

Know the warning signs of Domestic Violence

Does your partner:

- Keep track of your schedule and whereabouts?
- Control you by being bossy or demanding?
- Blame others, especially you, for his/her unhappiness?
- Accuse you of flirting or cheating?
- Constantly criticize you?
- Control all the money?
- Humiliate you in front of others (including making “jokes” at your expense)?
- Threaten to hurt you, your children, or your pets?
- Use violence or intimidation to stop you from spending time with friends and family?
- Use violence or intimidation to stop you from working or going to school?
- Force you to have sex, or demand sexual acts that make you uncomfortable?
- Push, hit, slap, punch, kick, strangle, or bite you or your children?

You may be experiencing Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence is a Crime

Any person who hits, strangles, kicks, threatens, harasses, or interferes with the personal liberty of another family or household member has broken Illinois domestic violence law.

Under Illinois law, family or household members are defined as:

- family members related by blood or marriage;
- people who are married or were married;
- people who share or used to share a home;
- people who have or say they have a child in common or say they have a blood relation through a child;
- people who are dating or used to date; and
- people with disabilities and their personal assistants.

Law Enforcement Response

Law enforcement should try to prevent further abuse by:

- arresting the abuser when appropriate and completing a police report;
- driving you to a medical facility, shelter, or safe place, or arranging for transportation to a safe place;
- accompanying you back to your home to get belongings; and
- tell you the importance of saving evidence, such as emails, voicemails, text messages, damaged clothing or property, and taking photographs of injuries or damages.



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ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL

Where You Can Get Help and Advice:

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-SAFE
Text “START” to 88788

Illinois Domestic Violence Helpline
1-877-863-6338 (Chicago area)

Individuals with hearing or speech disabilities can reach us by using the 7-1-1 relay service.

You can also obtain the Illinois Domestic Violence Act Victim Information from the Attorney General’s Web site at <https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/safer-communities/supporting-victims-of-crime/domestic-violence-prevention-resources/>.

www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov

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Domestic Violence



Abuse includes physical abuse, harassment and intimidation.



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Do you know someone who is being abused?

Orders of Protection

An order of protection is a court order that restricts someone who has abused a family or household member. An order of protection may:

- prohibit the abuser from continuing threats and abuse;
- order the abuser out of a shared home or residence;
- order the abuser out of a shared home while they are using drugs or alcohol;
- order the abuser to stay away from you and others protected by the order and keep the abuser from your work, school, or other specific locations;
- require the abuser to attend counseling;
- prohibit the abuser from taking or hiding children, give you temporary custody, or require the abuser to bring the children to court;
- require the abuser to turn weapons over to local law enforcement; and/or
- prohibit the abuser from other actions.

To Obtain an Order of Protection

To obtain an Order of Protection, you can:

- Contact a domestic violence program for assistance.
- Ask an attorney to file in civil court.

- Request an order with your divorce.
- Request an order during a criminal prosecution.
- Go to your local circuit court clerk's office and get papers to seek an order of protection for yourself.

Criminal Prosecutions

If you wish to seek criminal charges against your abuser, contact local law enforcement and be sure to bring all relevant information, including the police report, to your local state's attorney. You may want to contact a local domestic violence program so they can help you through the criminal legal system.

If the Abuser Contacts You After an Arrest

If the abuser was charged with a crime and you or another victim is a family or household member, that abuser probably was ordered not to contact you for at least 72 hours. If the abuser does contact you soon after an arrest, you should call the police because the abuser can be charged with the additional crime.

Violation of an Order of Protection

You should also call police if the abuser disregards any part of the order of protection. That may be another crime: a violation of an order of protection.

Address Confidentiality Program

The ACP provides survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and stalking with a substitute mailing address to use instead of their home, work and school addresses. The ACP substitute address helps prevent perpetrators from locating survivors through public records. The ACP is NOT a witness protection program that can assist with relocation or a change of identity. The ACP can be a valuable addition to a safety plan, but is not substitute for a comprehensive safety plan.

For more information about how you can protect yourself through the Address Confidentiality Program, please contact our office at: 1-844-916-0295 (Toll-Free) or acp@ilag.gov, or visit <https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/safer-communities/supporting-victims-of-crime/address-confidentiality-program/>. Individuals with hearing or speech disabilities can reach us by using the 7-1-1 relay service.



Firearms Restraining Order

What is a Firearms Restraining Order?

A Firearms Restraining Order (or "FRO") is a civil court order that temporarily prohibits a person from possessing or buying firearms, ammunition, and firearm parts that could be assembled to make an operable firearm when that person poses an immediate danger to themselves or others. A Firearms Restraining Order is obtained through a formal legal process during which a petitioner asks a court to issue an FRO.

Who can petition for an FRO?

If you believe that a family or household member may harm themselves or others by having a firearm, petitioning for an FRO can be an important step to reduce the risk. When petitioning for an FRO, a family member is defined as: a spouse, former spouse, person with whom the respondent has a minor child in common, parent, child, step-child, any other person related by blood or marriage, or a person who shares a common dwelling.

How can I get help with this process?

The clerk in the court where you ask for an FRO can assist you with writing and filing a petition. Make sure also to report immediate safety threats to local law enforcement.

You may qualify for both an Order of Protection and the FRO.