

Phone Numbers to Help You Get Safe:

In an Emergency call 911

For information on how the legal system can help you, call

(Area code 914, 9am to 5pm, weekdays)

Westchester County Office for Women

In English995-5972
 White Plains - In Spanish.....995-6581
 Yonkers - In Spanish.....231-2882

My Sisters' Place Legal Center.....683-1333

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley ..949-1305

Northern Westchester Shelter.....747-0828

Pace Women's Justice Center.....287-0739

For assistance in Family Court

Family Court Domestic Violence

Legal Programs:

White Plains Family Court.....995-7400
 Yonkers Family Court.....231-2886

Department of Probation995-3529

VAS Family Abuse Court Services

White Plains Family Court.....995-4020
 Yonkers Family Court.....231-2883

For assistance in Criminal Court

Westchester County Domestic Violence & Child Abuse Bureau,

District Attorney's Office995-3000

Victims Justice Center,

District Attorney's Office995-3300

Victims Assistance Services

Main Number345-3113
 Yonkers965-0217
 Mt. Vernon.....665-2539

If you are a Criminal Defendant because you were abused and fought back, you can receive help from:

Legal Aid Society.....286-3400

For domestic violence service providers throughout New York and the United States call:

Westchester County Office for Women...(914) 995-5972
 New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence(800) 942-6906/Spanish (800) 942-6908
 National Domestic Violence Hotline(800) 779-SAFE

Clip and keep these numbers in a safe place. It might not be safe to take this brochure home. Be aware your phone calls could be traced. Ask the phone company how to protect your calls.

If you are abused...

ask the police to

- Help you get to a safe place away from the violence.
- Help you get medical attention for injuries you or your children may have.
- Help you get necessary belongings from your home for you and your children.
- Tell you how the Criminal and Family Courts can help you and where they are located.

“You don't have to take it”



ask the court to help you

- Obtain an **Order of Protection** for you and your children from either **Family Court, Criminal Court, or the Integrated Domestic Violence Court.**
 - You can choose **Family Court** if the person who harmed or threatened you is someone you married or divorced; is related to you by blood; is the parent of your child; or is someone you are/were in an intimate relationship with. The purpose of Family Court is to end the violence. Family court also handles custody, visitation and child support.
 - You can choose **Criminal Court** no matter what the relationship is between you and the abuser. The purpose of criminal court is to prosecute the abuser. If found guilty of an offense, the abuser will have a criminal record.
 - If you are eligible to go to **Family Court** you can choose both **Family** and **Criminal Court** at the same time.
 - If your abuser is charged with a felony anywhere in Westchester County or a misdemeanor against you in White Plains, New Rochelle, Town of Greenburgh, Town of Rye and the Village of Port Chester and there is a related Family Court and/or matrimonial matter the cases may be transferred to **White Plains Integrated Domestic Violence Court (IDV Court).** There is an IDV Court in Yonkers for misdemeanor cases. Their purpose is to consolidate all Criminal, Supreme, and Family Court matters in domestic violence cases so one judge will have knowledge of all your cases and effectively monitor the perpetrator.

In Court You Have the Right To:

- Be accompanied into court by a lawyer, relative, friend, or advocate.
 - In White Plains and Yonkers, lawyers are available through the Family Court Legal Programs. The Family Court can appoint you a lawyer if you are eligible.
 - You do not need a lawyer in Criminal Court unless you are charged with a crime.
- Refuse mediation or any other meeting with your abuser.
- Request in either Criminal or Family Court that your Order of Protection:
 - Remove the person who abused you from your home.
 - Include your children and pets.
 - Require that the person who abused you stay away from you, your children, your home, place of work, and/or your children's school.
 - Require the abuser to surrender all weapons and revoke the abuser's license to carry weapons.
 - Mandate that the abuser attend batterers' education classes.

In Family Court You Can:

- Request temporary custody of your children and temporary child support for them.
- Request that the Family Court order restitution from your abuser (up to \$10,000).
- Insist that all medical and legal fees be covered by your abuser.
- Insist your address be kept confidential.

Mission Statement

The Office for Women was created in August 1980. Since its inception, it has served as a model for similar agencies in three other counties and two cities in New York. The Office for Women addresses the needs of women and families in Westchester County on three levels: Public Policy and Advocacy, Public Education and Research and Direct Services.

