

Domestic Violence: How to Get Help



CYRUS R. VANCE, JR.
DISTRICT ATTORNEY





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Dear Friends,

Every year, 6 million people are victims of domestic violence. Domestic violence can involve physical, verbal, emotional, economic, or sexual abuse. The abuser may be your husband, wife, domestic partner, boyfriend, girlfriend, parent, child or any other household or family member. I hope this brochure will be helpful to you.

Sincerely,

Cyrus R. Vance, Jr.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

I am afraid. Can you help me?

You are not alone. There are many resources available to help you. The New York County District Attorney's Office investigates and prosecutes thousands of domestic violence cases each year. This brochure will assist you in understanding the criminal justice system and how it handles domestic violence cases.

I want the abuse to stop. What should I do?

Call 911 for immediate help. If you are unable to do so, you should go to the police station nearest to where the abuse has occurred. If you have suffered an injury, you should seek medical attention and have photographs of your injuries taken. Remember, any evidence of the abuse, such as broken furniture, torn clothing, damaged cell phone and any type of messages (voice mail, text, or email), are helpful in the investigation and prosecution of your case.

My abuser has been arrested. What happens now?

After arrest, the abuser will appear before a judge. This process is called an arraignment. An attorney will represent the abuser, and an Assistant District Attorney will represent the People of the State of New York. The case against the abuser is brought in the name of the People of the State of New York, not your name. At arraignment, the judge can either set bail, hold the abuser in jail without bail, or release the abuser, who must then return to court on a future date. Usually the abuser is arraigned within 24 hours of his or her arrest.

CAUTION: The abuser may be released at any time after arraignment.

What do you mean my abuser can be released? Don't I get any protection?

At arraignment, the Assistant District Attorney can ask the judge to issue an order of protection. An order of protection is a court order that instructs the abuser to refrain from having any contact with you whatsoever. In addition, it can order him or her to refrain from certain conduct, including harassing, intimidating, threatening, assaulting, or stalking you. If the abuser violates the order of protection, he or she can be re-arrested.

Now that I have this order of protection, how safe am I?

An order of protection cannot guarantee your safety. Therefore, it is important to have a safety plan. Our Office can assist you in obtaining court-related information and social services to help provide for your safety and ease any emotional trauma. Our **Witness Aid Services Unit** and our **Northern Manhattan Office** located on 125th Street will help you with:

- Developing a safety plan,
- Obtaining case information,
- Arranging to speak with the Assistant District Attorney assigned to your case,
- Obtaining a copy of the order of protection issued in your case,
- Referrals to domestic violence shelters,
- Individual or group counseling,
- Referrals for children exposed to domestic violence,
- Referrals to organizations with expertise in family court and/or immigration matters,
- Help with public assistance applications,
- Transportation to and from court,
- Advocacy with other agencies on your behalf, and
- A cell phone for emergency 911 use (applies to high-risk situations).

Can you still help me, if I don't want the abuser arrested?

In order to proceed in Criminal Court you must have a criminal case. You also have the option to file a petition in Family Court when a family offense has been committed against you. You can request an order of protection in Family Court. However, Family Court is a civil court, and a proceeding will not result in a criminal record for the abuser. In order to proceed in Family Court, you and the abuser must:

- be related by blood, or
- be legally married, or
- be formerly married, or
- have a child in common, or
- be or have been in an intimate relationship.

For more information regarding Family Court proceedings, contact:

Manhattan Family Court
60 Lafayette Street
New York, NY 10013
646-386-5200
manhattanfamilycourt@courts.state.ny.us

For general information about Family Court in any of the five boroughs of New York City:
www.nycourts.gov/courts/nyc/family/index.shtml

New York City Resources and Services for Victims of Domestic Violence

The NYPD has a domestic violence unit in every precinct in New York City. Officers in this unit are specially trained to handle domestic violence cases. Call your local precinct to speak with the domestic violence officer. **If you are in immediate danger, call 911.**

