

## 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 English	995-5972
White Plains - In Spanish	995-6581/2241
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 Probation	995-3529
MHA Family Abuse Court Services	
White Plains Family Court	995-4020
Yonkers Family Court	231-2883
New Rochelle Family Court	813-5649

### For assistance in Criminal Court

Westchester County Domestic Violence & Child Abuse Bureau,	
District Attorney's Office	995-3000
Victims Justice Center,	
District Attorney's Office	995-3300
Victims Assistance Services	
Main Number	345-3113
Yonkers	965-0217
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, or is the parent of your child. 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 against you anywhere in Westchester County, or if the abuser is charged with a misdemeanor against you in White Plains or New Rochelle, it may be moved to the **Integrated Domestic Violence Court.** Its 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 Statements

The Westchester County Domestic Violence Council effectuates coordination between agencies, departments and the courts with victims of domestic violence and abuse; promotes effective prevention, intervention and treatment techniques which are developed 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 in which agencies, departments and the courts of Westchester County respond to domestic violence and abuse in order to improve that response; improves the 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 that relates to domestic violence and abuse; encourages and promotes public education regarding domestic violence and abuse; forms task forces of committees to assist in planning policy, goals and priority recommendations.

The Westchester Coalition of Family Violence Agencies is a membership organization of public and private agencies and individuals dedicated individually and collectively to ending abuse and violence, with a primary focus on women. Through our work we seek to support empowerment of the abused and to support each other in the work of ending personal and societal violence. We will raise issues of intimate violence in the public sphere, take stands on relevant issues, and act as a force for social change through education, advocacy, and action.

This is a partial list of services available in the Westchester area. Inclusion on this list in no way represents an endorsement by the coalition.

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](http://www.westchestergov.com/cens.htm)

Revised 2008. Visit us on the web at:  
[www.westchestergov.com/women](http://www.westchestergov.com/women)

Westchester  
gov.com

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

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

UNIFY · ORGANIZE · EMPOWER  
UNIFY · ORGANIZE · EMPOWER

**“You don’t  
have to  
take it”**

OFFICE FOR WOMEN  
Camille Failla Murphy, Director  
Chair, Westchester County Domestic Violence Council  
and Westchester Coalition of  
Family Violence Agencies

## 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

(914) 995-5972	Weekdays 9am to 5pm
(914) 995-6581/2241	In Spanish, White Plains
(914) 231-2882	In Spanish, Yonkers
(914) 995-2099	After hours/weekends

#### Northern Westchester Shelter

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

#### My Sisters’ Place

(914) 969-5800	24-hour
(800) 298-SAFE (7233)	24-hour toll free

#### MHA of Westchester, Family Abuse Services

(914) 347-4558	24-hour
(914) 345-5900	Weekdays 9am to 5pm

► **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-SAFE(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
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##### For Help with Sexual Assault or Incest:

Victims Assistance Services Hotline	(914) 345-9111
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