

What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence is the use of power and control within an intimate relationship that threatens a person's well-being. The abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional and financial. It can happen to anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion or gender. It can happen to couples who are married, living together or dating.

Domestic violence affects people of all socio-economic backgrounds and education levels. It can happen to friends, family or co-workers. It can happen to you.

Respectful relationships allow both partners to feel supported and connected but still feel independent. Ultimately, the two people in the relationship decide what is healthy for them and what is not. If something doesn't feel right, you should have the freedom to voice your concerns to your partner.

Preventing domestic violence begins when we all agree that fair treatment in a relationship is a basic right.

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RESOURCES

Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence
toll free hotline 800.332.7385
icadvinc.org

Connect2Help
(in most areas of Indiana)
211

National Domestic Violence Hotline
800.799.SAFE (7233) - ndvh.org

National Sexual Assault Hotline
1.800.656.HOPE (4673)
rainn.org

Indiana Attorney General
317.232.6201
in.gov/attorneygeneral

Center for Victim and Human Rights
(legal assistance to file a protective order)
317.610.3427 - cvhr.org

Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence

One in four women has been the victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner; one in five children live in families where this has occurred. Since 1980, the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence has worked to ensure that people who help survivors have the information and resources they need. To prevent future violence, ICADV advocates for change through public policy, informational campaigns to increase awareness and educating young people on the cyclical nature of violence so we can all say "No More" in Indiana.

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Protective Orders

Information for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault



INDIANA SAYS
NO MORE
TOGETHER WE CAN END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

PROTECTIVE ORDERS

What is a protective order?

It is an order issued by a judge that prohibits or restricts another person from engaging in certain conduct. Protective orders can prohibit another person from:

- threatening to commit or committing an act of violence against you;
- abusing, harassing or contacting you or a member of your household;
- entering your property or workplace;
- damaging your property.

The protective order can also offer other forms of economic relief including child support, maintenance, attorney fees and other costs. The specific relief offered is determined by the judge.

To get a protective order, you must file a petition with the court. The County Clerk's office must provide you with the forms and clerical assistance. You do not need an attorney and no fee is required. More information is available on the Indiana Supreme Court website at in.gov/judiciary/selfservice.

If you are in immediate danger, a judge can grant you an emergency ex parte protection order that gives you immediate protection while the order is being processed. In some cases a hearing will be ordered within 30 days, when the judge may approve the protective order with terms necessary to stop the violence or threats of violence.

To prepare for a protective order hearing, you should, if you can, bring witnesses, pictures of your injuries, police and medical reports and any other information you have about the violence.

Frequently asked questions

- **Do I need an attorney** to obtain a protective order? No.
- **Is there a fee** to get a protective order? No.
- **Can I get a protective order from any court** in Indiana? In all except small claims court. The petition must be filed in the county in which you live (even if you are living there temporarily), the abuser lives or in which the abuse occurred.



- **What should I do with the order** when I get it? Make copies. Keep one with you at all times. Keep a copy in your car, home, at work and at a friend's house. Follow up with the court to make sure the abuser is served (Indiana law requires that the abuser receive a copy of it).
- **What should I do if the abuser violates the order?** That is a crime in Indiana and the abuser can be arrested for violating it. If you don't feel safe call 911. When police arrive, show them the order; they should enforce it. Additionally, the violation of an order may also be considered civil contempt and you can request its enforcement by a judge.

- **Why should I never invite the abuser to my home or initiate contact** while the protective order is in effect? It is not against the law but it could expose you to danger. It can also be used against you in a court of law.
- **What should I do if I move** to or visit another county or state? Your Indiana protective order is valid and enforceable in every other county and state. Be sure to carry a copy with you at all times.
- **Can I keep my new address secret?** If you move within Indiana you can participate in the Address Confidentiality Program. It allows you to use a post office box registered to the State Attorney General as your permanent address. For more information call 800.321.1907.
- **You have the right** to have a victim advocate with you in court to offer emotional support.