Westchester County's Office for Women has resources available to enable victims to access support services such as counseling, advocacy, safety planning, court accompaniment and other related issues. The Office for Women provides information about and referrals to shelters, support groups, legal services and other organizations. Educational programs and publications are offered as well. Also offered are domestic violence advocacy, outreach and education to Spanish-speaking women. Bicultural and bilingual advocates provide comprehensive services as well as community education. The office also oversees contracts.

The Westchester County Domestic Violence Council, chaired by the Director of the Office for Women encourages coordination of domestic violence services between agencies, departments, the police and the courts with victims of domestic violence and abuse. It promotes prevention, intervention and healing techniques based upon research and data collection; and improves the response to domestic violence and abuse and reduces the incidents thereof.

Members are appointed by the County Executive and affirmed by the County Board of Legislators. The Council has the following powers and duties: examines ways to which agencies, departments and the courts of Westchester County respond to domestic violence and abuse in order to improve responses; cooperation and coordination among all the participants in the justice system who deal with domestic violence and abuse; makes recommendations to the County Executive, County Board of Legislators, agencies, departments, the courts and others regarding improving the response to domestic violence and abuse; examines and reviews legislation; encourages and promotes public education regarding domestic violence and abuse; forms task forces of committees to assist in planning policy, goals and priority recommendations.

Westchester County wants to contact YOU in an emergency
Give us your e-mail and/or cell phone number, and sign up at
www.westchestergov.com/cens.htm

Revised 2009. Visit us on the web at:
www.westchestergov.com/women

Westchester
gov.com

Andrew J. Spano, Westchester County Executive
County Board of Legislators

controlling
Stalking
blaming
shoving
hitting
slapping
threatening
jealous
intimidating
punching
biting
controlling
blaming
shoving
hitting
slapping

You don't
have to
take it

OFFICE FOR WOMEN
Camille Failla Murphy, Director
Chair, Westchester County Domestic Violence Council

Signs of Abuse

Does Your Partner

- Make you feel bad by criticizing, embarrassing, or putting you down?
- Try to control what you do, say, or wear?
- Call or beep you frequently during the day to monitor your activities?
- Become jealous or accuse you of having affairs?
- Prevent you from seeing or speaking with friends or family?
- Deny you access to money or financial resources?
- Throw things or destroy things of value to you?
- Force you to have sex when, or in ways, you don't want?
- Spread lies and rumors about you to others?
- Threaten to report you to Child Protective Services, immigration authorities, or threaten to expose your sexual lifestyle or orientation to the public?
- Threaten to hurt you, your children, family, friends, pets - or threaten suicide?
- Shove, slap, punch, kick, bite, choke, or otherwise physically hurt or restrain you?

Do You Ever Find Yourself

- Asking for permission to do the simplest things?
- Feeling alone and isolated from friends and family?
- Trying to avoid anything that would make your partner angry?
- Feeling afraid of your partner?
- Staying in your relationship because you are afraid to leave?
- Returning to the relationship because things got worse after you left?

Do You Feel

- That your relationship is getting worse no matter what you do?
- That your partner is, or could become, dangerous?

If you have answered "yes" to one or more of these questions, it is possible that you (and your children) are being abused. If so, you are not alone! There are people who will help you.

No One Has the Right

to hit, threaten, or harass you... not your partner, spouse, parent, or children.

► **If you think that you may be abused, or if you're not sure, call** the following numbers to talk with someone who will listen and answer your questions. When you call you do not have to give your name or make any decisions. You won't have to go anywhere, do anything, or say anything you don't want. Your call will be confidential.

Westchester County Office for Women Family Helpline/Hotline

Weekdays 9am to 5pm(914) 995-5972
In Spanish, White Plains(914) 995-6581
In Spanish, Yonkers(914) 231-2882
After hours/weekends(914) 995-2099

Northern Westchester Shelter

24-hour(914) 238-2800
24-hour toll free(888) 438-8700

My Sisters' Place

24-hour toll free(800) 298-7233

► **If you know you are abused and want shelter, call these 24-hour numbers:**

Northern Westchester Shelter (888) 438-8700
My Sisters' Place(800) 298-7233
Putnam-Northern Westchester
Women's Resource Center(845) 628-2166
Rockland Family Shelter(845) 634-3344

If there are no beds in these shelters, ask for placement in a shelter in another county or call your local DSS office.

Other numbers you might need:

To Report Child Abuse:
New York State Registry(800) 342-3720
For Help with Sexual Assault or Incest:
Victims Assistance Services
Hotline(914) 345-9111
Westchester County
Human Rights Commission(914) 995-7710

www.westchestergov.com/humanrightscommission