1st Precinct	212-334-0611
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5th Precinct	212-334-0711
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6th Precinct	212-741-4811
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7th Precinct	212-477-7311
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9th Precinct	212-477-7813
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10th Precinct	212-741-8211
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13th Precinct	212-477-7411
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Midtown South Precinct	212-239-9801
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17th Precinct	212-826-3211
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Midtown North Precinct	212-767-8405
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19th Precinct	212-452-0600
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20th Precinct	212-580-6411
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Central Park Precinct	212-570-4820
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23rd Precinct	212-860-6411
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24th Precinct	212-678-1811
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25th Precinct	212-860-6511
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26th Precinct	212-678-1311
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28th Precinct	212-678-1611
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30th Precinct	212-690-8811
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32nd Precinct	212-690-6311
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33rd Precinct	212-927-3272
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34th Precinct	212-927-9711
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NYPD Housing Domestic Violence Unit

Police Service Area #4	212-375-9360
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Police Service Area #5	212-860-1212
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Police Service Area #6	212-694-7700
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Domestic Violence Resources**Barrier Free Living, Inc.**

212-533-4358 (voice/TTY hotline)

www.bflnyc.org

Provides services to disabled domestic violence victims, including advocacy, individual counseling, support groups, skills training, shelter referrals and help in obtaining orders of protection. Services are available citywide in English, Spanish and Sign Language.

**Manhattan Legal Services,
Domestic Violence Project**

646-442-3100, www.legalservicesnyc.org

Provides victims of domestic violence with legal representation in Family Court (for custody, visitation, and child support matters) and help in obtaining orders of protection. Services are available in English and Spanish.

New York Asian Women's Center

212-732-5230 (24-Hour Hotline)

888-888-7702, www.nyawc.org

Provides crisis intervention, safe shelter, counseling, advocacy, and community education with specific consideration to unique issues faced by Asian battered women. Services are available in English, Chinese, Hindi, and other Asian languages or dialects.

New York City Anti-Violence Project

212-714-1141 (24-Hour Hotline), www.avp.org

Provides services to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender victims, including counseling, advocacy for legal issues, support groups, and community education.

Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation

212-822-8300, www.nmic.org

Provides domestic violence victims with crisis counseling, shelter/housing assistance, court accompaniment,

referrals and legal services. Services are available in English and Spanish.

Sanctuary for Families, Inc.

212-349-6009, www.sanctuaryforfamilies.org

Provides domestic violence victims and their children with shelter/housing assistance, counseling, advocacy, referrals, support groups and legal services. Services are available in English, Spanish, French, and other languages.

CONNECT Legal Advocacy Program

212-683-0605, www.connectnyc.org

Provides domestic violence victims with advocacy for criminal and family court issues, shelter, public assistance and immigration. Services are available in Spanish and English.

Violence Intervention Program

800-664-5880, www.vipmujeres.org

Provides domestic violence victims with crisis counseling, advocacy, support groups, community education, referrals, and shelter. Services are available in English and Spanish.

**New York City Domestic Violence
24-Hour Hotline**

800-621-4673, 866-604-5350 (TDD)

www.safehorizon.org

New York State Hotlines

English: 800-942-6906 (voice), 800-818-0656 (TTY)

Spanish: 800-942-6908 (voice), 800-780-7660 (TTY)

Please note this resource list is for informational purposes only, and is not intended to be a recommendation of any of the specific services provided by the programs. This brochure does not list every domestic violence resource available in New York City.

YOUR CASE INFORMATION

Docket/Indictment Number

*NYSID Number

Assistant District Attorney Assigned

Assistant District Attorney's Telephone Number

Victim Advocate's Name

Victim Advocate's Telephone Number

Counselor's Name

* The NYSID (New York State Identification) number is necessary in order to use the VINE Program. The VINE Program is a free 24-hour hotline that provides victims with information regarding release dates for inmates in the custody of the New York City Department of Correction and New York State Department of Correctional Services.

For more information, please call 1-888-846-3469.

**New York County
District Attorney's Office
Family Violence
and Child Abuse Bureau**

80 Centre Street
4th Floor
New York, NY 10013
212-335-4300
212-335-9500 (TTY)

Northern Manhattan Office

*Located in the Harlem
State Office Building*
163 West 125th Street
7th Floor
New York, NY 10027
212-864-7884

Witness Aid Services Unit

100 Centre Street
Room 231
New York, NY 10013
212-335-9040

Website

<http://www.manhattanda.org>