domestic violence victim. Your landlord must transfer you when possible, if you request a transfer to a different unit because you are not safe in your current unit.

The information on this flyer is not legal advice.

**If you are seeking representation or legal advice, please contact LASC or SEOLS.
An attorney-client relationship does not exist between you and LASC or SEOLS.**

Contact for Services: Intake line: 1-844-302-1800

www.columbuslegalaid.org

LASC provides services in Central Ohio and has offices in Columbus and Marion.

www.seols.org

SEOLS provides services in thirty-four counties in Southeastern Ohio and has offices in Athens, Chillicothe, New Philadelphia, Newark, Portsmouth, and Steubenville