

## Resources

**New Jersey Coalition for  
Battered Women**  
[info@njcbw.org](mailto:info@njcbw.org)

**National Domestic Violence Hotline**  
1-800-799-SAFE(7233)  
TTY 1-800-787-3224  
[thehotline.org](http://thehotline.org)

**National Dating Abuse Hotline**  
1-866-331-9474  
TTY 1-866-331-8453  
[loveisrespect.org](http://loveisrespect.org)

**National Sexual Assault Hotline**  
1-800-656-HOPE(4673)  
[womenshealth.gov](http://womenshealth.gov)

## Need Help?

Call the Domestic Violence  
Hotline at  
1-800-572-7233  
or your local police  
department

For additional copies, contact the  
New Jersey Judiciary  
Office of Communications and  
Community Relations  
(609) 292-9580  
[njcourts.com](http://njcourts.com)

May 2011  
CN 11479-English

### NEW JERSEY JUDICIARY

**Stuart Rabner**  
Chief Justice

**Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.**  
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

This project was supported by Grant No. 09RVAWA-22 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

## Safe House to Court Domestic Violence Safety Assistance Project



A comprehensive  
community  
response to address  
domestic violence  
involving the courts,  
hospitals and the  
domestic  
violence service  
community

## Domestic Violence Prevention Act

New Jersey's Prevention of Domestic Violence Act permits all victims of domestic violence to obtain a restraining order to protect them from further harm if someone is hurting them.

You are protected under the law if you are being abused by your spouse, former spouse, the co-parent of your child, or if you are an expectant parent.

You also are protected if you are living with or have lived with your abuser or if you are dating or have dated your abuser.

A person can file for a restraining order where the domestic violence occurred, where the defendant resides, where the victim resides or where the victim is staying temporarily.

A restraining order is an order issued by the court that is intended to protect a victim of domestic violence. The provisions contained in this type of order are based on the circumstances and vary by case.

A domestic violence complaint is most often filed at the domestic violence unit of the Superior Court, family division.

When the Superior Court is closed, a victim can file a complaint at their local police department.

## How to Begin the Process

Without leaving the safe house, you can obtain a restraining order during court hours, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. A social worker at the safe house will begin the process with you and make the initial contact with the court.

When you file for a restraining order from the safe house during court hours, a court professional will assist you over the phone and over a closed circuit video conferencing system. An interpreter will be provided if needed.

A court professional will conduct the initial interview and assist you in completing your application for a restraining order.

After your application is complete, you will appear before a judge or hearing officer over the video network. This is when you can discuss your situation with the judge or hearing officer.

The judge or hearing officer will make a decision regarding your application for a temporary restraining order.

If the order is granted, court staff will fax a temporary restraining order to the safe house for your signature.

Carry the order with you at all times.

## After the Hearing

At the conclusion of the hearing, the judge or hearing officer will provide you with additional information about the court process and other available resources. The hearing officer will set a date for you to appear in court to obtain a final restraining order.

**CARRY THE ORDER WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES. IF THE ABUSER DOES NOT OBEY THE ORDER, CALL THE POLICE.**

If you need domestic violence services such as counseling, shelter, crisis intervention, referrals for legal services and related information, call the Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-572-7233. The hotline is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

## Local Resources

NJ Coalition for Battered Women:	1-609-584-8104
Statewide Victim Notification:	1-877-VINE-4-NJ
NJ Victim Witness Advocacy:	1-609-292-6766
Victim Crime Compensation:	1-877-658-2221
Legal Services of New Jersey:	1-888-576-5529
Suicide Prevention Lifeline:	1-800-273-TALK
24 Hour Parent Stressline:	1-800-THE-KIDS
NJ Family Care:	1-800-701-0710
NJ Addictions Hotline:	1-800-238-2333
DYFS Reporting Hotline:	1-877-NJABUSE