

ARE YOU ABUSED OR STALKED?

ABUSE IS:

- + Physically hurting you by kicking, slapping, punching, strangling, pushing, or biting you.
- + Threatening to physically hurt you.
- + Forcing you to do something you don't want to, such as forcing you to have sex.
- + Not letting you do something you have a right to do, such as not letting you leave the house, go to the doctor, etc.

STALKING IS:

- + When a person purposely and repeatedly (at least two instances) acts in such a way toward another person that causes her/him fear of danger of physical harm.

ASK FOR HELP:

- + Call the police
- + Call Legal Aid of Western Missouri for free legal help
- + Call a shelter or a counselor
- + File for an order of protection
- + Seek victim counseling and medical attention

DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN?

THEY ARE HURT BY ABUSE:

- + By watching your abuser hurt you.
- + When your abuser hurts your child to threaten or control you.
- + When your abuser accidentally hurts your child while trying to attack you.
- + When your abuser uses your child to control you.

LEGAL SERVICES

Legal Aid helps with many issues related to abuse.

- + Orders of protection
- + Child custody/visitation/support
- + Divorce
- + Establishing paternity

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit the Legal Aid website: www.lawmo.org

Or, call the Legal Aid office nearest you:

- + **Kansas City:**
Tel: 816-474-6750
- + **St. Joseph:**
Tel: 816-364-2325
Toll Free: 1 (800) 892-2101
- + **Joplin:**
Tel: 417-782-1650
Toll Free: 1 (800) 492-7095
- + **Warrensburg:**
Tel: 660-747-7101
Toll Free: 1 (800) 892-2943

YOU CAN ALSO CALL:

- + Kansas City Metropolitan Domestic Violence Hotline: (816) HOTLINE (468-5463)
- + National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY)
- + Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 1-800-392-3738

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+ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ORDERS OF PROTECTION





LEGAL AID may be able to assist you with your case. You may apply by calling or visiting our website for more information. If you filled out a petition for an order of protection and received your court date, call us right away.

Legal Aid of Western Missouri is a not-for-profit law firm with more than 50 licensed attorneys. Legal Aid helps people access basic needs such as healthcare, housing, safety and government benefits.

With offices in downtown Kansas City, Joplin, St. Joseph, Warrensburg and a neighborhood office on Kansas City's west side, we serve a 40-county area in western Missouri.

ORDERS OF PROTECTION

YOU ARE LIKELY ELIGIBLE IF:

- + You're an adult (age 17 or older).
- + You've been the victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking.
- + If you are not sure if you are eligible, ask.

WHERE DO I GET AN ORDER OF PROTECTION?

Go to the Circuit Clerk's office at the County Courthouse and they will give you a petition to fill out. You may file this in the county where you live, where you were abused, or where your abuser can be found.

WHEN CAN I FILE MY PETITION?

On weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Circuit Clerk's Office; In the evening or on the weekend at the local police station if it is an emergency situation.

WHAT SHOULD I PUT IN MY PETITION?

- + Tell why you need an order of protection.
- + Tell what help you want.
- + Give dates/details of the abuse, including any injuries.
- + Explain why you are in danger right now.
- + Be sure to fill out the whole form.

PLEASE NOTE

- + You do not need to write your address on your petition or say it in court if you are afraid to let your abuser know where you live.
- + Your abuser will receive a copy of your petition with all information contained in it, including your contact information and what you said happened.

SEE BACK OF THIS BROCHURE FOR CONTACT INFO.